

Uplifting Community Voice in Police Accountability



Seattle
Community Police
Commission



John T. Williams
Photo Credit to cripjustice.org



*John T. Williams Memorial
Totem Pole*

CPC's Culmination

Following the 2010 fatal police shooting of John T. Williams and other serious incidents involving communities of color, the DOJ investigated SPD, leading to a Consent Decree—an agreement to reform SPD practices.

The CPC was established as part of this process to ensure community voice in police accountability.

CPC's History



2012 – Mandated by consent decree

The federal Consent Decree mandated the creation of the Community Police Commission (CPC) to provide community input on needed reforms.



2013 – Established by City Ordinance

The City of Seattle established the CPC by ordinance to bring community voice into police accountability work.



2017 – Expanded by Accountability Ordinance

CPC was made permanent and given broader powers under the landmark 2017 police accountability legislation.



Today – Provides Ongoing Oversight

CPC serves as a permanent, independent body providing community-led oversight of SPD and the accountability system.

Our Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission: The Community Police Commission listens to, amplifies, and builds common ground among **communities affected by policing** in Seattle. We champion policing practices centered in **justice** and **equity**.

Vision: We envision our communities and Seattle's police aligned in shared goals of **safety, respect, and accountability**.



*Dorian Waller speaking to community
at the Filipino Advisory Council*

CPC's Legal Mandate

Statutory Purpose

CPC brings a community-based perspective into policing policies, practices, and oversight decisions.



CPC Staff at the Indigenous Advisory Board

What We're Tasked To Do:

- 30+ responsibilities defined in the Accountability Ordinance
- Track all recommendations across the accountability partners
- Community engagement is central to our work
- Work is carried out through volunteer commissioners

The Staff Behind the Work



Community Engagement Team

Dorian Waller – Community Engagement Director

Mergitu Argo – Community Engagement Specialist

Mario Teulilo – Community Engagement Specialist



Operations Team

Devina Wijaya Moser – Executive Assistant

Eci Ameh – Executive Director

Kiern High – Communications Director



Policy Team

Taryn Darling – Policy Director

Dani Sullivan – Senior Policy Advisor

Masooma Ibrahimi – Policy & Communications Advisor

The Staff Behind the Work

7 of 9 team members hired in the past 8 months, yet significant progress already underway:

- The revised crowd management legislation and almost every amendment passed to include community feedback presented by the CPC.
- In May, we're launching a training to build community capacity to shape Seattle's police accountability system.
- Goals identified in the last 3 years have been **accomplished** in the last 6 months.



