



# CPC Crowd Management Survey Results

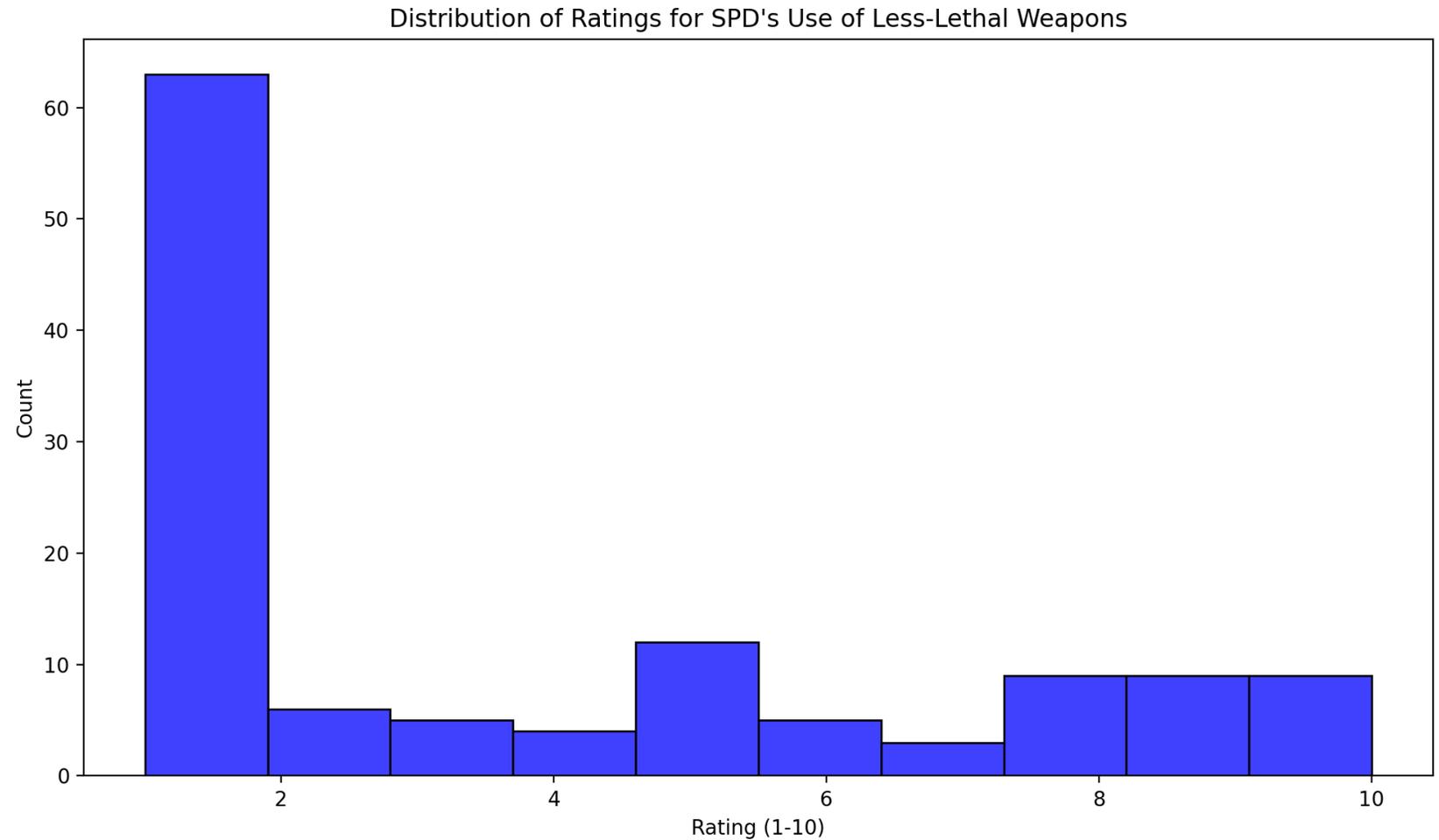
- Over the past two months, CPC staff has circulated a survey on crowd management to constituents through the CPC newsletter, social media, and word of mouth.
  - The goal of this survey is to:
    - Collect community feedback on the use of less-lethal weapons in crowd management
    - Gain insights on community experiences with SPD in crowd management situations
  - 125 responses received
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"On a scale from 1-10, how would you rate SPD's use of less-lethal weapons in crowd management?"

