



2/18/2026

Director Bonnie Glenn  
Office of Police Accountability  
PO Box 34986  
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Glenn,

Please see the Management Recommendation response below:

**Case Numbers:** 2024OPA-0057 / 2025COMP-0013

**Topic:** Death Investigations

**Summary of the Management Action:**

- It was alleged that a named employee did not properly investigate and document a death, prematurely categorizing it as a suicide.

**Original Recommendation:**

- SPD should work with Seattle's Community Assisted Response & Engagement to address dispatch procedures applying an initial call classification of suicide.<sup>4</sup>
- SPD should develop a training module on SPD Policy 15.055 – Death Investigations and provide this training Departmentwide. Among other things, the training module should include:
  - Respective responsibilities of the officers and sergeants responding to a death investigation;
  - The appropriate categorization of the death as a natural death, death of a person under hospice care, natural death at a hospital, accidental death or suicide, and possible homicide or death with suspicious circumstances; and
  - The importance of using cognitive interviewing concepts, such as open-ended questions, in these investigations.

**Action Taken:**

Seattle Police Department Policy 15.055- Death Investigations addresses primary officer and supervisor responsibilities related to death investigations, supervisor notification of appropriate Investigative unit, scene investigation, categorization of death etc. As such, it is SPD's position that no ambiguity within the policy exists and with this being an atypical occurrence, developing departmentwide training relating to Death Investigations is respectfully declined.

In addressing sub-bullet 3, The Education and Training Section already incorporates open-ended type questioning strategies during training scenarios.

Both SPD and CAREs maintain their own formal policy and procedures and upon review, these processes are sufficiently aligned, requiring no additional changes at this time. With that said, any call classification changes should be directed at CAREs.



**Seattle**

Police Department

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**SPD Considers this Management Action:**  
Respectfully Declines

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shon F. Barnes".

Shon F. Barnes Ph.D.

Chief of Police

Seattle Police Department