



For Immediate Release

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OPA clarifies role in police officer disciplinary process

Seattle, WA – As reported today in The Seattle Times, the Office of Police Accountability (OPA) concluded that an officer lied during an administrative misconduct investigation interview. It is important to further explain OPA's role in recommending discipline for police officer misconduct and the steps OPA took in this particular case.

Based on OPA's investigation, Director Andrew Myerberg recommended a sustained finding for dishonesty. The officer's chain of command, including a member of SPD's command staff, concurred with the sustained finding during the Discipline Committee Meeting, which occurs whenever a sustained finding is recommended.

OPA and the chain of command also came to a consensus regarding the range of discipline to recommend to Chief Best: 30-days unpaid suspension to termination. That joint recommendation encompassed the different perspectives of those on the Discipline Committee, and the proposed disciplinary range was consistent with those positions. As with the practice of convening a Discipline Committee Meeting, a consensus range of discipline is proposed in virtually every case.

Chief Best, who is the final decision maker on discipline, imposed a 30-day unpaid suspension. While short of termination, a 30-day suspension is the second-highest level of discipline an officer can receive.

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OPA is part of Seattle's police accountability system. OPA ensures that the actions of Seattle Police Department employees comply with law and policy by conducting thorough, objective, and timely investigations, recommending improvements to policies and training, and engaging in collaborative initiatives that promote systemic advancements. OPA is civilian-led and has a staff comprised of both sworn and civilian employees.