






# City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> <i>Helen Gebreamlak</i>		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> <i>Community Police Commission</i>		<b>Position Title:</b> <i>Commissioner</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Appointment</b> OR <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reappointment</b>		<b>Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Community Police Commission</i>	<b>Date Appointed:</b> <i>mm/dd/yy.</i>	<b>Term of Position: *</b> <i>1/1/2017</i> <b>to</b> <i>12/31/2019</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b> <i>Youngstown</i>	<b>Zip Code:</b> <i>98126</i>	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b> 
<b>Background:</b> <p><i>Helen Gebreamlak currently works at Disability Rights Washington, where she is part of a team dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of inmates with disabilities. At DRW she provides legal rights information, appropriate referrals, and self-advocacy tips to dozens of inmates each month. Previously, as the Social Justice Programmer at the University of Washington's Q Center, she developed and facilitated workshops and trainings for students, staff, faculty, and community members on the intersections of race, sexual orientation, and gender identity.</i></p> <p><i>Helen is a member of the new and growing western Washington chapter of ADAPT, a disability justice collective. She is also a member of the Eritrean Health Board, which addresses the public health concerns of the Eritrean immigrant and refugee community in King County.</i></p> <p><i>Helen earned her B.A. in Integrated Social Sciences at the University of Washington.</i></p>		
<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b>   		<b>Appointing Signatory:</b> <i>Rev. Harriett Walden</i> <i>Co-Chair, Community Police Commission</i>  <i>Enrique Gonzalez</i> <i>Co-Chair, Community Police Commission</i>  <i>Isaac Ruiz</i>

\*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

Isaac Ruiz	Co-Chair, Community Police Commission
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*\*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.*

HELEN GEBREMLAK



May 4, 2018

Via email to [fe.lopez@seattle.gov](mailto:fe.lopez@seattle.gov)

Community Police Commission  
Seattle Municipal Tower  
700 Fifth Ave, Ste. 1640  
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Commissioners:

I write to express my sincere interest in joining the Community Police Commission in its mission to amplify the voices of Seattle's diverse communities affected by policing. I was encouraged to apply by Roxana Pardo Garcia. Roxana and I met as student activists at the University of Washington where I facilitated a gender and sexuality workshop for a conference Roxana organized for Latinx high school students. In the years since, I have remained committed to the pursuit of equity and social justice. As you will see from my attached resume, I have worked with many of the populations most impacted by policing, including people with disabilities, justice-involved individuals, the LGBTQIA community, and immigrants. My professional and lived experience has greatly demonstrated the critical need for a police system that is fully aligned with the communities it is mandated to protect and serve.

At Disability Rights Washington, I am part of a team dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of inmates with disabilities. I provide legal rights information, appropriate referrals, and self-advocacy tips to dozens of inmates each month to support their efforts to advocate for their expressed goals. When addressing systemic issues and problematic individual cases, I value transparent and productive collaboration with jail and Department of Corrections administrators and staff.

Due to DRW's federal access authority, I am also able to monitor conditions within prisons and jails, such as the King County Correctional Facility in downtown Seattle. Jails, in particular, have an overrepresentation of people with mental illness, substance use disorders, and homeless individuals. During our conversations, detainees with mental illness frequently raise their concerns about their arrest encounters as well as their general repeated interactions with police. These discussions further demonstrate to me that police accountability is a public and behavioral health issue as much as it is a civil rights one.

My professional advocacy has not been limited to my current role. Previously, as the Social Justice Programmer at the University of Washington's Q Center, I developed and facilitated workshops and trainings for students, staff, faculty, and community members on the intersections of race, sexual orientation, and gender identity. There I was able to hone a skillset for creating social-justice-oriented learning environments that were welcoming while still constructive.

Ultimately, it has been active engagement with community that has grounded my work. I am a member of the new and growing western Washington chapter of ADAPT, a disability justice collective. Recently, I accepted an invitation to join the Eritrean Health Board in its efforts to address the public health concerns of the Eritrean immigrant and refugee community in King County. More broadly, I choose to engage within community spaces whenever possible and appropriate to support the larger movement for a more just and equitable world.

In October, I was humbled to assist in filming a video of one Washington family's story of the police shooting death of their son and father for the De-Escalate Washington campaign. I am thrilled by the passage of both I-940 by our state legislature and last year's accountability legislation by Seattle City Council. Although there has been notable progress championed by incredibly hard-working people, I feel the same urgency today as I did the day the Department of Justice began its investigation into the Seattle Police Department. There is a long road of necessary work ahead.

As a black disabled woman, I am personally invested in the systemic transformation of policing. I believe that this personal stake as well as my professional knowledge and experience provide me with valuable insights and the ability to reciprocally engage with communities that are extremely relevant to ensuring the goals of the Community Police Commission.

