



Office of Police Ombudsman Commission Minutes

September 6, 2022

Meeting Minutes: 1:25

Meeting called to order at: 5:32 pm

Attendance

- OPOC Commissioners present: Jenny Rose, Luc Jasmin, Lili Navarrete, James Wilburn
- OPOC Commissioners Absent: Ladd Smith
- Legal Counsel: Tim Szambelan
- OPO staff members present: Bart Logue, Luvimae Omana and Christina Coty

Briefing Session

- A Moment of Silence for Sandy Williams
- Agenda - Approved

Items Session

- **Guest Speaker: City Council President**
 - Discussion about the Police Guild contract negotiations.
 - The City Council wants to hear from the public what they are hoping to have included in the Police Guild contract. That is what we are hoping to gain from the new ordinance. (C36259) Letter E
- **Office of the Police Ombudsman Comments**
 - We have seen movement over the past few years including report writing. However there have still been limitations
 - Independent investigations – The City needs to bargain this with the Police Guild, it will then meet charter language
 - OPO language that can or cannot be used in reports that are published
 - Selection and hiring of the Deputy Ombudsman would now be selected by a similar manner as the Ombudsman
 - The Police Guild has a pathway to file a grievance and to binding arbitration
- **Office of the Police Ombudsman Commission Comments**
 - Commissioner Jenny Rose – Shocked that there are 16 pages in the CBA pertaining to the Office of the Police Ombudsman. Believes that the grievance process is a one-way process. There was a grievance filed by the Police Guild and were never involved in the process.
 - Commissioner James Wilburn – Wanted clarification about City Council not being at the table during bargaining and any agreement that Mental Health Professionals are brought in by the police prior to any use of force.
 - Commissioner Lili Navarrete – Signed up to represent the Latin X Community in the OPO. She currently feels like the commissioners are walking on egg shells and that is not what she signed up for.
- **Public Comments**
 - Anwar Peace – Motto of SPD is Integrity with ethical principles, character, honesty, professionals upholding the highest and effective standards and compassion, concern, understanding and a desire to help. Many of the community members

disagree do not believe that SPD officers hold these values. This is based on actions witnessed by community members. This next contract negotiation should better align with the SPD Motto. The OPO should be involved in the next negotiation

- Kim Schmitt – I have reviewed hundreds of hours of BWC footage from the SPD and witness inconsistency. I have brought these concerns forward to Chief Meidl and I don't always feel heard. As a citizen of this county, I would like to feel that I can bring things forward and be heard.
 - Jim Leighty – The OPO is broken because of the Police guild. The amount of control that the Police guild has over this office puzzles me. I have filed a complaint and it was closed without anyone even talking with me. The complaint had to do with officers making false or misleading statements. I was told that is the officers perception. Officers are charging citizens for making false or misleading statements but we can't say well it was my perception. This is about accountability and the SPD is not being held accountable when an officer shoots an unarmed man and is promoted to detective. I'm disappointed in the complaint process, it needs to be fixed.
 - Brian Breen – I would like to clarify some things. You (Mr. Logue) get to participate in the interview process but in an independent investigation you can not force anyone to participate in an interview. You can not conduct an independent investigation unless under Garrity you can compel someone to be interviewed. You can not force people to come in and without that subpoena power you can not conduct an independent investigation period.
 - Johnnie Perkins – The input of this Commissioner, City Council and Mr. Logue are very important so I want to inform you that we have started the discussion with the Police guild to keep the City Council and President Beggs to communicate with them on a regular basis to get their ideas on what this contract should look like. We would like to invite you Mr. Logue to our negotiation sessions as well. We feel it is very important to hear what you have to say.
 - Debbie Novak – When I researched the creation of the Police Ombudsman and what the office is today, I don't think that it was what the community envisioned. I don't believe that they meant for this many restrictions on the Ombudsman or the commission. Why are they even included in the Police guild contract. It doesn't make any sense that the ones the Ombudsman is overseeing or providing oversight to have a say over their employment. Why are Police officers not drug tested after they have been hired? If an officer is involved in a use of force they really should be drug tested. The Ombudsman is a good thing, a needed thing and the people voted for the Ombudsman, lets have one who can do his job and is not unnecessarily restricted.
- **Council President Closing Statements**
 - Thank-you for having me hear and for all of the great comments and insight from the public. I have taken a lot of notes. Please send any additional comment to me at bbeggs@spokanecity.org. I want to commend the Mayor and Mr. Perkins for

inviting the Ombudsman to the negotiation table, that exceeded my expectations. I hear all of you who want more independence for the Ombudsman and the Commission. I have been working on this for many years, even before there was an Ombudsman and will continue to work on it.

Motion Passes or Fails: 1

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:57

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

<https://my.spokanecity.org/bcc/commissions/ombudsman-commission/>