

Community Police Commission Mayoral Nominee Confirmation Questions 2016

- 1) Community participation, vis-à-vis the Community Police Commission (CPC), was part of the Settlement Agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ). It is described as a process by which community input can be integrated into the implementation of police reforms mandated by the DOJ Consent Decree. What steps do you plan to take to ensure that a diverse set of community voices continue to be meaningfully engaged in the context of CPC's work?

I have worked as an ACLU cooperating attorney for several years, and was appointed to the CPC as an ACLU representative. I will continue to provide the CPC with the ACLU's perspective, which strives to ensure that diverse community voices are considered in the reform process. I will also advocate that the CPC continue its community engagement efforts, including maintaining its relationships with organizations that represent diverse voices.

- 2) Describe what you believe effective community engagement looks like.

Effective community engagement involves actively seeking viewpoints from all community sectors, and considering and advocating for the community's voice. It should include procedures, such as regular meetings, that allow community members a venue to provide commentary and input on the police reform process.

- 3) What area(s) in police reform do you see needs the most attention and why?

Accountability. Many community members view the accountability process as non-transparent and ineffective. This has been highlighted in several high-profile cases involving use-of-force, where the response to those incidents has been viewed by some in the community as inadequate.

- 4) It has been said that there are negative perceptions of SPD in the community, especially within communities of color and other underrepresented communities (e.g., LGBTQ, gender non-conforming, etc). What approach would you take to either agree or disagree with those sentiments?

I agree that communities of color and other underrepresented communities have expressed negative perceptions of SPD. The mistrust in these communities stems from historically poor relationships with the SPD. Some of these poor relationships continue today.

- 5) What direct experience and engagement do you have working with racial, ethnic, and other diverse communities across the City? Give an example of work you've done in diverse communities that you think is relevant to the work of a CPC commissioner.

I have engaged and worked with diverse communities in Seattle in my role as an ACLU cooperating attorney. For example, I worked with community members to address the system in many Washington jurisdictions where individuals are jailed simply for being unable to pay court-imposed fines. This system has disproportionately affected racial minorities. I am also a member of the Loren Miller Bar Association, which supports and promotes African-American attorneys in King County.

- 6) Tell us about any legal training and/or public policy advocacy experience you have with *public safety* matters.

As an attorney, I have legal training and experience with drafting, analyzing, and advocating for laws, rules, and procedures. This includes work performed in 2015 on legislation related to Washington State's criminal justice system.

- 7) Tell us about what legal training and/or public policy advocacy experience you have with *police reform and/or accountability* matters.

See above.

- 8) The CPC's charge is to represent a broad range of community perspectives and to engage communities directly, to get critical feedback, and to then recommend changes to SPD's procedures, policies and practices. What areas of its mission do you see the CPC can improve on?

The CPC can look for additional ways to provide the community with opportunities to provide perspectives on the police reform process, and can further provide current, succinct updates on that process to its community partners.

- 9) What is your definition of "community" within the context of the CPC's mission, purpose, and work?

The community includes all individuals who live in, work in, or visit Seattle.

10) Tell us about how you work with people who may have differing ideological or philosophical opinions than you.

I strive to treat people with courtesy and respect, whether they agree or disagree with my ideological or philosophical positions.

11) What constituency or constituencies do you see yourself representing as a CPC commissioner? What particular training, experience or background allows you to represent those interests effectively with respect to policing and public safety matters?

I will represent the ACLU, an organization that has strongly advocated for meaningfully reform policing in Seattle. My prior work with this organization will allow me to effectively represent its interests.

12) Why are you interested in serving as a CPC commissioner?

The relationship between citizens and the police has a significant impact on the community, in particular on traditionally underrepresented community members. I would like to serve on the CPC because it provides an opportunity to improve that relationship going forward.