

**City of Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC)**  
Special Meeting Minutes October 14, 2015

Welcome to public by Commissioner Conklin at 7:00pm

Commissioner VanderPol moved to approve published agenda. Commissioner Rose seconded. Motion approved.

Rose moved to approve minutes as corrected. Commissioner Smith seconded. Motion approved.

**Reports on Meetings and Commissioner Activities:**

Commissioner Richter reported on PAC meeting and discussed issue of interim ombudsman appointment with Mayor, who told Richter that Commission should formally request that Selection Committee forward three names for interim ombudsman.

Rose reported on attending City Council meeting and hearing them endorse Commissioner Richter as the new member of the Selection Committee.

Conklin reported on attending NACOLE national conference. One takeaway was that the problems faced by Spokane's commission are faced by jurisdiction all over the nation. She described different models of civilian oversight. She noted that law enforcement unions were resisting civilian oversight nationally but confident that labor issues would eventually be resolved. She also reported meeting a former candidate for Spokane's position, who was recently hired by jurisdiction in New Mexico and wished that he had been forwarded as a finalist to the OPOC.

Attended a workshop on whether officers should be allowed to view body camera video prior to answering questions or writing reports. Consensus was that if purpose for writing report was to prosecute then officer should review video; but, if purpose of answering questions was to defend against use of force complaint then they shouldn't be allowed to view video ahead of time. She added that when judges presume failure to turn on camera means citizen version of events should be accepted as true, compliance increased significantly.

Smith asked if there was any discussion on cost of storing video and public records requests. Conklin reported on several options being discussed nationally.

Richter asked if there was any discussion about Taser's storage system. Conklin responded.

### **Discussion on commissioner training:**

Richter noted upcoming report writing and body camera trainings. There is a November 11<sup>th</sup> training using virtual reality scheduled specifically for OPOC members who work during the day since this day is a holiday. Conklin suggested that commissioners type up notes from each training and share with commissioners and archive in office.

### **Public Forum:**

Catherine Isabel, community member, noted that there were not many people attending the current meeting which demonstrated apathy. She requested information about whether the OPOC would hire staff to answer the phone and Conklin said that was the plan.

### **Discussion on hiring OPOC staff person:**

VanderPol asked about specifying a narrower range for salary. Discussion ensued. Smith asked about how many hours? Discussion ensued. Rose asked how position might be advertised. Beggs suggested City website, local universities and Craigslist. Isabel asked about monitoring. Richter suggested using more interns. Conklin suggested rolling a deadline. Beggs suggested initial deadline of October 26<sup>th</sup>.

VanderPol moved to authorize Beggs to advertise job description as drafted with initial deadline of October 26<sup>th</sup> but leave open to position filled. Rose seconded. Motion approved. Rose volunteered to assist in screening along with Richter.

### **Ombudsman Search**

Beggs reported that he had retained investigation firms from Florida and British Columbia to provide further investigations. Commissioners asked questions about the scope of the investigation. Beggs answered the questions.

VanderPol asked how the commissioners would utilize the upcoming reports. Richter said he was looking to see if there were any disqualifying characteristics. Smith sees the report as clearing up any lack of vetting information so that commission can choose between qualified candidates. VanderPol agreed with Smith. Conklin wants to know regarding Humayun how employees he supervises feel about him and how do the agencies he supervises feel about him.

**Interim Ombudsman Selection:**

Conklin suggested commission formally ask selection committee to forward interim candidates and also create a pool of interim candidates when the ombudsman is unavailable. Richter noted that the backlog might require use of interim even while ombudsman is working. Conklin said that Ombudsman needs to decide on the staff people needed and pick them from the pool. Beggs noted that Selection Committee has to provide the pool of candidates for the interim position.

VanderPol moved to request that Selection Committee be activated to select three finalist candidates for interim ombudsman to be utilized in the absence of an ombudsman and for use as relief or support for an ombudsman once he or she is selected; and that within thirty days the Selection Committee interview all candidates for interim who have been deemed qualified by Human Resources at least by Skype. Smith seconded. Motion approved.

VanderPol moved to request that Human Resources provide the OPOC with all application materials for interim candidates under the confidentiality provisions agreed to by each commissioner. Richter seconded. Motion approved.

Discussed calendar dates for special meeting in November, 7pm on 11/18 looked promising.

Adjourned 8:35pm

Submitted by Breean Beggs and approved by Commission on 11/3, 2015.