The Commission Behind the Work

Co-Chair



Arlecier West

Appointed by: Mayor

Co-Chair



Joel Merkel

Appointed by: City Council

Co-Chair



Tascha Johnson

Appointed by: City Council



Anthony Gaedcke

Appointed by: Mayor



Mark Mullens

Appointed by: CPC



Le'Jayah Washington

Appointed by: City Council



Joseph Seia

Appointed by: CPC



Rabbi David Benchlouch

Appointed by: City Council



Erica Newman

Appointed by: CPC



Raven Nicole Tyler

Appointed by: Mayor



Lars W. Erickson

Appointed by: Mayor



Vacant

Appointed by: CPC



Vacant

Appointed by: CPC



Vacant

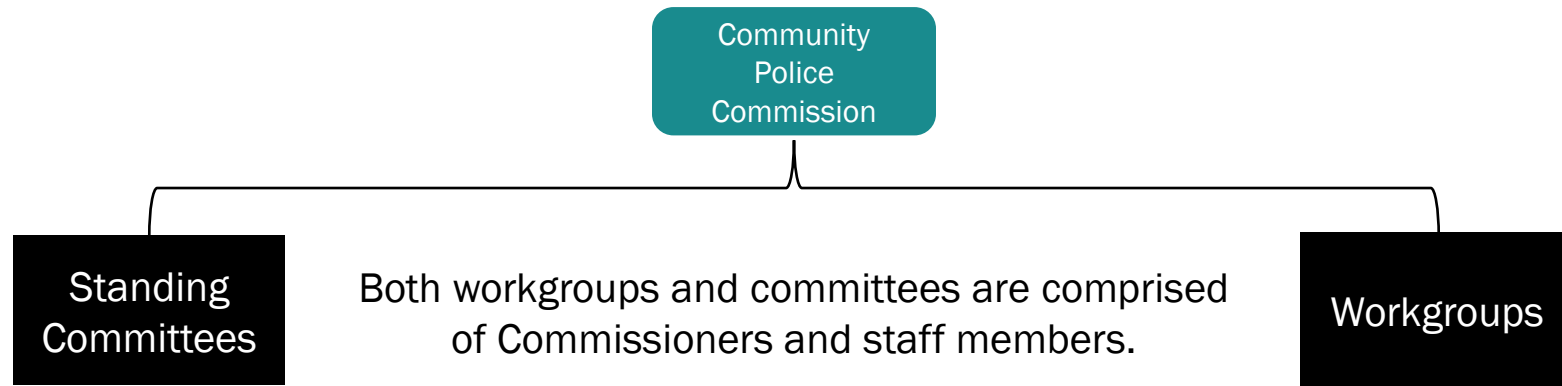
Appointed by: Mayor



In Progress

Appointed by: City Council

Committees and Workgroups



Community Engagement

Responsibilities:

Develop and track community engagement strategies and priorities, conduct outreach, and create culturally responsive public materials.

Police Practices

Responsibilities:

Reviews and proposes changes to SPD policies and training, public safety related legislation, and accountability partner reports.

Governance

Responsibilities:

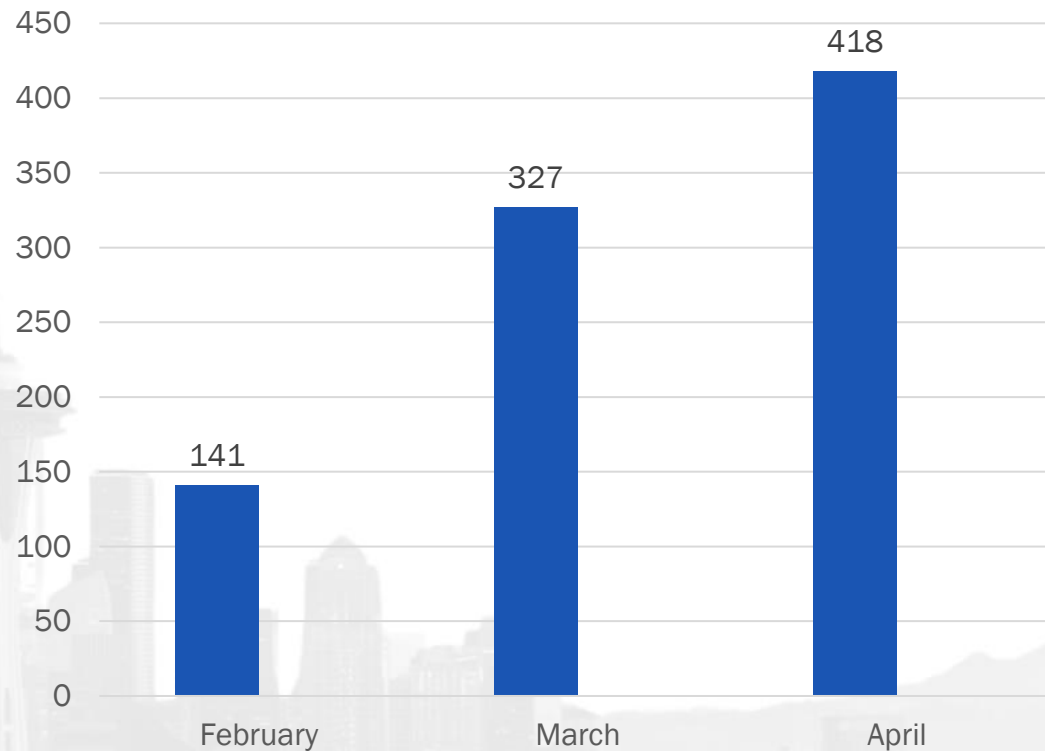
Focus on organizational structure and procedural efficiency.

Ad Hoc Issue-Based Workgroups Include

- Behavioral Health
- Complainant Appeals
- State Legislative Agenda

Amplifying Community Voices

Community Members Reached
By Month



Since February, CPC has reached over **800 community members** across **29 events**, showing up in every Council District and in communities most impacted by policing.

Ensured community concern and suggestions were incorporated in crowd management legislation.

