

# Seattle Community Police Commission

January 31, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Harold Scoggins  
Seattle Fire Department

Dear Chief Scoggins,

On Monday evening, January 23, 2023, a Seattle Police vehicle reportedly struck and killed a pedestrian in a crosswalk at a South Lake Union intersection during a response in support of the Seattle Fire Department to a drug overdose call for service – a priority one call. This tragedy for the victim, her family, and the community raises important questions regarding the SPD and SFD responses to overdose calls for service.

We understand that the current SPD and Community Safety and Communications Center (CSCC) policy is to dispatch SPD along with SFD to a specific set of calls, including overdose calls. We further understand that this is a relatively recent change in policy. To better understand the policy rationale for the joint SFD and SPD responses to overdose calls, we respectfully request responses to the following questions:

1. When did this policy - that SPD would be dispatched along with SFD to certain types of calls like overdose calls - go into effect?
2. What role did SFD play in the development of this policy? Did SFD request this policy? If so, what rationale did SFD rely on in requesting this policy?
3. What circumstances and safety concerns has SFD encountered during drug overdose calls that led to the development of this policy?
4. What percentage of drug overdose calls prior to the implementation of this policy included compromised safety, assaults, and/or injuries to SFD personnel related to reversing the effects of an overdose?

Citizens deserve timely and safe police responses during emergencies and calls for service. We look forward to your prompt responses to our questions.

Sincerely,



Reverend Patricia Hunter,  
Co-Chair



Reverend Harriett Walden,  
Co-Chair



Joel Merkel, Co-Chair