- Total Responses: 125
- Average Rating: 3.7/10
- Standard Deviation: 3.3

Distribution:

- Low ratings (1-3): 59.2%
- Medium ratings (4-7): 19.2%
- High ratings (8-10): 21.6%

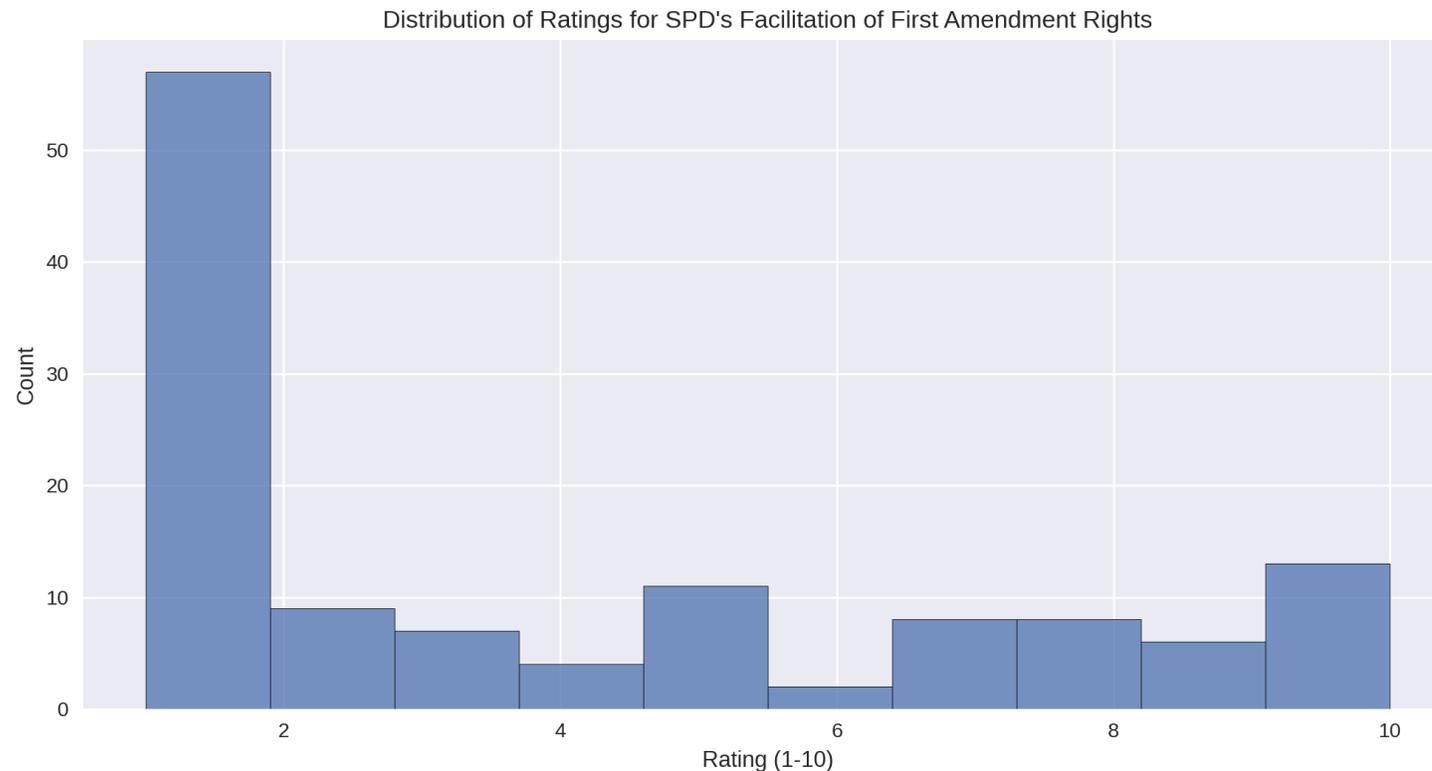


"On a scale from 1-10, how would you rate SPD in facilitating safe gatherings and upholding civilians first amendment rights in a crowd setting?"

