



Office of Police Ombudsman Commission

January 16, 2018

Meeting Minutes: 2:27

Meeting called to order at 5:32 pm

Workshop Attendance:

- Commissioners Present: Ladd Smith, Jenny Rose, James Wilburn, Jr., Colleen Gardner, Elizabeth Kelley, Legal Counsel-Mike Piccolo
- Board Not Members Present: None
- OPO Staff Members Present: Bart Logue, Luvimae Omana, Christina Coty

Items Session:

- The December 5, 2017 meeting minutes approved unanimously after requested changes made
- Legal Counsel Interview – Mr. Hession presented himself for the commission to consider him as the OPOC legal Counsel. Discussion ensued.
 - Gardner motioned to hire Mr. Hession as Legal Counsel, Wilburn Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- OPO Report Highlights
 - 1 OPO Interview & 4 IA Interviews
 - 5 Investigations were certified
 - Met with SPD 28 times, including 1 mediation that was successful
 - 1 Critical Incident on December 26th.
 - Armed Robbery, Shot by police officer, deceased. A concern was brought to Logue from Sgt. Carr of Internal Affairs regarding the length of time the deceased was left out in public view.
 - Internal issue arose when Ombudsman was not able to attend the scene because he was not notified. Letter was drafted to Chief Meidl, up for Commission review.
 - Logue read the SPD Press Release from the December 26th Critical Incident

Public Forum:

*Various members from the community attended the meeting and voiced their concerns with allegations regarding the December 26th officer involved shooting and how the scene was attended to; specifically, the duration of Mr. Spottedhorse being left in view of the public.

- **Alan Mcdowell** –Discussed Det. Harvey’s concern for an Unsafe working environment and guarding City Hall on Monday evenings during City Council meetings. He stated that public meetings were being put at risk because of conflicts of interest & concerns with demeanor between Police Chief Meidl and Det. Harvey.
- **Jacob Johns** – Native Americans make up 1% of the population in Spokane. He was very concerned that the Ombudsman was not notified of the shooting. What happens when the OPO doesn’t show up, because IA didn’t notify them? I am shocked and appalled that these rules and procedures are not followed. They left this man who was shot and killed in the streets for all to see. They are humans, they should have the same respect. How many more have to die?

- **Toni Lodge** – Tribal Member & CEO for the non-profit Native American Project. Stated that there were 7 police shootings in 2017, of those 7 shootings 3 were Native Americans. In 2003, a 14 year old was shot and killed and he was left out on display for 7 hours. An agreement was made with SPD and the Native Community at that time that collapsible shields would be kept in cars to provide privacy and discretion to the scene. This was not done, and now we have history repeating itself.
- **Lesley Holt**- Traveled here to discuss Mr. Spottedhorse. He went down the wrong track. Is that a reason to leave his body uncovered? He was left handcuffed & shot several times. Why can't we get the autopsy report? Why did we have to fight to get his body released from the Coroner?
- **Devon Wilson** – Serves as Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee for the NAACP. He advocated support to continue to have Community outreach to help break down these walls. He reiterated the support the NAACP has for the Use of Force Reform.
- **Annemarie Frohnhoefer**- SCAR Representation. She stated that the only information that she had received about Mr. Spottedhorse were from the media release and the Spokesman Review. She stated that SPD is historically notorious for leaving bodies of color out in public and we need to get the shields back in the cars. She reiterated that this case would not be swept under the rug.

Commissioners Business:

- OPOC Retreat
 - Rose proposed a retreat for the OPOC members to get to know each other better in addition to helping each other understand how they could make things better. This would be an open meeting for both the OPO and OPOC. Smith asked Piccolo how/if this would be possible. It was verified that the retreat would need to be treated as a Special Meeting. The meeting would have to be accessible to the public. Rose and Gardner will work to come up with a proposal to present in February.
- Every Student Counts Alliance
 - Wilburn stated that he attended a meeting with the schools. He stated the arrest rate is up 65% for students of color and it continues to climb. He is interested in gaining a better understanding where the arrests are taking place and looking at what is happening with our young people.
- Ride Alongs
 - Kelley stated that she had completed her first ride along. All the officers handled themselves very professionally. Noticed that there are not very many resources for people with mental disabilities. After completing the ride along, she met with Mr. Logue and discussed her concerns with him. In turn, Mr. Logue put her in contact with Sgt. Waters, who is in charge of CIT, and was willing to meet to discuss options available in Spokane.
 - Gardner also completed a ride along, during which she was given a tour of the Public Safety Building, the old jail, and was along for four different police responses.
- Commendation Letter
 - Gardner described the circumstance in which she observed commendable behavior of an SPD officer.

- OPOC Presentation to City Council
 - Gardner requested approval to give a presentation regarding Citizen Oversight to City Council. She stated that it is important for Council and other public entities to hear this. Commissioners reviewed the presentation and requested to provide suggestions at a later time.
- Policies & Procedures
 - Gardner suggested a team of 2 Ad Hoc Commissioners to come up with some options to present during the March Meeting. Discussion ensued. Smith and Gardner will work on this project.
- February Meeting Change Request
 - Mr. Logue requested the Commissioners consider changing the February meeting to February 6th or 7th for the purpose of presenting the annual report to the OPOC for approval, prior to presenting it to the City Council. After some discussion the commissioners unanimously voted to hold a Special Meeting on February 7th.
- OPOC Letters to sign
 - Kelley requested that the letter to the Mayor include an invite to the space. It was suggested to change the letter to Deb Conklin to come from the OPOC Chairperson instead of all the Commissioners. It was also decided that the letter to Chief Meidl should have signatures from all Commissioners.
 - Letters with requested changes approved and signed.

Public Comment: 6

Motion Passes or Fails: 5

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:06pm

Note: Minutes are summarized by staff. An audiotape of the meeting is on file -Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman

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