City of Seattle
Office of the Mayor

September 28, 2012

Bill Sherman, Chair
Seattle Ethics & Elections Commission
PO Box 94729
Seattle, Washington 98124-4729

Re: *OPA complaint related to OPA Director Kathryn Olson, SPD Sgt. Caryn Lee, and SPD Lt. Mark Kuehn*

Dear Mr. Sherman:

The Seattle Police Department's Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) has received the enclosed complaint, alleging retaliation by members of OPA in violation of City policy. Because OPA's investigation of a complaint against its own staff would create the appearance, at least, of a conflict of interest, we believe it would be more appropriate to have a third party conduct the investigation. We would be grateful if the staff of the Ethics and Elections Commission could perform this function.

We propose that SEEC staff conduct the investigation, in a manner consistent with OPA procedures and requirements. OPA staff will be available to assist in the investigation as needed. The investigation will then be reviewed by the OPA Auditor, and a recommended disposition will be presented to the Chief of Police. Depending on the results of the investigation, the Department may request additional recommendations or guidance from SEEC as to any needed revisions to Department policy.

We understand the consent of the Commission is required in order to authorize the SEEC staff to perform this work. We would greatly appreciate SEEC's assistance to ensure that the investigation is thorough, fair, and worthy of public confidence. Please let me know if you need any more information to consider this request.

Sincerely,

Carl Marquardt
Counsel to the Mayor

Attachments:

Copy: Bill Sherman, Chair, Seattle Ethics & Elections Commission
Anne Levinson, OPA Auditor
John Diaz, Chief of Police

Seattle City Hall, 7th Floor
600 Fourth Avenue
PO Box 94749
Seattle, WA 98124-4749

Tel (206) 684-4000
Fax (206) 684-5360
www.seattle.gov/mayor
mike.mcginn@seattle.gov