- Total Responses: 125
- Average Rating: 4.2/10
- Most Common Ratings: 1-3 (58.4%)

Distribution:

- Low ratings (1-3): 58.4%
- Medium ratings (4-7): 20.0%
- High ratings (8-10): 21.6%

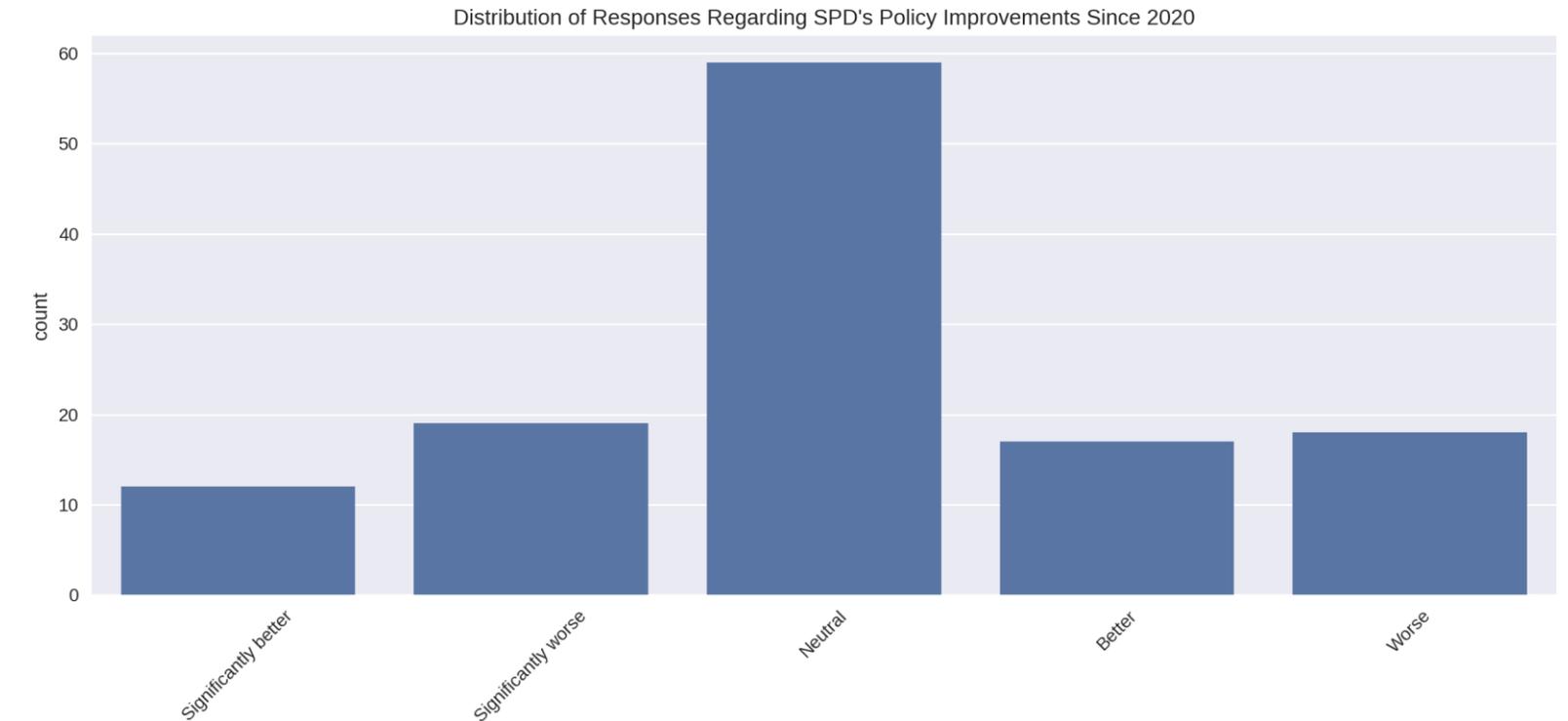


"In 2020, there were a number of protests following the murder of George Floyd that prompted SPD crowd management response and revisions to SPD's crowd management policies. To what extent do you believe crowd management has improved since 2020?"

