

City of Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC)

Special Meeting Minutes August 8, 2017

Welcome to the Public

Commissioner Deb Conklin welcomed the public, and explained the videotaping situation in the new meeting room, and the fact that this meeting is a special meeting. Commissioners Jenny Rose and Ladd Smith were present, and James Wilburn, Jr. joined the meeting shortly thereafter.

Approve agenda for the meeting:

Rose moved to adopt the agenda. Smith seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

OPO Report

Bart Logue said this report is for 2 months. OPO had over 140 contacts in 2 months, and took in 2 complaints. There were 9 interviews in July and 2 in August. He returned 3 cases for more investigation. He went over 9 cases, and currently there is only 1 pending in Blue Team. He referred 6 cases to other agencies, and reviewed 21 special cases that consisted of reports regarding use of force, pursuits and collisions.

Some highlights from June were: briefing the annual report to City Council, briefing at the SPD Citizen's Academy, attending the Pride event, working on the Public Records Request (PRR), working on the OPOC annual report, and utilizing 2 Gonzaga legal interns to do some background work on independent investigations. There were 17 community events, 9 community meetings, 26 meetings with SPD, and 12 meetings between OPO and OPOC. He did a ride-along in July, and he and Luvimae Omana attended Principles of Deadly Force. They also attended a NACOLE webinar on community engagement.

Logue said that Omana has joined the Board of Directors for COPS, and that OPO is looking to have a closer relationship with COPS so that the public can contact OPO directly with concerns. This would take some pressure off COPS volunteers. There was a brief discussion about this, and Commissioner James Wilburn, Jr. arrived to the meeting.

Logue said Omana provided a presentation to SPARC on the annual report. He provided the Commissioners with 5 draft recommendations for their review and comment by 8/18/17. He added that Scott Richter has signed on as a new intern.

Welcome to Newly Appointed Commissioner James Wilburn

Conklin welcomed Wilburn and introduced him to the group. Wilburn thanked the Commissioners for the work that they do. He knows that the community is looking forward to this Commission doing the work it was set up to do, and he hopes that he will make a positive contribution. He said he is excited, and open to learning.

Public Comment:

Colleen Gardner welcomed Wilburn, and introduced herself. She encouraged Commissioners to engage with the community, and attend some of the neighborhood events that are being held. She liked what she heard tonight about working more closely with COPS. She said the community needs to have a better understanding about what the Commission does, why we have it, what your role is and how

citizens can better participate with you. She's trying to do everything she can to get the word out. She invited Commissioners to the first ever Chief Garry Park Neighborhood Day, at Chief Garry Park, on September 9th from 11:30am to 2:30pm. She said if they would like to have a table, she'll need to know by next Monday.

There was a brief discussion about Neighborhood Councils, and Gardner said she'll put the word out to have the Neighborhood Councils invite OPOC to attend, and OPOC can also send a request to them about attending.

Alan McDowell said he was concerned about mental health drugs being used in the police department. He said there was a problem with police officers using Adderall, and that it can be dangerous while on duty. He also talked about his discovery/agreement document that is designed to help people get through mediation without violence.

OPOC Counsel Update

Conklin said Ryan Poole has switched law firms. The City needs to amend the contract, and we have had some negotiations with the City. Poole said from what he understands it's a matter of revising the current agreement, getting the proper names on it and meeting the requirements the City has.

2017 NACOLE Conference Update

Conklin gave some background on the original workshop requests that were submitted, and how NACOLE decided that there will only be one workshop. The NACOLE board member who has been coordinating the process has been unavailable. A brief discussion took place about attendance at the conference.

OPOC Rules of Procedures

Conklin said the ordinance will not be amended until the City has an agreement with the Guild. She recommended that we put together our best rules of procedures and adopt them in principle. A discussion took place regarding various sections of the draft document.

Smith proposed continuing the wordsmithing at the next meeting. Conklin proposed to figure out a way to share her points with the other Commissioners. She asked them to give feedback to Huseman so that she can update the document.

5th Commissioner Update

Conklin said, as already mentioned, that we don't know anything about the 5th Commissioner.

Annual Reports

Conklin said we voted on the annual report last month, but there was still some fine-tuning to be done. Logue generously offered to make ours look professional like the OPO's report. He has put some significant work into this, and she would like to thank him for that. It looks great compared to what we had a month ago. Smith concurred. Conklin said she went out on a limb and decided to hold off for a month and bring it back for approval. Rose made a motion to adopt this document as the official 2016 annual report for OPOC. Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of Commissioners on Significant Community Meetings Attended

For National Night Out, Rose attended events hosted by two neighbors. Rose spoke at the first event, and gave a shout out to Mike and Dianah Ellis for hosting it. She then attended the community event hosted by Doreen Fuher.

Approve minutes from May 2, 2017, and June 6, 2017

Smith made a motion to postpone approving the minutes of May 2 and June 6, 2017 at next meeting. Rose seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Conklin encouraged Commissioners to get any proposed edits to Huseman for editing.

There was a brief discussion about comparing calendars at the next meeting to figure out when the next OPOC meetings will take place.

Adjournment

Conklin adjourned the meeting at 7:29pm.

Minutes submitted by Marty Huseman and approved by OPOC on 10/10/17.