



Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (OPARB)

**Minutes of Thursday, October 15, 2009 Meeting
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

Patrick Sainsbury, Chair:	E	Steve Freng, Member:	P
Tina Bueche, Member:	P	Martha Norberg, Member:	P
George Davenport, Member:	P	David Wilma, Member:	P
Sharon Dear, Member:	P*	Michael Pendleton, Consultant:	P

*(Absent = A, Present = P, Excused = E, * = Present by phone)*

The meeting was convened at 5:30 p.m.

The minutes of the October 7, 2009 meeting were approved.

Committee Reports: David Wilma, Oversight of SPD Criminal Investigations. He had a meeting with the OPA Auditor, and Pat and David will visit the bargaining units to determine their understanding and feeling about how SPD handles criminal investigations of its own officers. He and Pat will prepare a report in conjunction with the Auditor and OPA Director and will present it to the council. He does not see issues that need to be addressed yet, but they will have other board members review the report before it is submitted. Currently, OPA receives cases after the criminal case is closed, and neither auditor nor the director has found issues with the criminal investigations.

Michael asked about SPD officers conducting investigations on coworkers. David replied that they have found no problems with this, and often investigations are conducted by special investigative units. Some investigations are covert. The Chief has the option to determine which cases are conducted by outside investigators, and exercises that right. With NACOLE conference coming up soon, perhaps attendees can see if there's any national standard that helps determine which cases are handled externally. Tina asked about fail safe practices. Martha said the prosecutors feel they are the fail safes, which prompted the question, is the prosecutors has concerns about how the case has been handled internally, how do they handle those concerns?

Steve Freng and Martha Norberg, Diverse Communities Committee, Homeless Community. Drat work plan (attached) contains key questions and data sources and methodology. Suggestions were made to include the City's Human Services Department the SPD community police team, Women in Black, the Compass Center, LIHI, and DESC. Perhaps visit DESC's day center to talk to the homeless themselves. Are SPD officers trained at the academy to deal with economically disadvantaged citizens. What policies are officers asked to implement – contrast with how they *practice* those policies.

George Davenport/Tina Bueche, Outreach Report. To be discussed at the November 4 meeting. They don't yet know what their approach will be. George is very interested in developing an outreach plan that will include officers to get their input. Tina wants a structured approach and likes the idea of "routes".



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Report Distribution: David talked to Betsy who said it was fine to release the report. Nancy to release it Monday, October 19 according to the schedule agreed to in the September 17 meeting minutes. Change the date on the report to October 19. Because of the board's desire to establish solid, collegial relationship with SPD, Nancy will draft a cover letter to accompany the report to the SPD Chief, stating that the OPARB chair will be in touch with him in the coming weeks to set up a meeting to discuss the report and the Board's work in general.

Strategic Plan Distribution: The plan is to present the plan to the Public Safety Committee in December, and then release to others, following the same timeline used for the outreach report. Nancy will make sure that Tim Burgess has the Strategic Plan now.

Michael asked if members were referring to the strategic plan as they do research for their sub-committees. There will be intersections with other committees, and aspects that will involve SPD. Try to prioritize your research so the part that involves SPD comes after the release of the Strategic Plan, and try to coordinate your research to reduce redundancies.

Some outreach can include the entire board, and it's an option to invite people to a meeting rather than going out to them. The Board may also choose to hold a couple large meetings a year, or establish individual "routes", allowing each member to establish relationships and cover more ground. The next couple of meetings will be opportunities to focus on various plan options and develop outreach strategies.

What is the best way to network at NACOLE? There are panel sessions, and you can follow up with the speaker or key participants after the meeting. Working lunches can be fruitful, as well as distributing your business cards.

Steve spoke about his recent attendance at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference. He shared his impressions of "Discipline Without Punishment" and Education-based Discipline. He provided brochures, copies of which are attached.

The group adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts

The next meeting will be held on November 4, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Boards & Commissions Room, City Hall.