- Total Responses: 125
- Average Rating: 2.88/5
- Standard deviation: 1.13

Distribution:

- Neutral: 47.2%
- Significantly worse: 15.2%
- Worse: 14.4%
- Better: 13.6%
- Significantly better: 9.6%



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# Key Themes from Open-Ended Questions

## **Use of Force and Escalation**

- Respondents frequently criticized SPD's use of less-lethal weapons, namely tear gas and pepper spray, as "excessive" and "indiscriminate".
- Many feel these tactics have escalated tensions rather than de-escalate them, often harming peaceful protesters and bystanders.

## **Lack of Accountability and Trust**

- A reoccurring theme was a lack of trust in SPD due to perceived abuses of power and insufficient accountability for officers' actions.
  - Respondents highlighted a history of violence and failure to rebuild trust, especially with marginalized communities.
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# Key Themes from Open-Ended Questions

## **Demographic Bias and Unequal Treatment**

- Some respondents believed SPD treated protests differently based on race or political affiliation, being more lenient with white or right-wing groups and harsher with people of color or left-wing groups.

## **Failure to Protect Peaceful Protesters**

- Many felt SPD did not adequately protect the rights of peaceful protesters and instead used force to suppress lawful demonstrations.

## **Calls for Policy and Training Reforms**

- Respondents emphasized the need for better policies, training, and accountability to ensure proportional use of force and prioritize de-escalation.
  - There is a strong call for SPD to respect First Amendment rights and avoid unnecessary interventions.
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"The proposed ordinance would prohibit the use of LLWs, such as blast balls and pepper spray, unless specific facts and circumstances are occurring or about to occur that create an imminent risk of physical injury to any person or significant property damage. Do you agree with this proposal? Why or why not?"

## Key Themes

### Oversight and Accountability Concerns

- Many expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of the legislation without stronger oversight mechanisms
- Calls for more detailed reporting requirements and civilian review processes
- Concerns about SPD's ability to self-regulate and assess threat levels objectively

### Definition and Interpretation Issues

- Respondents questioned what constitutes "specific facts or circumstances"
  - Concerns over the definition of "imminent risk" and who gets to make that determination
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"The proposed ordinance would prohibit the use of LLWs, such as blast balls and pepper spray, unless specific facts and circumstances are occurring or about to occur that create an imminent risk of physical injury to any person or significant property damage. Do you agree with this proposal? Why or why not?"

## **Key Themes Cont.**

### Property vs. Safety

- Several respondents emphasized that property damage should not justify the use of crowd control weapons
- Many emphasized the need to balance between protecting property and protecting the right to protest

### Civil Rights and Protest Concerns

- Significant concerns about the potential suppression of legitimate protest activities
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"The proposed ordinance would prohibit the use of LLWs, such as blast balls and pepper spray, unless specific facts and circumstances are occurring or about to occur that create an imminent risk of physical injury to any person or significant property damage. Do you agree with this proposal? Why or why not?"

### **Key themes cont.**

#### Police Discretion and Trust

- Significant skepticism about giving police discretion in determining when to use crowd control tools
- References to negative past experiences, particularly from 2020 protests
- Concerns about SPD's judgement in assessing threat levels

#### Alternative Approaches

- Calls for more emphasis on de-escalation techniques
  - Calls for non-violent intervention methods
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"The proposed ordinance would prohibit the use of LLWs, such as blast balls and pepper spray, unless specific facts and circumstances are occurring or about to occur that create an imminent risk of physical injury to any person or significant property damage. Do you agree with this proposal? Why or why not?"

