

April 4, 2025

Chief Shon F. Barnes
Seattle Police Department
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Chief Barnes:

Please see the Management Action Recommendation below.

Case Number

- 2024OPA-0333 / 2025COMP-0007

Topic

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Summary

- It was alleged that a sworn named employee used AI to draft emails and Blue Team Reports.

Analysis

- SPD Policy 12.040 – Department-Owned Computers, Devices, & Software¹ does not provide guidance on whether or how any Department employee may use AI.
- The City of Seattle’s Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy² asks employees to attribute authorship to GenAI when it is used, but this policy is not referenced in SPD’s Policy Manual.
- King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office’s statement on law enforcement’s use of Axon Draft One³ does not apply to this allegation because it is not a criminal case.
- OPA reviewed existing tools for AI report writing and possible use cases.
 - Axon and Truleo both offer AI based tools tailored for law enforcement and report writing that would potentially address confidentiality concerns.⁴
 - In 2024 many Chiefs attending the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference “expressed concern that officers have started using AI for writing police reports and probable cause statements.”⁵
 - The ACLU is currently opposed to the use of AI technology in writing police reports because of concerns related to bias, possible loss of human memory, and transparency.⁶

¹ [Seattle Police Department Policy 12.040 – Department-Owned Computers, Devices, & Software](#). Effective 10/01/2021.

² [City of Seattle Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy. Pol-209. Guideline](#). Approved 10/23/2023.

³ [“Email from King County \(WA\) Prosecuting Attorney’s Office Re Axon Draft One.”](#) Published in September, 2024.

⁴ [“Using AI to write police reports.”](#) COPS U.S. Department of Justice. Volume 18, Issue 1. January 2025.

⁵ Ranalli, Michael. [“AI in Law Enforcement: Old and New Challenges.”](#) Lexipol. 01/11/2024.

⁶ Stanley, J. “AI generated police reports raise concerns around transparency, bias.” ACLU. Retrieved 2025. <https://www.aclu.org/news/privacy-technology/ai-generated-police-reports-raise-concerns-around-transparency-bias>



Seattle Office of Police Accountability

- OPA also reviewed policies from comparable cities.
 - A 2024 Study in Manchester, NH found that the use of AI report writing tools did not actually save officers' time.⁷
 - The city of San Francisco's policy on GenAI requires employees to disclose their use of GenAI in their work, stresses employees should not give sensitive information out, and the need for employees to check any of their work that utilizes the technology.⁸
 - After a 3-month trial of AI report writing software, the Anchorage Police Department concluded that the tool did not save time and chose not to use it.⁹
 - The state of Utah is considering S.B. 180, a bill that would require police to disclose their use of AI when drafting reports, suggesting its use, concerns, and possible solutions.¹⁰

Recommendations

- SPD should develop a policy on the use of AI for department related purposes and consider incorporating existing city of Seattle policy on GenAI directly into SPD's policy manual.
- If SPD is planning to adopt any AI-based software for report writing, then it should consider:
 - Coordinating with impacted stakeholders to discuss any concerns with the software and a proposed transparent timeline for implementation.
 - Requiring employees to disclose their use of AI tools in any report where it was utilized and incorporating this directly into SPD policy.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Glenn".

Bonnie Glenn
Interim Director, Office of Police Accountability

⁷ Adams, et al. "[No Man's Hand: Artificial Intelligence Does Not Improve Police Report Writing Speed.](#)" CRIMRXIV.com. 09/11/2024.

⁸ [Guidance for City staff using generative AI tools](#). City and County of San Francisco. Retrieved 03/11/2025.

⁹ Guariglia, Matthew. "[Anchorage Police Department: AI Generated Police Reports Don't Save Time.](#)" Eff.com. 03/12/2025.

¹⁰ S.B. 180. [Law Enforcement Usage of Artificial Intelligence](#). Utah State Legislature.