



CLOSED CASE SUMMARY

ISSUED DATE: MARCH 21, 2025

FROM: INTERIM DEPUTY DIRECTOR NELSON R. LEESE (ON BEHALF OF INTERIM DIRECTOR BONNIE GLENN)
OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

CASE NUMBER: 2024OPA-0395

Allegations of Misconduct & Director's Findings

Named Employee #1

Allegation(s):		Director's Findings
# 1	5.001 – Standards and Duties, 5.001-POL-11. Employees Will Be Truthful and Complete in All Communication	Not Sustained - Unfounded (Expedited)

This Closed Case Summary (CCS) represents the opinion of the OPA Director regarding the misconduct alleged and therefore sections are written in the first person.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

During a September 19, 2024, Seattle City Council hearing, Named Employee #1 (NE#1) allegedly provided false information about the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC), specifically concerning its use in 2020 and the monitoring of video screens once it became operational.¹

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

This case was approved for Expedited Investigation. That means OPA, with the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) agreement, believed it could issue a recommended finding based solely on its intake investigation without interviewing the named employee. As such, OPA did not interview the named employee in this case.

On November 6, 2024, OIG certified OPA's investigation as thorough, timely, and objective.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION:

OPA investigated the OPA complaint by reviewing the City Council hearing, RTCC program narrative report, SPD internal records, draft surveillance impact report, news article, and meeting minutes. OPA also interviewed SPD's chief operating officer.

On September 19, 2024, during a City Council meeting, NE#1 stated, "A Real Time Crime Center without camera feeds isn't really a Real Time Crime Center. I know it's been discussed that Seattle PD has had a Real Time Crime Center. But, in reality, we built the room and never turned on any technology. Some of you have had the opportunity to see that physical space, and it's a very impressive space, but it's not receiving any information."

¹ The Complainant provided OPA with an article stating that the RTCC was receiving a live feed from the King County Sheriff's Office's aerial surveillance platform. The Complainant also cited meeting minutes from a June 24, 2024, city budget meeting, during which an SPD employee stated that the RTCC was actively monitoring camera feeds during incidents.



SPD prepared a report outlining the need for RTCC technology based on crime analysis, intelligence, social media, predictive analytics, and threshold parameters. The report emphasized the objective of creating a system that would allow SPD to utilize actionable information for both tactical and strategic operations. This approach would aim to enhance the early detection of anomalies through predictive analytics and to increase the efficiency of response operations. Furthermore, the report confirmed SPD's decision to proceed with the RTCC's implementation.

SPD internal records showed that a Department of Justice grant funded a five-year pilot program, which concluded in 2020. Before the City Council hearing, SPD published a draft surveillance impact report, indicating that the RTCC was not functional and required approval. The report stated that due to unprecedented staffing shortages, the RTCC was needed to disseminate accurate information and efficiently manage resources. It stated that RTCC software would integrate multiple technologies into a single platform and mentioned that staffing was in the planning stages.

During an OPA interview with SPD's chief operating officer, he said the RTCC was never fully functional, despite the equipment in the room having access to SPD technologies. He said SPD was in the process of acquiring backend technologies but emphasized that there were no RTCC-specific technologies. He said that while the grant facilitated the RTCC's construction, the RTCC lacked operational functionality, as it was more like a command post.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Named Employee #1 – Allegation #1

5.001 – Standards and Duties, 5.001-POL-11. Employees Will Be Truthful and Complete in All Communication

The Complainant alleged that NE#1 allegedly provided false information about RTCC.

Department employees must be truthful and complete in all communications. SPD Policy 5.001-POL-11.

This allegation is unfounded. NE#1's statements to the City Council were accurate, as he did not suggest that the RTCC was operational. Although SPD received grant funding to build the RTCC, which included the installation of video screens, it had not yet become operational. The article referenced by the Complainant claimed that the video wall at the RTCC was used to show a video, but the use of a video monitor did not equate to a fully integrated and operational command system. Moreover, the meeting units cited by the Complainant indicated that staffing plans were in development and that active monitoring would commence once the RTCC became functional. This was consistent with NE#1's statements to the City Council, further indicating that the RTCC was not fully operational. Finally, SPD's chief operating officer corroborated NE#1's testimony, confirming that the RTCC was never fully functional, even though the equipment in the room had access to SPD technologies.

Accordingly, OPA recommends this allegation be Not Sustained – Unfounded (Expedited).

Recommended Finding: **Not Sustained – Unfounded (Expedited)**