### **Key themes cont.**

#### Implementation Concerns

- Skepticism about practical enforcement of the proposed ordinance
  - Concerns about real-world application of the ordinance and SPD policies
  - Doubts about effectiveness without stronger enforcement mechanisms
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# Police Practices Draft Letter to City Council and Mayor Harrell

## ***Community feedback***

- Addresses the limited time CPC has had to responsibly incorporate survey responses into feedback for CB 120916
- Requests City Council postpone voting on CB 120916 until community voices are fully reflected in CPC feedback

## ***Returning Seattle to self-government on policing issues***

- The CPC shares the goal to return to self-government on policing issues
  - The CPC believes ending the consent decree should not take precedence over thoughtful and responsible policy-making
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# Police Practices Draft Letter to City Council and Mayor Harrell Cont.

## *Overall approach*

- The CPC does not support the prohibition of less-lethal weapons. However, evidence of unintended physical injury over the years establishes that blast balls call for a circumscribed zone of appropriate use, among other restrictions
  - The CPC does not support heightened levels of approval for the use of LLWs that have exceptions for circumstances that swallow the rule. This type of contradictory policy creates internal and external confusion about who is expected to authorize use.
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# Police Practices Draft Letter to City Council and Mayor Harrell Cont.

## ***Overall approach***

- The CPC supports requiring mutual aid agencies to follow SPD policy on use of force, including but not limited to policy on use of LLWs and crowd management
  - The CPC proposes that both the CPC and OIG are included in after-action dialogue with SPD, consistent with the CPC's role in Seattle's police accountability framework as a sounding board for the public
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# Proposed Revisions to CB 120916

- Limiting the use of blast balls to their deployment away from people, underhand, at a distance of at least 10 yards from any person, as proposed in Section 2-H;
  - Requiring that mutual aid agencies deployed in Seattle agree to abide by Seattle ordinances and SPD policy regarding use of force, including but not limited to those on less-lethal tools and crowd management, by requiring that they act only as directed by the SPD incident commander, who is bound by Seattle law and SPD policy, as proposed in Section 6;
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# Proposed Revisions to CB 120916

- Requiring that SPD confer with the CPC following deployment of less-lethal weapons in a crowd management context, and that SPD solicit and incorporate feedback from members of the public regarding significant crowd management deployments, including the use of less-lethal weapons and after-action assessments. This feedback should be incorporated into the required annual report by SPD and the OIG on crowd management incidents, as proposed in Section 5; and
  - Emphasizing the role of SPD in protecting the exercise of speech and assembly rights when these are under threat from other members of the public, as proposed in Section 2-B, C, & D.
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# Recommended related changes to SPD crowd management and use of force policies

## **14.090 Crowd Management Intervention and Control**

- Pol-8-Crowd Control and Dispersal
    - Bike picket use as a dispersal tactic should be included in this section of the policy
  - Pol-11 Use of Force
    - Under this policy, sworn officers are not granted exceptions to use blast balls at their discretion. This contradicts 8.300 Use of Force Tools Pol 10, which does include an exception for sworn employees to use their discretion to deploy blast balls. Language across both policies should be refined for clarity and grant no exceptions for sworn officers to use blast balls without approval from an Incident Commander.
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# Recommended related changes to SPD crowd management and use of force policies

## 8.300 Use of Force Tools

- Pol-6 Vehicle-Related Tactics
    - Bike pickets should be considered a vehicle-related tactic
  - Pol-10 Blast Balls
    - Pol-10-4: Unlike 14.090 Pol-11, this section includes an exception for sworn employees to use their discretion to deploy blast balls. This exception swallows the rule that blast ball use must always require approval from an Incident Commander. This language should be modified to match that of 14.090 Pol-11.
    - Pol-10-5: This language suggests officers are trained to direct blast balls toward people, rather than just create an audible explosion to achieve dispersal. Language should be modified to limiting blast ball deployment away from people, underhand, at a distance of at least 10 yards from any person.
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# Discussion and Action Items

- Thoughts on requesting City Council to postpone the vote on CB 120916?
  - Thoughts on survey feedback and its integration into the letter and proposed revisions to the ordinance and SPD policies?
  - Any desired changes to the letter, ordinance, or policy redlines?
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- Potential vote on letter to City Council
  - Potential vote on proposed revisions to the ordinance and SPD policies