

Evan Philip
Boards and Commissioners Administrator
Office of Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

Mariko Lockhart
Interim Director
Seattle Office for Civil Rights

Dear Mr. Philip & Ms. Lockhart,

We are the membership of the Housing Committee and the Public Safety Committee for the Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities, the Commission's only active subcommittees. We are calling for the **immediate resignation or removal of Cindi Laws & Steve Lewis, the co-Chairs of the Commission for People with Disabilities.**

Mr. Lewis recently testified in front of the Seattle Women's Commission his views on the forced sterilization of people with developmental disabilities, especially women with intellectual disabilities, which he feels is in their best interest. These views, which are shared by Ms. Laws, are an unforgivable return to Eugenics, which saw tens of thousands of people forcibly sterilized in America and mass murdered in death camps in Germany. Mr. Lewis has also made a number of comments by email and in-person supporting this position, including that if these people were dogs "we would put them down."

We are people with developmental disabilities (and allies) and are horrified that the city would invest a position of authority in such people.

We are aware that six Commissioners have made complaints to the Office for Civil Rights about experiencing ableist, sexist, and racist harassment and bias from these co-Chairs. We stand in solidarity with those Commissioners, and insist the city take steps to address these incidents of bias.

Moreover, we are aware that both co-Chairs do not consider addiction to be "their problem" and have attempted to block Public Safety's work on the opioid crisis, and that Ms. Laws in particular does not see what housing costs have to do with homelessness in Seattle. As members of Public Safety and/or Housing, we can assure the city that these are in fact disability issues, and that we stand for the needs of *all* disabled people in the city, not just wealthy white people with occasional barriers to transportation.

Sincerely,

Shaun Bickley
Chair, Public Safety

ChrisTiana ObeySumner
Chair, Housing

Dorian Taylor
Vice Chair, Public Safety

Jin-Ah Kim
Member, Public Safety

Anthony Miceli
Member, Public Safety

Nicole Palczewski
Member, Housing

Nathan Werner
Member, Public Safety

Heather Woskey
Member, Public Safety