



Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (OPARB)

**Minutes of Wednesday, March 4, 2009 Meeting
11:30 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.**

Patrick Sainsbury, Chair:	P	Steve Freng, Member:	P
Tina Bueche, Member:	A (E)	Martha Norberg, Member:	P
George Davenport, Member:	P	David Wilma, Member (by phone):	P
Sharon Dear, Member:	P	Michael Pendleton, Consultant:	P
Zuzka Lehocka-Howell, Staff:	P		

(Absent = A, Present = P, Excused = E)

Guest(s): Lt. Eric Sano, Seattle Police Management Association (SPMA); Kathryn Olson and John Fowler, OPA; Kate Pflaumer, OPA Auditor; Jeff Ball, Seattle University Student

The meeting was convened at 11:30 a.m.

The minutes of the 2/19/09 meeting were approved as written.

Speaker Lt. Eric Sano, SPMA – Information about how SPMA works

- SPMA works similarly to the Police Guild. They have a duty to represent their members, who are lieutenants and captains.
- The type of OPA cases they work on is a little different from the Guild. Lieutenants and captains typically deal with larger scale issues, so the OPA cases are usually about a decision that was made rather than about person's conduct.
- They work with very low % of complaints (one complaint in 2008). For that reason he disagreed with the claim of some SPOG Board members that there is a double standard for SPMA members.
- If there is a recommendation for reclassification, lieutenant would make the recommendation, but Katherine Olson will be the ultimate person making the decision.
- Some cases are reported to OPA, but some may be dealt with only by a supervisor (de minimis vs/ high level cases)

Questions from Patrick Sainsbury to Lt. Eric Sano

Would you improve anything? Could OPA system be improved?

- SPMA is open to negotiations (Over time, the SPMA and the Seattle Police Officers Guild contracts are becoming more and more similar.)
- He supports OPARB
- OPA should stick with the timelines
- He would like to be more a part of the OPA process. He thinks commanders can contribute to the process.
- He supports ongoing training – Use of force, driving, more debriefing communication

Kathryn Olson

- 180 day timeline – There is a problem with determining when the time starts running.
- There were two cases that had to be settled in 2008 without discipline due to the ambiguities surrounding the 180 day timeline when a supervisor receives information about a complaint instead of it coming directly to the OPA.



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Kate Pflaumer

- She recommended that her successor, OPA, and OPARB focus on the following topics: 180 Day Rule, Criminal Investigations, Risk Management, and Supervisory Intervention

Reports

1. Kate Pflaumer
She is working on a report. She needs the OPARB outreach letters that were sent out and OPARB's first six-month report. Pat said he will provide electronic copies.
2. Kathryn Olson and John Fowler
They are working on a report and are asking OPARB members for feedback.
3. OPARB
The board is planning to produce a report every six months.

Officer/Guild Access to OPA Investigators' Personnel Files

Pat Sainsbury reported an alert from an OPA investigator whose personnel files were subpoenaed by SPOG as part of their defense of an officer. The subpoena apparently was drafted by the officer's attorney. Pat reported the investigator was particularly upset that his bargaining unit, SPOG, was not protecting him and seemed to be violating their strong stance in favor of officer privacy. Kathryn Olson reported that the issue is in litigation. The Board asked to be kept informed on the issue.

Public Safety Committee Meetings

March 17th

- Meeting will include substantial conversation on police accountability
- Patrick Sainsbury is unable to attend the meeting; David Wilma will attend instead
- Michael Pendleton will attend the meeting as well

April 7th

- The committee would like OPARB to be present and talk about OPARB's first report
- Patrick Sainsbury and George Davenport will represent OPARB

The board is interested in having guest speakers at future meetings

- Interested in meeting with Mr. Alan Lai from Chinese Information Services Center (CISC)
- Interested in having 3 guests per meeting, approximately 20 min for each speaker

City-Wide Advisory Council Report

Pat Sainsbury and David Wilma attended the CWAC meeting on February 23 2009. Much of the meeting was devoted to the Tools for Tolerance training and the objections of the Muslim community to using that training. Pat was given a few minutes to introduce OPARB and the letter sent to all advisory councils, and to ask that the councils, not their police liaisons, answer the questions. He distributed copies of the letter to several advisory councils, including the chair of the African American Advisory Council, and to a citizen with prior service on police-community issues who requested a copy of the letter.

New Business

City Hall, Floor 2, 600 Fourth Avenue, P.O. Box 34025 Seattle, WA 98124-4025
(206) 684-8888 Fax: (206) 684-8587



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- John Fowler has a draft brochure, describing all three entities, ready and will send it out to OPARB members for feedback
- OPARB members will decide on a retreat date at the 3/19/09 meeting

The group adjourned at approximately 1:40 p.m.

Notes taken by Zuzka Lehocka-Howell

The next meeting will be held on March 19, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. in the Boards & Commissions Room, City Hall.