

City of Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC)

Meeting Minutes September 1, 2105

5:30pm Commissioner Aaron VanderPol opened the meeting, welcomed the public and recognized newly appointed Commissioner Jenny Rose.

Rose introduced herself.

Rose moved to approve proposed agenda. Commissioner Scott Richter seconded motion. Motion

passed.

Richter moved to approve 8.19.15 special meeting minutes. Rose seconded. Motion passed.

VanderPol invited public comment. She eliminated Huggins

Marra Spitzer said that she sat through all the meetings with OPO candidates. She eliminated Huggins after his comments at East Central. She liked Humayun's experience as an ombudsman but not sure if

he has enough experience and also worried about immigration issues. She favors Breeden. He

Scott McClay reported that he grilled all three candidates. He thought Breeden really knew the issues. He was okay with Huggins but doesn't feel the public will accept him. He is okay with Humayun. He favors Breeden overall, then Humayun.

Catherine Isabel asked if the Commission is going to set deadlines on completing OPO investigations. She also wants to know how big the current backlog is. She favors Breeden. Commissioner Ladd Smith responded that Breeden and other comments promised to address the backlog. Richter responded that the commission the next ombudsman will need to propose deadlines for completing investigations that the commission can then consider and approve.

Tim Connor from Spokane Police Accountability Reform Coalition thanked Richter for his facilitation of the forum at West Central. Connors believes Breeden was the best candidate and noted that he was more prepared and knowledgeable than the other candidates. He stated that all three candidates had identified important gaps between the Charter and the Ordinance, especially in regard to independent investigations. He said that all three disagreed with Tim Burns' interpretation of "Certification" as to mean only a good process regardless of the actual decision. He said all three candidates agreed that they would not certify an IA investigation if they disagreed with the findings reached by IA. He said that the Ombudsman and the Ombudsman Commission need to share the same understanding on the certification issue. He also suggested that when dealing with the backlog of complaints that the OPO prioritize reviewing complaints that began in the OPO.

Dave Plemmons said that the criteria for selection should be the candidate that will be the most effective in increasing the professionalism of the police department. He believes that the police department had a strong influence over the selection of the three finalists. He doesn't believe Huggins should be selected because of his erroneous comments about the racial makeup of the officers who