

OPARB
Minutes of Wednesday, May 4, 2011 Meeting
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

David Wilma, Chair:	P	Steve Freng, Member:	P
Melissa Bartholomew, Member	P	Martha Norberg, Member:	P
Tina Bueche, Vice Chair:	E	Pat Sainsbury, Member:	P
George Davenport, Member:	P		
Michael Pendleton, Consultant:	A		

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

Guests: Anne Levinson, OPA Auditor; Kathryn Olson, OPA Director

Minutes - The minutes of the April 21 meeting were adopted with a clerical change.

Auditor Report – Anne is conducting her quarterly mini-audit with regard to tracking and deadlines. More than 100 cases are currently open; 570 cases were opened in 2010, as opposed to 475 in 2009, an increase of 20%; 222 of them were investigated; this compares to 174 in 2009. The monthly numbers continue to be at or above 2010 levels so far in 2011. She is reviewing various training modules, e.g., street skills, defense tactics, command and control. She will attend firearms control training and defensive driving training. The department has an increased focus on training.

OPA Director - NACOLE – Conference information has been posted to the NACOLE website. The website itself is undergoing changes. The line-up of speakers and topics for the conference is developing well. Justice-based policing will be featured, as will the new training initiative that is being coordinated with King County Sheriff's Office, Washington State patrol, SPD, and the Criminal Justice Training Center. This training is focused on relationships, communication, trust building, and active listening skills. Acceptance by officers varies, but seems to increase with greater understanding of the new training focus. This initiative is part of SPD's broader communications and branding initiative. The curriculum continues to develop; this is a long range project. Part of SPD's communication initiative is to divide the city into 17 sectors. Within each sector, officers canvas the neighborhoods, ask citizen about general concerns, including their sense of safety. They are focusing on one-on-one encounters, getting the sense of what each community needs. SPD has established three goals: Fight Crime, Fight Fear of Crime, and Build Community.

Classifications & Findings – The work group has finished its review of findings, and will work more on classifications. The goal is to have fewer findings and fewer classifications, and revise the names and definitions, to help with transparency and understanding for the public, complainants and officers. They hope to present their recommendations at the next board meeting. The Board agreed the work to date to reduce the number of findings and clarify names and definitions of findings and classifications is on the right track. As to process the Board decided that it was best to release the recommendations as a final work product and use that as a means of soliciting public comment.

Work Groups –

Diverse Communities – Martha and Steve visited Isis House, which just reinforced their feeling that this should be an ongoing work group. They feel that working with diverse communities is key to OPARB's work. There was discussion about the best way to provide information to caseworkers and others so that they have ready access to it at a later date. Martha has received calls from people asking how to file a complaint. They're able to remember her and how to get hold of her, but seem not to be able to recall how to access information on how to make a complaint. There was discussion about electronic business cards, etc. Nancy will work with IT to get more options and ideas.

Community Engagement – The work group is developing a proposal for review at the next meeting.

Meeting with Tom Streicher, Chief of Police of Cincinnati – Dave, Pat, and Melissa found his very informative. He is a real convert to the collaborative process set up by Jay Rothman. They focused on effective policing strategies that involve the community and establishing communication between diverse groups such as racial minorities, police, and business groups. They found that evaluations from collaborative reviewers

were more credible than DOJ monitoring reports. Chief Streicher wished that Jay Rothman had been retained longer for a greater sense of continuity. They did not have the bargaining unit issues that Seattle does – the accountability system is not subject to negotiation. David and Pat found him very informative. He also provided valuable insight into developing the consent decree with the Department of Justice.

Meeting with Latino/Latina Bar Association – Melissa, Pat, and Dave met with the board. The group had a good understanding of Seattle's oversight system. They are concerned about their community's general fear of and intimidation by SPD; one member described being asked for a social security number when issued a jaywalking ticket and cited it as "fundamentally racist." (this complaint is currently under review at OPA).

A Conversation on Policing and Crime Reduction Strategies – This presentation at Monday's Council Briefing was very well attended, and later adjourned to the Bertha Knight Landes room. Discussion was about evidence-based policing, and evidence that crime is location-specific. There has been a positive effect on crime reduction by maintaining deployment at bad (high crime) locations. Simply cleaning things up and inhabiting vacant store fronts has been found to have a great positive effect on reducing crime.

Retreat – Saturday, June 4 has been set aside for a board retreat at Martha's office. Tentative time is 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. David will talk to Michael about the agenda, but asked for suggestions. So far: development of a presentation that can be made to communities; community engagement; revisiting work groups, revisiting the strategic plan, efficacy of file review, meeting frequency. Contact David with other ideas.

Martha and David have been requested to talk with DOJ.

Reminder about the Seattle University Ethics CE Friday, May 6. Martha, George and Steve are attending; David, Kathryn, and Anne are presenting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Al Rochester room on the 2nd floor at City Hall. Reception will be closed, so come to the east door on 2nd floor and knock to be let in.