Please find the rest of my application materials attached. I greatly appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Helen Gebreamlak




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**LEGAL, EDUCATION, & DIRECT SERVICES**


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**Disability Rights Washington, Seattle, WA, Nov. 2016 – Present**

AVID (Amplifying the Voices of Inmates with Disabilities) Program Staff, Nov. 2017 – Present

- Provide legal rights information, appropriate referrals, and self-advocacy tips to incarcerated callers and letter writers with disabilities
- Monitor conditions of confinement within prisons and jails in Washington State
- Draft informational resources to aid inmates with disabilities with their self-advocacy
- Conduct individual investigations into potential cases of abuse and neglect
- Track and address Department of Corrections' policies, practices, and corrective action plan regarding use and conditions of segregation of inmates with personality disorders

Office Assistant, Nov. 2016 – Oct. 2017

- Fulfilled administrative requests from legal staff and conducted a wide range of general office duties
- Assisted in the development and led implementation of accessible office emergency procedures

\*Chair, Emergency Preparedness Internal Monitoring Committee

\*Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

**University of Washington Q Center, Seattle, WA, Sept. 2011 – Aug. 2013 and Sept. 2014 – Jan. 2015**

Support Group Facilitator, Sept. 2014 – Jan. 2015

- Planned and facilitated weekly group sessions for LGBTQIA students interested in and affected by gender bias
- Conducted one-on-one check-ins with transgender and gender non-conforming students
- Reported to the Director (LICSW) regarding crisis response to imminent harm

Social Justice Programmer, Sept. 2011 – Aug. 2013

- Planned and facilitated internal and external anti-oppression workshops and trainings
- Developed and instructed "Queer 101" course in the Comparative History of Ideas department
- Coordinated access and implemented universal design strategies for main center space and outside events
- Provided information and referrals to LGBTQIA students, staff, and faculty
- Advocated for the startup of the D Center, UW's disability cultural space, and assisted in the hiring of first Director
- Drafted and posted job descriptions and facilitated hiring and onboarding

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**FILM & THEATER**


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**Freelance Film Industry, Seattle, WA, 2014 – present**

Independent Contractor

- Create and manage production budgets, develop and implement marketing strategies for crowdfunding and social media campaigns, and draft film festival proposals, crew contracts, union clearances, and talent releases
- Create production and actor schedules, liaise with talent agents, and facilitate the casting process
- Supervise script continuity (narrative work) and provide creative consults

**Jodi Rothfield Casting Associates, CSA, Seattle, WA, Jan. 2016 – Mar. 2016**

Casting Assistant

- Assisted Casting Director in all aspects of casting for Microsoft CLOUD (commercial), Boeing (internal), Polaris (commercial), Amazon Kindle Freetime (commercial), Group Health (internal), and Microsoft SBC (internal)
- Prepped for pre- and post-production, scheduled talent, interacted with agents and clients, served as script supervisor, maintained database, and handled union clearances and archiving

**Live! From the Last Night of My Life, Shoreline, WA, Mar. 2016**

Theater Tech/Stagehand

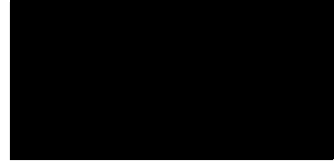
- Managed, set, and ran props and set pieces
- Assisted in set construction and strike, actor quick changes, and curtain calls

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**EDUCATION**


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Bachelor of Arts, University of Washington, Integrated Social Sciences, expected spring 2018



**STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**

With the complete support of my employer Disability Rights Washington, I am prepared to commit to attendance and full participation in the work of the commission. I understand that this commitment involves attending commission meetings twice a month, participating in workgroups, and engaging in other events. I wholeheartedly believe that the goals of the commission warrant this level of dedication and I would be honored to make this commitment.

# Community Police Commission

21 Members: Pursuant to *Ordinance 125315*, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms:

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 7 Mayor-appointed
- 7 Commission-appointed

## Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
4	M		1.	Member	Jay W. Hollingsworth	3/18/13	12/31/17	2	Mayor
2	M		2.	Member	Aaron Williams	1/1/18	12/31/20	3	Council
6	M		3.	Public Defense	Benjamin L. Goldsmith	1/1/18	12/31/20	1	Commission
3	F		4.	Member	Claudia D'Allegri	1/1/18	12/31/20	3	Mayor
3	M		5.	Member	Isaac Ruiz	1/1/18	12/31/20	2	Council
6	F		6.	Civil Liberties	Lisa Daugaard	1/1/18	12/31/20	3	Commission
3	M		7.	Member	Enrique Gonzalez	1/1/18	12/31/20	2	Mayor
			8.	Member		1/1/16	12/31/18		Council
6	F		9.	Member	Melinda A. Giovengo	1/1/16	12/31/18	2	Commission
2	F		10.	Member	Harriett Walden	1/1/16	12/31/18	2	Mayor
			11.	Member		1/1/16	12/31/18		Council
7	M		12.	Member	Joseph Seia	1/1/16	12/31/18	1	Commission
			13.	Member		1/1/16	12/31/18		Mayor
			14.	Member		1/1/16	12/31/18		Council
2	M		15.	SPOG	Kevin Stuckey	1/1/17	12/31/19	1	Commission
4	F		16.	Member	Colleen Echohawk	1/1/17	12/31/19	1	Mayor
			17.	Member		1/1/17	12/31/19		Council
			18.	SPMA		1/1/17	12/31/19	3	Commission
7	F		19.	Member	Emma Montanez Catague	1/1/17	12/31/19	1	Mayor
			20.	Member		1/1/17	12/31/19		Council
2	F		21.	Member	Helen Gebreamlak	1/1/17	12/31/19	1	Commission

## SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)	
	Men	Women	Transgender	Unknown	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non- Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial					
Mayor	2	4				1	2	2			1							
Council	2					1	1											
Other	3	2				2				3	1							
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>				<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>							