

Seattle
Community
Police Commission

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May 16, 2014

VIA EMAIL

Interim Chief Harry Bailey
Seattle Police Department

Merrick Bobb
Federal Monitor

Dear Interim Chief Bailey and Mr. Bobb:

This letter follows on our letter of May 12, inquiring about the status of the Firearms Review Board (FRB) review of shootings from late 2013 and 2014. We greatly appreciated the Monitor's report to the CPC at our meeting on Wednesday about the current status of these required reviews. Our understanding is that a review was conducted this week of a shooting from November 2013, under the direction of Assistant Chief Tag Gleason, in a proceeding that integrated the Firearms Review Board and the Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB) processes. (We understand that this is an interim process pending the formal merger of the FRB and the UOFRB by the end of this year, per the Monitoring Plan.)

From our conversation on Wednesday with Mr. Bobb, it is our understanding that no written agreement exists establishing the interim procedures for such an integrated review process; and no reviews are yet scheduled for the 2014 shootings, including the two that occurred on January 19 and January 20, 2014.

As discussed Wednesday, we are concerned that if reviews are not completed promptly for the January incidents, any potential referral to the Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) to investigate possible violations of department policy will leave little time for OPA to complete a high quality investigation and make timely recommendations to the Chief. It is also important that the procedures governing this interim process be clearly established, including a provision for written findings as is required for the current FRB process.

After consultation with OPA, we now write to ask that the Department, under Monitor supervision, ensure that FRB reviews, or an alternative review process approved by the Monitor, be conducted for the January 2014 shootings, by a date that allows adequate time for OPA to investigate and recommend findings, if appropriate. We also ask that, before those reviews begin, written procedures governing these proceedings be agreed to by the Department and the Monitor, including a provision that written findings be produced at the conclusion of the review.

We would again also appreciate an update on the status of these reviews at our May 28 meeting. At Wednesday's meeting, no one was clearly identified to speak on behalf of the Department on this question. For the May 28 discussion, we would appreciate hearing from the Department as well as the Monitor.

Thank you very much for your courtesy and assistance.

Sincerely,



Diane Narasaki, Co-Chair
Community Police Commission



Lisa Dugaard, Co-Chair
Community Police Commission

Cc:

Mayor Ed Murray
City Attorney Peter Holmes
Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Michael Diaz
Community Police Commission