

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

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

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

Guests: Kathryn Olson, OPA Director; Anne Levinson, OPA Auditor; Anwar Peace, Police Accountability Activist, Miss Richard, Michael Fuller

Minutes - The minutes of the August 19 meeting were adopted.

Public Comment – Police accountability activist Anwar Peace spoke to the Board. He first spoke about the Joseph Wilson case, viewing it as another 17-year-old abused by SPD in a confrontation over a minor infraction. He observed that he works in Uptown (Lower Queen Anne) and sees an officer parked for most of his shift near Dick’s. The officer ignores numerous jaywalkers on Queen Anne Avenue, a busy, dangerous street. Mr. Peace talked of a huge disconnect between SPD and youth. Young people feel that SPD does not care about them. There is a lot of anger and frustration. He mentioned the Monfort case and while expressing that Monfort was totally wrong in his actions also expressed hope that police would not give people like Monfort cause in their minds to act out. He suggested that SPD and the OPA system seek out young people at youth service and community agencies where they hang out. He suggested that the system consider having a Facebook page or pages to connect with young people, and mentioned that it is very hard to navigate the SPD website.

Ms. Richard and Michael Fuller also spoke to the Board about their concerns.

NACOLE Conference Update – The conference is less than three weeks away. The session summary descriptions will be uploaded to the website in the next few days, and then CLE credits can be established. The luncheon speaker may change. Kathryn has been asked and has agreed to run for NACOLE president. NACOLE is looking for others to be involved on their board.

Semiannual OPARB Report – Brief summaries of activities in the area of community outreach, diverse communities, and use of force are still needed in order to finalize the report. Tina agreed to draft summaries on use of force. She also agreed to write up the community outreach summaries if George can’t.

Lake Union Use of Force and the Franklin High Case - The prosecuting attorney is expected to make an announcement imminently on their decision regarding the Lake Union case.

El Centro de la Raza – George, Pat, David and Michael plan to tour El Centro de la Raza on September 29 at 5:00, and will meet with El Centro’s group immediately following at 5:30.

Joseph Wilson Case - The Board faces a conundrum. The MOU states that the Board cannot look at specific cases, but Appendix E appears to allow it. The Board agreed that Pat will contact the City Attorney for guidance. Michael suggested that the Board identify what public perception is and contrast that with whatever a systems review reveals and determine how to address the gap. He reminds everyone to focus on systems issues rather than individual cases.

The group can work more closely with the auditor so that she is aware of their systems concerns as she reviews active cases. Summary: Get clarity from the city attorney, as a group. Focus on systems, do not become derailed by individual cases. Craft a way to respond to public requests, especially regarding specific cases.

Case Reviews – The Board needs to determine how they will analyze cases, and will need to keep good documentation. Think about the questions you’re trying to answer before reviewing files. Be thoughtful about what you say about findings – keep it to topics or types of cases and systems issues. Pat would like to be able to comment on findings on a system basis, e.g. “protocol was followed” or “files were complete (or not)”.

Strategic Plan – The group reviewed Michael’s notes from the last meeting. Kathryn offered to forward a study she just read about use of force complaints, which basically concluded that the matter was too broad and systems so diverse that comparisons were not able to be drawn between systems. Tina said she will obtain and circulate the summary of the review of use of force cases that she and Sharon did.

Under Methods, item #3, it was suggested that “explore the use of social media” and a project to review the OPA web presence and improve access be added to the text. Other suggestions were to work with established groups and use them as a conduit to hard-to-reach populations, i.e., established youth groups and centers. Anne is already working with SPD IT to make the City’s, SPD’s, and OPA’s website clearer and friendlier. Note: There will be a workshop on using social media at the NACOLE conference.

Tina volunteered to head up research on data gathering and reporting management tools. She also will look into what may be missing from OPA’s system in general, such as an effective feedback loop. Kathryn told the group that her assistant will be attending an AIMS system conference in early November (that’s SPD’s data gathering system), and suggested that Sonja be contacted with questions.

Michael recorded other amendments to the strategic plan working document, as well as individual subject assignments, and will share that updated document at the next meeting.

Item #11 from Michael’s notes: Kathryn said that the Chief is convening an ad hoc panel of local and national contacts regarding use of force, including discussion of policies and training. Members asked if the Chief would consider including an OPARB member on the board (or as an observer). Kathryn will check with the Chief. The release of Kathryn’s use of force report may be postponed due to the existence of this panel. The work on use of force was divided into three subtopics: use of force in escalations of minor violations, participating in the Chief’s panel, and use of force generally. Michael suggested and the Board was receptive to the idea of an ongoing process of every Board member reviewing a number of use of force cases so that the Board is educated on the cases.

Going Forward – Anne asked for a one-pager on each of the Board’s goals, to include a statement of the goal, the project lead, whether the OPA Auditor or Director’s involvement is required, the expected outcome or product, and a timeline. Michael agreed to draft a form for Board, Auditor, and OPA consideration.

Anne also suggested that a master calendar be created with report production dates, which would increase efficiency between the three entities and perhaps provide the ability to coordinate their efforts. For example, it’s helpful to know that the board is working on a report

on use of force, when the auditor or director is contemplating doing a report on the same or similar subject. Collaborations or consultations may be useful.

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, September 16, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Building Conference Room 370, City Hall.