



City of Seattle

Seattle Police Department

November 22, 2016

Director Pierce Murphy
Office of Professional Accountability
720 Third Avenue, 18th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Management Action Recommendation (2016OPA-0139)

Dear Director Murphy:

I am writing in response to your October 21, 2016 management action recommendations arising out of your review of 2016OPA-0139.

Domestic Violence cases are among the highest-priority of our investigations, not just for all of the reasons you cite but because they so often victimize an already-vulnerable population. As you note, we are currently in the process of finalizing a policy specific to DV investigations, developing procedures and checklists for officers responding to DV calls, and utilizing available data and research to develop and implement a Risk Assessment instrument. In addition, as part of implementing the new policy, we expect to develop and roll out a new training module that will address the policy, best practices, and procedures. We also agree that additional resources for patrol sergeants tasked with screening DV arrests and approving DV General Offense reports should be provided, and we anticipate that, as part of the training to the DV policy, new resources will be developed.

We also support your recommendations with respect to evaluating the staffing of the DV Unit, including available shift coverage. While virtually every unit in the department is understaffed relative to the demand for services, we are presently in the process of taking a deep-dive look into how units are staffed in order to ensure that personnel resources are positioned and deployed as efficiently and sensibly as feasible.

Finally, we completely support your recommendation to collaborate with prosecutorial partners to explore options for implementing a more consolidated approach to addressing DV investigation, adjudication, and providing support services to DV victims and their families. While clearly other departments and agencies would need to commit equal partnership, we stand ready to be an active participant in any discussion to move such a collaboration forward.

Director Pierce Murphy
November 22, 2016

As always, thank you for your thoughtful recommendations on a subject I care deeply about. Please let me know if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. O'Toole
Chief of Police

Cc: Deputy Chief Carmen Best
Brian Maxey, Chief Operating Officer
Assistant Chief Lesley Cordner
Rebecca Boatright, Senior Counsel
Fe Lopez, Executive Director, Community Police Commission