



Seattle Office of Inspector General

To: Gino Betts, OPA Director
CC: Dane Rohrer, OPA Investigations Supervisor
From: Nicolette Lattanzio, OIG Public Safety Audit and Investigation Specialist
Date: August 10, 2022
Re: Partial Certification Memo for Case Number: 2020OPA-0388

Partial Certification Memo

OIG has reviewed the investigation for case number 2020OPA-0388, including OPA's response to OIG's request for additional investigation, specifically that Captain [REDACTED] be interviewed. While OIG can certify this case as both timely and objective, this case cannot be certified as thorough.

OIG understands that, while the request to interview Captain [REDACTED] was sent out 7/24/2020, OPA was notified that the Named Employee (NE) took leave from SPD on 7/27/2020. Too, based on NE's absence, SPMA agreed to toll the case on 8/26/2020, at which point OPA took no further action to interview Captain [REDACTED]. Although, OPA continued with other witness interviews.

During a 7/29/20 WE interview, the WE stated that she was "in and out of [her] area that day, so [she] did not witness anything related to the [incident]," other than hearing the Complainant (C) say, quite loudly, "get out of my office." In a different 7/29/20 WE interview, the WE stated that she likely had earphones in at the time of the incident, and only became aware of the alleged events because C phoned her. In a 7/27/22 interview of a different WE, that WE also said that she only heard C yell, "get out of my office," followed by seeing NE leaving said office.

Considering the limited testimony of all the witness employees, it is difficult to accept OPA's assertion that the captain's testimony would only amount to hearsay. Similarly, it is difficult to accept the assertion that the captain's testimony would not provide the same level of evidentiary value as others when Captain [REDACTED] was the only one of four witness employees to directly interacted with both C and NE on the day of the incident.

That said, as previously communicated, since OIG does not have the authority to direct OPA staff or resources, it is not up to OIG to resolve this matter. Although, the interview deficiency does impact OIG's ability to fully certify this case. Accordingly, while this investigation can be certified as timely and objective, it cannot be certified as thorough.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicolette Lattanzio".

Nicolette Lattanzio, OIG Public Safety and Investigation Specialist