



Seattle City Council Police Accountability Panel (SCCPAP)
Minutes of Thursday, April 24, 2008 Meeting
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Present: Panelists Steve Herbert, Eric Schnapper, Leo Hamaji, Lynne Wilson, Veronica Alicea-Galvan
Michael Pendleton, facilitator; Nancy Roberts, staff

This meeting was considered an executive work session and was not taped or filmed.

The meeting was convened at 6:02 pm.

Suggestion around the draft report: Move Recommendation #9 to the Auditor section and make it a reporting recommendation.

The facilitator reported back on a phone conversation with Sam Pailca where he asked for clarity on the role of the OPA Director – an active role or more of a figurehead? Michael referred to Kathryn Olson's April 3 memo. Sam was concerned about the Mayor's Panel report, which was largely silent on the role of the OPA Director. She would like to see the role strengthened; to ensure that it remains a leadership role rather than an administrative role. While it is impossible for the Director to review every case, she triaged and prioritized them, reading the highest level ones. As director, she was dependent on the captain, and trusted him. During her tenure, the captain was not the primary lead person handling cases. She communicated with the chief and others and didn't rely solely on the captain's input. With regard to a firewall: On close cases, she liked being able to discuss her concerns with the chief or other command person. Their knowledge was valuable, and she sometimes wanted their political acumen and back story.

Sam was clear: The director needs to own the findings on cases. There seems to have been a change in process with regard to the Chief's involvement since the new director has taken over, as evidenced on page 3 of Kathryn's memo, referenced above. Sam refused to allow the chief to become involved, in classifications and other aspects of the case. That is apparently not the current practice.

Sam stated that certification always happened at the very end. It was more of a summary, which included disciplinary action.

The panel discussed OPARB making disciplinary recommendations, the need for disciplinary guidelines, and the Auditor reporting on types of discipline in comparison to the offense. Suggestion was to make a new recommendation asking the Auditor to report regularly (annually?) on those statistics.

Amend Recommendation 7 to add a sentence barring discussion of classification outside OPA staff.

Discussion of report structure – Steve to restructure to move bios, history of how the panel was structured and how they came to be – to an appendix. Also to be included in the appendix is the Panel's letter to PARP. Lynne will condense the explanation of the relationship between this group and PARP. What is the relevance of the current Appendix 1?

The draft report will be submitted to Peter Harris, then to the Public Safety committee for review. Offer to PARP leaders? OPA/Auditor/Chief/SPOG?

Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5, 6- 9 pm in the Boards & Commissions Room, L280.