



Seattle Community Police Commission

STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 30, 2024

CPC statement from the Co-Chairs on SPD culture issues

For years, the Seattle Community Police Commission (CPC) has elevated community concerns regarding cultural issues within the Seattle Police Department, including last year after it was revealed a mock tombstone of a victim of police killing was displayed in an SPD break room.

Among other examples, in the last year alone, we also saw:

- A Police Guild leader mocking a victim killed by police ([CPC statement on Jaahnavi Kandula](#)); and
- Allegations from women and people of color in the police force saying that they face discrimination, harassment, and hostile workplace conditions.

Regardless of who the SPD Chief is, they will have the responsibility to address longstanding internal culture issues to ensure SPD is a welcoming place for women and people of color, and that SPD represents the community's values.

We look forward to working with Interim Chief Sue Rahr in continuing community and CPC efforts to change the culture at SPD. We also look forward to elevating community voices with city leaders as they embark on a national search for the next SPD Chief.

We will continue to engage the community to help inform city leaders' future decision-making so that they understand what we need for our community to thrive, feel safe, and move forward in a system that is more accountable to the people it serves—particularly for our BIPOC and vulnerable communities that have historically experienced the most harm.

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The CPC listens to, amplifies, and builds common ground among communities affected by policing in Seattle. We champion policing practices centered in justice and equity. The CPC is

independent and led by volunteer commissioners. Learn more about the CPC at seattle.gov/community-police-commission.

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