



Office of Police Ombudsman Commission Minutes

January 22, 2019

Meeting Minutes: 1:39

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

Attendance

- OPOC Commissioners present: Ladd Smith, Jenny Rose, James Wilburn – via phone
- OPOC Commissioner absent: Elizabeth Kelley
- Legal Counsel: Dennis Hession
- OPO staff members present: Bart Logue, Luvimae Omana and Christina Coty

Items Session

- The Agenda was unanimously approved
- The December 11th minutes unanimously approved

Public Forum

- Brian Breen – Questions for Commissioner Wilburn regarding his request for the Body Worn Camera footage (BWC) that he had requested. Questions regarding the email received from the Police Advisory Committee and the removal of the OPOC from that committee.

Analyst Update

- Advanced Force Science Specialist course – 10 weeks long, to include meetings, study time for research and assignment / project submissions. Scientific study of how people react in stressful situations, particularly various uses of force incidents.

OPO Report

- OPO report highlights
 - 108 contacts, 6 complaints, 5 Referrals, 17 OPO Interviews, and 6 IA Interviews
 - 23 meetings with SPD – including the biweekly IA/OPO meetings to ensure we are all on the same page.
 - Very busy month with OPO vacations and medical.

Commissioners' Business

- Chief Meidl's letter regarding the OPOC's decision on C18-055 / OPO 18-32
 - The Ombudsman interprets Chief Meidl's letter as taking away the authority of the OPOC's ordinance, saying that the OPOC doesn't have the right to make the decision on the case.
 - Commissioner Rose, requested legal counsel advice on what else can the OPOC do aside from writing another letter
 - Scope of authority is determined by the scope of the ordinance, however the impact of the grievance filed by the Guild, complicates how we can act at this point.
 - Legal Counsel requested more time to review the grievance submitted by the Guild before recommending the next action. Mr. Hession will talk with the City Attorney's office to find out the status.
- Removal from Police Advisory Committee

- On December 24th, the OPO received correspondence from Joan Butler, the Chair via Angie Napolitano informing of the OPO and OPOC of their removal from the PAC, citing a conflict of interest as the reason.
- No further response was received as to the reasoning.
- Action taken – Commissioner Rose will respond to Chair Butler.
- OPO Budget
 - No indication that the OPO will receive additional funds for 2019.
 - During vacation sellback, the OPO was made aware of a shortage in our budget for 2018. We went over our budget in line items that were salary / benefit related. Discussion ensued.
 - Legal Counsel will discuss budget gap with the City Administrator, Theresa Sanders.
- Update on Ordinance change
 - The ordinance change that was requested will be voted on January 28th.
- Commissioner Speak Out
 - Commissioner Rose voiced concerns over having to pay \$438 out of her pocket to cover the cost of her substitute in order to attend NACOLE.
 - Commissioner Smith had no additional talking points.
- 2019 Goals
 - Invite guest speakers to speak at the OPOC meetings throughout the year.
 - Increase the OPOC presence in the community and be advocates for the Commission.
 - Interested in working with the Community Assembly and possibly doing a presentation during one of their meetings

Motion Passes or Fails: 2

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:09PM

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

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