

Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (OPARB)
Minutes of Wednesday, November 12, 2008 Meeting
11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Patrick Sainsbury, Chair:	P	Steve Freng, Member:	P
Tina Bueche, Member:	P	Martha Norberg, Member:	P
George Davenport, Member:	P	David Wilma, Member (by phone):	P
Sharon Dear, Member:	P	Michael Pendleton, Consultant:	P
Nancy Roberts, Staff:	P		

(Absent = A, Present = P)

Guest(s): Jeff Slayton, Law Department

Old Business/Administrative:

The meeting was convened at approximately 11:33 am.

The Legislative IT Manager, Ian Smith, presented a demo showing the initial set-up of the Citrix account, which will then allow members to log in to secure voicemail and maintain e-files in a confidential secure manner, separate from their personal files. Members were issued user Ids and secure passwords. Remember that emails are automatically deleted after 45 days, so be sure to archive your substantitve emails. If you need help in setting up your account, contact **Ian Smith at 206.684.5199**, or **Nancy Roberts at 206.684.8146**. You may change your password, but it requires you to come in to the Legislative offices to do so.

OPARB members signed their confidentiality agreements.

It was decided that new officers would be elected annually, at the first meeting in September. Officers can be re-elected for additional terms. Pat was elected Chair in a unanimous vote, and Tina was similarly elected as Vice-Chair.

Meet & Greet Community Groups – An introductory letter was sent out to a large group of community groups, and several indicated their interest in meeting with OPARB to discuss their concerns. The list of respondees (most of which were interested in meeting) was handed out, and responsibility for attending upcoming meetings was divided among available members. An updated list of who will contact the various groups is attached. Members were asked to review the original contact list and submit suggestions to Nancy regarding other pertinent groups that we may also want to contact. *Note – until I hear back from members that the notes on the list are correct, I will take no action to invite people to the 12/10 meeting.* Please let me know asap that my notes are correct.

At the meet & greets, members expected to introduce themselves and listen to the groups' concerns. While you may be confronted with complaints and retelling of past incidents, remind folks that you are there to hear their concerns, and will get back to them at a later date with better details about what OPARB's approach will be. *It was suggested that members attending community meetings meet 15 minutes prior to such meetings to agree on their approach.*

OPA Auditor's Report – Kate requested that OPA and OPARB meet soon to discuss and share input into her imminent report. The board felt that they do not have enough time to gather comprehensive or accurate information, and they don't want to lend their name to a "joint report". They don't know what Kate's methods have been, or the degree of OPA involvement. Pat, Martha, David and Michael will try to meet with Kathryn and Kate in the next week or two to discuss this issue.

NACOLE – George was impressed at the myriad of issues facing civilian oversight across the country. One question that is not always clear – who do we answer to? We need to be clear that we are an independent

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group, and define what we do and how we do it – clearly define who we are. He was most interested in development, learning about the disciplinary matrix (if it exists), taser application and training issues. Pat told the group he would follow up to learn more about Sheley's unfinished taser report.

Dave came away from the conference clear that oversight is here to stay. He'd like to explore domestic violence – how does SPD investigate, how is it handled through HR (are resources made available); tasers and the tactical review of force. Oversight groups seem to be getting involved in police practices and tactics. Are we satisfied with SPD's policy. He also wants to explore the issue of how SPD handles dishonesty.

With regard to a discipline matrix - what expectations are communicated to officers? All groups at the conference agreed that bargaining units are a fact of life, and play a large part in what can realistically be expected to change.

Mayor's proposal for Full Time auditor – The Mayor added a full-time OPA auditor to his budget, in lieu of the contract part-time person who currently reports to the Chief of Police. This person would be an employee, as opposed to a contract employee. This proposal needs to be approved by Council. The board members were concerned that this would reduce the public's confidence in the independence of this role. Pat will draft a letter to Public Safety Committee Chair Tim Burgess, and Martha will review it.

Auditor's report – Obstruction Arrests – The group had concerns regarding the perception of independence. The issue of the 180 day rule came up again – filing of a civil suit does run out the clock. There were also problems with the process – the complainant always goes first, giving the officer an opportunity to respond, an opportunity which is not available to the complainant, giving the officer an unfair advantage. The council's panel had the same concern.

Pat will draft a rewrite of the board's policies and procedures from the website. George will help him.

Reminder re Saturday's training - SeaPark Garage is not open on weekends, so park where you can. An officer will be in the lobby on the 5th Avenue side to let you in around 1:00. Take the elevator to 7th floor. Cheese & crackers & fruit & water will be provided.

The group adjourned at approximately 1:30 pm.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm in the Boards & Commissions Room, City Hall.