



## Seattle Human Rights Commission

*1963 – 2020· 57 years of championing human rights and fostering a just future*

June 4, 2020

The Seattle Human Rights Commission stands in unity with those protesting the inhumane and cruel behavior of law enforcement agents when they interact with Black and Brown people.

The actions of the Seattle Police Department (SPD) over the last few years demonstrate that there are still areas of improvement that our police officers need to focus on.

We believe that SPD exists to protect and serve our community. They are present to de-escalate and maintain peace. Whenever officers go against this function, they should be reprimanded and face the appropriate consequences. There should be no officer in the SPD that does not value the life of every single Seattle community member.

Our requests are that:

1. All officers found to be instigators against the public, in the recent protests that are responses to the murder of George Floyd, should be immediately put on suspension and investigations launched.
2. The city requires officers to use a de-escalation approach in ALL interactions with the public.
3. The city bans officers from shooting at moving vehicles and harming the public with their vehicles.
4. The city requires intervention of other officers nearby when officers are involved in wrongdoing involving members of the public.
5. The city leverages the [New Era for Public Safety toolkit](#) to start on the path to fair, safe, and effective community policing.
6. The mayor and City Council defund Seattle Police Department (SPD). Seattle City Council should propose and vote for a 50% cut of the \$363 million budgeted for SPD.
7. The mayor and City Council protect and expand investments to make our communities safe, prioritizing community-led health and safety strategies.
8. The Seattle City Attorney refrain from prosecuting protesters, including curfew violators or those living in encampments.

We owe it to our children to create a world that not only lives up to the UN Human Rights Declaration, but finally gets us on the path to fulfilling our country's founding principles – stated in the Declaration of Independence – "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Currently, Seattle is not there.



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Please start taking the appropriate policy and budget decisions in line with the interests of all the residents of Seattle.

Thank you,

**City of Seattle Human Rights Commission**

Co-Chairs: Valentina Montecinos, Jackie Turner & Liz Pachaud