



To: Andrew Myerberg, OPA Director
CC: Mark Grba, Deputy Director of Investigations; Grainne Perkins, Investigations Supervisor
From: Lynn Erickson, Public Safety Auditor/Investigator
Date: January 13, 2021
Re: 2020OPA-0424

PARTIAL CERTIFICATION:

OIG has reviewed the Investigation for 2020OPA-0424 and is certifying it as objective. OIG is not certifying the investigation as timely or thorough.

Regarding timeliness, the 180-day date on the investigation occurred on January 4, 2021. The investigation was initially submitted to OIG for certification review on December 17, 2020. Because the investigation was submitted for review so close to the 180-day date, there was not sufficient time for OPA to conduct the additional investigation requested by OIG, and for OIG to then complete a re-review once the case was routed back.

This short review time was compounded by the fact that the initial Report of Investigation prepared by OPA contained numerous errors regarding the identification of the involved parties, to the extent that the basic fact pattern could not be understood. The investigation was resubmitted by OPA for review on December 28, 2020 and OIG is appreciative of OPA's additional efforts. However, due to limited staffing resources and the City holiday, OIG did not have enough time to complete that review prior to the 180-day date.

Regarding thoroughness, the date of the complaint is June 7, 2020. Although OPA had the complaint for six months, the Complainant was never interviewed. OPA did have contact with the Complainant's mother on July 28, 2020, and she indicated her son's availability in September 2020. Despite the Complainant's mother expressing to OPA that she wanted her son to speak on his own behalf, and to have the opportunity to provide his story, OPA did not follow up or make additional efforts to interview him.

In this complaint, there were two incidents that occurred more than a year prior. The Complainant alleged those incidents demonstrated harassment from SPD, not only because they both occurred on the same day, but also due to the nature of the contacts.

There was information in this complaint that could only be provided by the Complainant. That information, which speaks to a community member's perceptions of professionalism or harassment from SPD, is integral to investigating an allegation involving a disruption of public trust. While OPA did include an allegation of professionalism against both Named



Employees, without the Complainant's participation, that area of questioning was extremely limited.

In OIG's estimation, the investigation cannot be considered thorough due to insufficient efforts to interview the Complainant to gather key information relevant to his concerns. Thus, the investigation that occurred, did not include full consideration of the Complainant's allegations.

Respectfully,

Lynn Erickson

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