

Community at the Heart

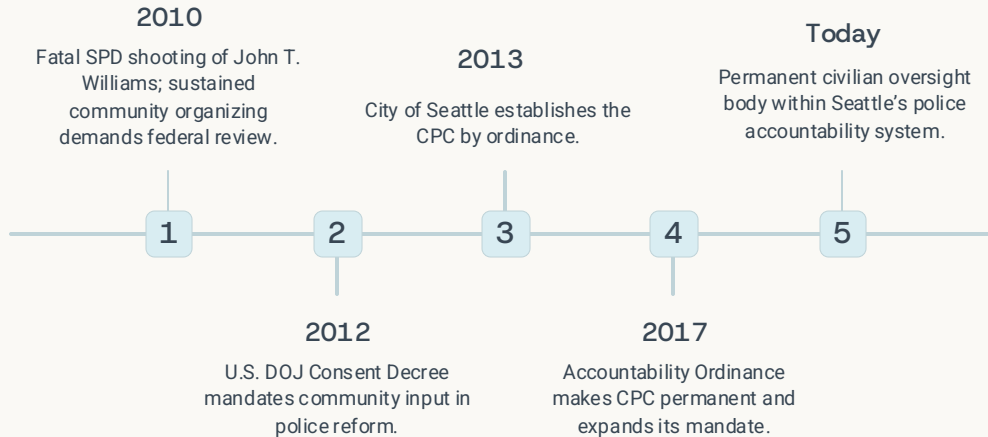
MAY 2026



Seattle
Community Police
Commission

Built by Community, Accountable to Community

The CPC was created to ensure that the people most affected by policing have a meaningful, ongoing voice in how Seattle is policed.



- ☐ **Statutory authority**
Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 3.29 – established by the 2017 Accountability Ordinance and most recently amended in 2023.

Photo: John T. Williams poses with one of his carvings





Co-Chair Tascha Johnson
Appointed by Council



Co-Chair Arlecier West
Appointed by Mayor



Co-Chair Joel Merkel
Appointed by Council



Jennifer Carl
Appointed by Council



Anthony Gaedcke
Appointed by Mayor



Jeremy Holmes
Appointed by Mayor



Mark Mullins
Appointed by CPC



Ken Nsimbi
Appointed by Council



Joseph Seia
Appointed by CPC



Raven Tyler
Appointed by Mayor



Le'Jayah Washington
Appointed by Council



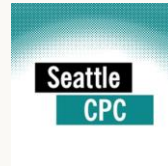
Rick Williams
Appointed by Council



Erica Newman
Appointed by CPC



Civil Liberties (Vacant)
Appointed by CPC



Public Defense (Vacant)
Appointed by CPC

The Community Leaders Behind the Work



Eci Ameh, JD

Executive Director



Mergitu Argo

Community Engagement Specialist



Taryn Darling, JD

Policy Director



Rami El Gharib

Communications Director



Masooma Ibrahim

Senior Policy Advisor



Celia Jackson

Community Engagement Director



Dani Sullivan, MPP

Senior Policy Advisor



Mario B. Kautai Teulilo

Community Engagement Specialist



Keith B. Wheeler II, Ed.D

Deputy Director



Josette Wicker

Executive Assistant

The Staff Behind the Work

Our 2026–2027 Strategic Plan

Four goals that translate the CPC's statutory mandate into measurable, community-facing work.

GOAL 1

Strengthen Community Engagement and Trust.

Building durable, population-based channels for ongoing community voice – not one-off engagement.

GOAL 2

Advance Accountability Through Data-Driven Policy Development.

Replacing improvisation with repeatable practice that survives staff turnover and budget cycles.

GOAL 3

Enhance Communication, Transparency, and Public Understanding.

Building public-facing infrastructure that help community members navigate Seattle's accountability system on their own terms.

GOAL 4

Establish sustainable internal structures that elevate the leadership of community members most impacted by policing.

Engagement designed to uplift the people it strives to serve, not extract.



What Community Is Telling Us

Themes that recurred across 107 community engagement events and 68 survey responses since July 2025.

FROM THE SURVEY

Top recurring themes, July 2025–April 2026 (% of 68 general survey responses)

100%

Concerns about safety in neighborhoods

100% (68 mentions)

59%

Immigration & ICE concerns

59% (40 mentions)

46%

SPD bias (race, immigration, LGBTQIA2S+)

46% (31 mentions)

43%

Surveillance technology

43% (29 mentions)

41%

SPD response time

41% (28 mentions)

IN THE FIELD

Top public-safety concerns named by community members while attending events.

1 Homelessness & Mental Health

(54 mentions)

2 Drug Activity

(41 mentions)

3 Gun Violence

(39 mentions)

4 Police Use of Force

(28 mentions)

5 Surveillance Technology

(28 mentions)

What we're hearing: community members want both visible safety in their neighborhoods *and* meaningful constraints on how policing happens – they are not in tension.

Translating Community Voice Into Policy

CASE STUDY: EXPANDING BUDGET FOR CRISIS RESPONSE TEAMS

1

Listened to and learned from community

CPC learned through its engagement with impacted community members of the critical resources provided to family members experiencing mental health crisis from SPD's Crisis Response Team (CRT).

2

Community concerns directed CPC research

CPC engaged with CRT staff to understand the program, the services it provides, and learned that the CRT team did not have sufficient staffing or positions to cover all SPD precincts.

3

Synthesized concerns into deliverable outcomes

Advocacy and recommendations to Councilmembers secured agreement and funding for two additional FTEs in the SPD 2026 budget to be allocated for CRT.

☐ **Fulfilling SMC 3.29.300 D, E & 3.29.360 I; & 3.29.370:** *Responsive to community needs through engaging and obtaining perspectives of impacted community members and providing technical assistance to partners by recommending changes informed by community input, to improve community trust.*

Translating Community Voice Into Policy

Community input is only useful if it changes outcomes. Here is what changed in the past year.

10

amendments to City Council bills advanced with CPC advocacy

12

SPD policies reviewed and redlined by CPC

116

pages of policy revisions submitted

8

Successful state public safety bills supported by CPC in the 2026 session

FLAGSHIP CASE

Crowd Management Ordinance: CPC worked with community members on the proposed legislation, brought concerns into the legislative record, and the final law – nearly every amendment passed – incorporated CPC-presented community feedback.

Fulfilling SMC 3.29.300 C, D, and E; SMC 3.29.360 E, I and J: Reviewing SPD policies and practices and public safety-related legislation of significant community importance to recommend changes informed by community input; identifying and advocating for reforms to State laws that will enhance public trust and confidence in policing and the criminal legal system.

Driving the Next Phase of Impact

Learning in Partnership.

Through our partnership with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond (PISAB), we will host professional development that connects community voice, institutional practice, and accountability-centered leadership.

Advance Policy with a Purpose.

Lead community-informed dialogue and policy development related to alternative response initiatives.

Youth Voice and Strategic Engagement.

Host a town hall to advance transparency through our 2025 Annual Report findings, while partnering with local youth and community-based organizations to elevate community voice and school safety priorities.

Centering Community Voice.

Lead collaborative engagement efforts focused on the evaluation of School Resource Officers (SROs), metal detector technology, and student-centered safety practices in Seattle Public Schools (SPS).



Investing in What Matters

Community engagement work is most often the first thing cut when budgets tighten.

⚠ Sustaining what we've built — and delivering what we've committed to — depends on Seattle continuing to invest in community-led accountability as core infrastructure.