

City of Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC)

Special Meeting Minutes August 17, 2016

Commissioner Deb Conklin called the meeting to order and welcomed the public. Commissioners Scott Richter, Ladd Smith and Jenny Rose were present. Commissioner A.J. VanderPol was absent.

She explained the interview process. She thanked Luvimae and Marty for their work in setting up the public meetings, and City Cable technician Mike Lavelle for recording this meeting. She also thanked West Central, East Central and Northeast Community Centers for being wonderful hosts .

Smith moved to approve the agenda. Rose seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Conklin said Commissioner VanderPol graduated from law school, took the bar this summer, and is now living on the west side. He tried very hard to make his schedule work during the selection process, but it didn't work out, so he is in the process of submitting his resignation. She said we will miss his input, and move forward.

The Commissioners interviewed Jacqui MacConnell. They had a brief discussion.

The Commissioners interviewed Bart Logue. They had a brief discussion.

Public Comment:

Alan McDowell said he was thankful we have this process and this body right now. He said he's asked many questions over the last 2 days, and he's happy that we've had 2 individuals to give 2 different perspectives, and he's happy with the answers that have been provided.

Tim Connor said he would speak to SPARC's perspective and his own. He thanked Commissioners for the process and said there's still a lot of suspicion, distrust and deep frustration in the community, especially with Prop. 1. He gave a brief history of the ordinance process, and the public's desire for independence. He asked Commissioners to remember Article 16 of the city charter, and that 70% of the voters in this community saying they want independence for the Ombudsman. He also asked which one of the candidates they think would be better prepared to implement the requirements of Article 16 and be an independent Ombudsman.

He said that on behalf of SPARC we will accept ownership for as good a partnership as we can have. He wished them good luck in their deliberations, saying he's grateful the two candidates that seem to have a lot of integrity, smarts and experience and that speaks well to this process.

Ms. Isabel said she would vote for MacConnell because she thinks we need more women in any kind of government. She said there would be less war and more harmony, and that this country is still run by the white males.

OPOC Attorney Jason Gray said that from a legal standpoint, the Commission did the right thing with the process they went through to have qualified candidates.

Conklin said they have 2 highly qualified candidates and they can't lose at this point. She thanked the selection committee who did their work in open sessions so the public could watch the process. She regretted that the 3rd candidate dropped out before this stage of the process, and there is a difficult decision ahead. Smith concurred. Rose said she was in awe of the caliber of candidates that want to do this job, and that each will bring a unique perspective. She really appreciates the selection committee's work. Richter said it would be a shame if it was an easy decision, and that the candidates are really well-qualified. Conklin asked for the public to give feedback to the Commissioners.

Conklin adjourned the meeting at 7:54pm.