



Seattle Office of Inspector General

To: Gráinne Perkins, Interim OPA Director
CC: Dane Rohrer, OPA Investigations Supervisor
From: Payton Schenck, OIG Public Safety Audit and Investigation Specialist
Date: April 8, 2022
Re: Partial Certification Memo for 2021OPA-0347

Partial Certification Memo

OIG has reviewed the investigation for 2021OPA-0347. OIG appreciates OPA's willingness to conduct the additional pieces of the investigation brought to your attention by our office on March 17, 2022. We acknowledge the great efforts you made in turning these pieces of the investigation around so quickly. OIG can certify the investigation as timely and thorough.

Unfortunately, our office is unable to certify the investigation as objective due to closed ended questioning conducted at the conclusion of Named Employee #4's interview, found on pages 42 and 43 of the interview transcription. Notably, the line of questioning centers around why the Named Employee may not have heard statements regarding his injuries or treatment during arrest, which is an important component of the investigation related to policies surrounding reporting of force and bias-based policing within SPD. Because the questioning highlights specific reasons the Named Employee may not have heard these statements, it appears OPA provides the Named Employee with possible reasons for not hearing the Complainant, rather than the Named Employee offering these reasons themselves. Though OPA stated the intent was to get additional information from a reluctant interviewee in follow up discussions, it is not consistent with OPA's policies on closed-ended questioning and creates concerns with the objectivity of the case.

Our office understands feedback surrounding the questions has been provided to the OPA investigator, and that similar lines of questioning will be avoided in the future. We appreciate your proactive steps to avoid similar issues in the future.

Accordingly, OIG can certify this case as thorough and timely, but not objective.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Payton Schenck".

Payton Schenck, OIG Public Safety and Investigation Specialist