



For Immediate Release

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OPA asks witnesses to help with investigation surrounding girl pepper sprayed during Saturday's protest

Seattle, WA — The Office of Police Accountability (OPA) is seeking information from any community members who may have witnessed the girl getting pepper sprayed at a demonstration on Saturday. While being mindful of the trauma this incident has caused the girl and her family, we would like to speak with the girl's family/guardians to gain their perspective on what occurred.

Due to the immense public concern surrounding this incident, OPA is working to complete this investigation in 60 days rather than the standard 180 days provided in the Seattle police labor contracts. During these 60 days, OPA will be reviewing body-worn video/community member video/other evidence, interviewing the involved employee and community member/officer witnesses, drafting case findings, and seeking external review from the Office of Inspector General. While we understand that 60 days sounds like an eternity, conducting a thorough investigation takes time.

In response to questions posed on social media regarding the identity of the officer in question, OPA is prohibited from releasing the names of employees who are investigated. However, we are committed to providing as much information as legally possible regarding the status of this investigation.

We promise a complete and fair accounting of what occurred, and we pledge to do so in a timely fashion.

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