

Seattle
Community
Police Commission

Our City. Our Safety. Our Police. **Better Together.**

**Briefing on Proposed
Accountability Legislation**

February 8, 2017

VISION

Police accountability is more than the complaint-handling system, but also encompasses how

- Individual and institutional police performance is tracked
- Corrections are made
- Excellence is rewarded

AND

VISION

- Improvements in systems, policies, and procedures that support employee performance and build community trust are institutionalized

KEY PRINCIPLES

The police accountability system must be designed to earn maximum public and police confidence in its legitimacy and its capacity to improve performance

KEY PRINCIPLES

True Independence

Objectivity, Fairness, and Just Outcomes

Access and Transparency

Community Voice in Oversight

Ongoing Systemic Improvements

THE LONG ROAD HERE

There has been a long history of community advocacy for police reform

- MEDC's Multiracial Task Force on Police Accountability sought DOJ review and made recommendations
- Consent Decree in place supporting reform

THE LONG ROAD HERE

- CPC was mandated to review and make recommendations to improve the police accountability system
- CPC issued police accountability system recommendations in April 2014 and drafted the 1st iteration of the legislation in November of 2014

THE MAYOR'S PROPOSAL

The Mayor's proposal largely parallels structural elements the CPC put forward between 2014-2016

- Strengthened OPA and increased civilianization of the office
- Inspector General with broader authority than OPA Auditor
- Community Police Commission with more authority and oversight responsibilities
- New mechanisms to support better accountability system-wide and for the long term

WHAT IS NEEDED?

The proposed structural approach will only work if vital pieces are in place and supported

- Independence of all oversight entities
- Transparency
- Diversification of political power
- Strong community-based input and oversight

CPC POSITION

Overview of Key Areas that Strengthen
Accountability and Community Oversight

CPC POSITION

Better ensure the independence of the OPA, Inspector General, and the CPC

- Budgeting mechanisms to ensure adequate capacity and autonomy
- Appointment of the CPC Executive Director
- Provision for independent legal counsel to avoid inevitable conflicts

CPC POSITION

Better ensure public access to the system and the community's voice at the table

- Mechanisms to support public education and community ability to help drive the accountability agenda

CPC POSITION

Better ensure the CPC reflects a diversity of interests, expertise, and perspectives

- Number of CPC members, their representation, and residency requirements

CPC POSITION

Better ensure accountability to the public

- Performance evaluations of the OPA and OIG and their management and leadership

Questions?

Contact Information

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