- **125 community members** participated in CPC's survey on the crowd management legislation.

Stories That Shape Our Work

- Seini Puloka shared how CRT officers showed up with care during one of the hardest moments her family has faced.
- Community members continue raising concerns about SPD's handling of bias crimes, sexual assault, domestic violence, and Missing Indigenous Persons cases.
- There's a deep sense of fear and frustration, shaped by lived experience and the local and national climates.



Eci Ameh & Seini Puloka

Building Trust Through Storytelling

We're using storytelling to:

- Highlight oversight in action
- Uplift community voices
- Increase transparency and public trust
- Put Seattle back on the national map for police accountability

Sharing our work creates impact beyond the CPC, across departments and across the city.



CPC at the IACP Officer Safety & Wellness Conference

What's Next for the CPC?

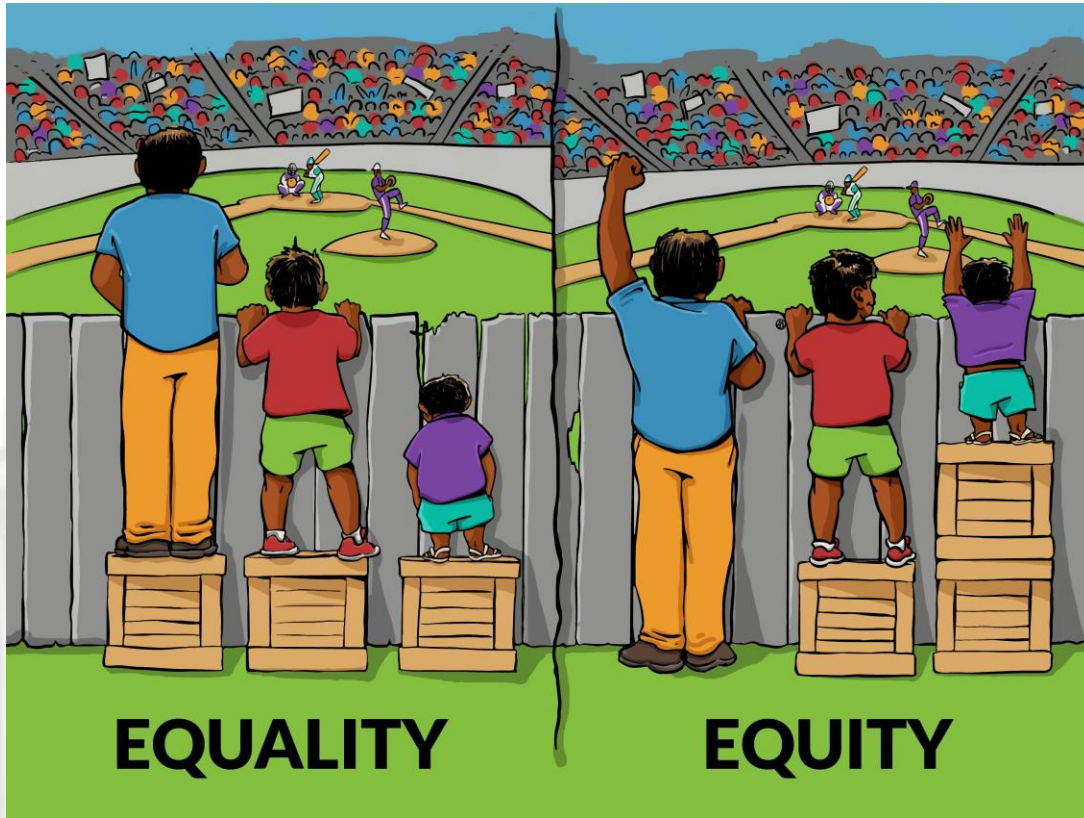
Looking ahead, CPC is centering its efforts on the following priorities:

- Rebuilding Partnerships
- Strengthening Communications
- Expanding Community Engagement
- Launching the District Liaison Program
- Reassessing Our Mandate
- Investing in Internal Growth
- Incorporate community voice in policy work.



CPC Staff at the LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board

Investing Where it Matters



In moments of budget pressure, community work is often the first thing cut.

Now is the time for Seattle to make a **public, visible commitment** to **community-led accountability.**

Stay Connected

Community Police Commission

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Email: OCPC@seattle.gov



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