

Minutes of Wednesday, July 7, 2010 Meeting
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Patrick Sainsbury, Chair:	P	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, * = by phone)*

Guests: Kathryn Olsen, OPA Director; Anne Levinson, OPA Auditor Appointee

Minutes - The minutes of the May 5, May 20 and June 2 meetings were adopted.

NACOLE Conference – Kathryn provided copies of the current NACOLE conference schedule. The early bird deadline for registration is July 16. Nancy will register all members and Michael. The welcome reception has been funded; SPD and ACLU have contributed funds thus far. They are trying to put together an informal get-together Sunday afternoon prior to the start of the conference.

Semiannual OPARB Report - Pat circulated a draft for member input. There were several comments. He will provide a final draft of the report for the July 15 meeting.

Lake Union Use of Force - No new information. The criminal investigation is underway.

DV Training/Seattle Women's Commission - David attended and facilitated the meeting along with SPD and the Women's Commission. He felt it was very instructive. They learned about training from the state, which is delivered by a prosecutor, and were given actual on-the-street examples of how training is used. The Women's Commission was unaware of the availability of 24-hour volunteer support group, and the need for more volunteers. David gave them information so the Commission can connect with the volunteer group. He thought that OPARB's role in setting up and being present at the meeting was critical to its success, even though it might be outside our mandate. Michael Pendleton noted that David's report raised a broader issue: does SPD have formal outreach between units and their logical constituents?

OPARB members participated in a photo shoot for NACOLE.

Media Policy - Pat and other members have received calls from the media in the past months, prompting the Board to review their media policy. They agree that they will not provide information unless it is already reflected in the minutes, on the website, or in a report. Michael counseled that they not alienate the media; to be warm and amiable, but to not be caught off guard. It may be a good idea to call them back after you've had a chance to collect your thoughts, and not be pressured into commenting for the sake of their timeline.

Jaywalking – Kathryn provided information on this issue. Training on basic civility and verbal judo will be provided at Sergeants' School this fall. They will be reintroduced to the way that all citizens should be treated. The chief is pulling together a blue ribbon group to look at use of force in Seattle - how SPD trains at both the state and local levels. There is some conjecture that the two may have opposing, or at least, different, philosophies. They will look at the SPD Use of Force policy - is it confusing? In 2006 there was a change in how use of force cases are

reported. OPA is doing a complete review from the time of that change to present, and hope to have that report available by end of summer.

There also was discussion about SPD's strategies in jaywalking enforcement. Kathryn reported that the main strategy is to enforce the laws as they enforce other laws. In discussion, several people recalled the emphasis on these laws as a result of several high-profile accidents and deaths.

A/V Cameras on Officers - Pat bumped into the presenters for this proposal today, and passed along a brochure on their product. Some members thought this sounded like a great idea, but for some Board members, the concept is still too abstract, and all Board members would like more information on how this would work, cost, benefits etc.

Reports from Work Groups – George reported that in preparing the report on outreach, only about 20 exit surveys were received. These are surveys provided to involved citizens and officers after an OPA case is closed. Since this is such a low number, it's not statistically significant, thus not a very effective method of gauging the perception of OPA's work.

Martha Norberg discussed the developmentally disabled aspect of homelessness with DD community officials. She found that SPD was viewed quite favorably in the DD community. There is a planned workshop at the NACOLE conference on the mentally ill disabled.

Complaint Classification System - David suggested that the board come up with a way to separate findings from classification of cases. He proposed creating a simplified set of findings. Kathryn agreed, and suggested that this may be a joint recommendation. It was agreed to make this a priority to get it addressed and working. The August 4 noon meeting will be devoted to finishing Kathryn's presentation of the current system and working on revisions to findings if time permits. It was suggested that we contact NACOLE to see if they have information on findings.

OPA Auditor - Anne Levinson is busy reading past OPARB documentation, learning her boundaries and determining the balance between collaboration and independence.

Councilmember Burgess - is interested in having the board look into jaywalking incidents and frequent fliers. Michael suggested that 1) the definition of frequent flier be identified. Neighborhood assignment, types of complaint, shift, and other factors heavily influence the number of complaints an officer is likely to receive, all other things being equal. Norms need to be established first. 2) What does identifying frequent fliers mean with regard to police accountability? Kathryn suggested starting to look into this by reviewing SPD's early intervention policy.

Summary - The Board's top interests were identified as excessive force and frequent fliers.

The meeting was convened at 11:30 a.m. and adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 15, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Building Conference Room 370, City Hall.