

## City of Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC)

Special Meeting Minutes November 18, 2015

Welcome to public by Commissioner Deb Conklin at 7:00pm. Welcome to new Commission Coordinator Martha Huseman.

Commissioner Jenny Rose moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ladd Smith seconded. The motion was approved.

Commissioner Scott Richter moved to delay approval of the 11/3/15 minutes till December 1<sup>st</sup>. Rose seconded. Motion approved.

A discussion took place regarding training opportunities for Commissioners, including ride-alongs with police officers, local Spokane Police Department training, and the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) conference that occurs in September.

Rose reported on a ride-along w/ Officer Ben Maplethorpe, saying it was the best experience. She asked a lot of questions, and there was only one time when lights and siren were needed to stop a motorist for a traffic violation.

Smith reported on Body Camera and Virtual Training presentation by Spokane Police Department on 11/11/15; it was excellent training. Richter said he has plans to take the body camera training in March. He has taken Implicit Bias training.

Conklin said the statute says to attend training but doesn't specify what kind, so we should take advantage of different kinds to find what is best. Kathy Armstrong is good about making us aware of training opportunities. There is Deadly Force training all day Friday 1/22. She asked Huseman to track attendance on training, and Huseman asked everyone to send their documentation to her. Conklin said there is another Crisis Intervention Training in March, and to make sure to look at the NACOLE annual conference in 2016 in order to reserve space in their calendars. She knows it's expensive, but it's good training. Smith asked if there is an opportunity to go for 2 or 3 days, and Conklin said she wasn't sure.

Conklin invited interested community members to speak during the public forum. No community members chose to speak during the public forum.

Conklin gave an update on the Ombudsman hiring: she signed the offer letter. It sounds like it's a go with Mr. Humayun. He is excited about the position. He will probably not be on the job until February 1. The city can pay for expedited review of his visa application. He will be able to know whether he will be able to get the visa before he gives up his job in Canada.

Commissioner VanderPol asked if that date was realistic, and Breean Beggs responded that if he gets the visa, he's confident about February 1.

There was discussion on potential action on the status of Interim Ombudsman selection. The Selection Committee will consist of Commissioner Scott Richter, former Mayor Dennis Hession, Sergeant John Griffin, and Lieutenant Justin Lundgren. These 4 will pick the 5<sup>th</sup> member. Beggs and Huseman will assist, and get the resumes/applications for Commissioner review. Huseman reported that currently there were 11 of the 23 applicants who had responded to her message, and all but one were interested in still being considered. The hope is to make this the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Keeping communication open will be very helpful. The Committee is seen as working for the Commission and staffed by the Commission which clarified some confusion that existed during the last selection committee process.

There was discussion regarding proposed amendments to SMC 04.32. Conklin said in a nutshell, if you look at the existing ordinance, the part that talks about the Interim process, 4.32.090, is in a strange place. The proposed amendment takes it out of 4.32.080. It says the Selection Committee shall select 5 candidates, within 45 days of the vacancy of the Permanent Ombudsman. If the Permanent is not hired within that time frame, the Commission, with the approval of City Council can extend the term for Interim.

Conklin said that at no point does it say that the Committee forwards a specific number of interim candidates. She is fine with the Commission having 45 days to appoint, but if that includes time for a Committee that we don't have control over, she's not ok with that. Beggs said the Interim is not bargained for, and for the Permanent Ombudsman, they changed to 5 selectees. Conklin said my kind of over-riding frustration is that it's not clear why City Council is drafting the ordinance without contacting us at all. Beggs said they have not reached out to us. Conklin said she found out by accident at the public safety meeting. They discussed it as if I wasn't there. VanderPol said where do we go now? Conklin said it's on for Monday night for a first meeting, and it can't be addressed at all. We could address it for the second reading. She suggested setting up a meeting with Jon Snyder and Ben Stuckart to talk about our concerns. She assumed we'd like Breean to be at that meeting. Rose made a motion that two of our Commissioners along with Beggs meet with Jon Snyder on proposed ordinance, and amending the ordinance. VanderPol seconded. He said he would like to go. Conklin appointed VanderPol, Beggs and herself to form a committee and go to city council to negotiate the ordinance.

There was a discussion about the workplan for the Commission. Conklin said some portions of the OPOC procedures had been completed by her with help from a former OPO staff member. Conklin asked if it makes sense to you to sort out the work of finalizing OPOC policies and procedures from the previous Strategy, Priorities, Objectives, Tasks (SPOT) document. Beggs said he thought SPOT was more of a work plan.

Conklin said we need to come up with final OPOC procedures sooner rather than later. Beggs suggested "chunking" it; that Huseman can get a bite-sized format for the Commission to work on at each meeting. What are the push points, and what areas the citizens think are

important? Conklin said Huseman can send the chunk at least two weeks before any working meeting, have a draft of the pieces they're working on at the meeting, and she would like to have a subcommittee that is working ahead. She would like to work with Breean and Huseman ahead of the scheduled commission meeting schedule, while the Commission is working on the specifics of the pieces that we've got. Huseman and Conklin will get together and see what we need to do before the next meeting.

The ordinance requires that both the OPO and the OPOC publish annual reports. Conklin said this was discussed at the most recent Public Safety committee meeting. The Commission's first report will cover the last three months of '14 and the twelve months of '15. She suggested that the two Commissioners who were here from the original commission (herself and Richter), and Beggs and Huseman work on the report. They'll include the training commissioners have done, and also include it in the policies and procedures. Richter said Tim Burns had some ideas on what to include in the annual OPOC report.

Conklin said the Public Safety Committee is interested in locations, and neighborhood information. For the 2015 report, we will make sure it gets done. She said the Committee said what was helpful were descriptive pieces – "This is an example of what this looked like in practice." The suggestion was made to go over reports that Tim did, and see what looks helpful to us. The data is also important, and Huseman should check to see if Luvimae Omana from the OPO is still tracking what sections of the city the reports are coming in from. March 1<sup>st</sup> is a realistic date to have annual reports done. Beggs said there is a need to choose officers for 2016 at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting; this is by ordinance, so we need to be sure to put it on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Conklin at 8:10pm.

Submitted by Martha Huseman and approved by Commission on December 1, 2015.