



# Sentinel Event Review Wave 1 Report

Public Safety & Human Services Committee

July 27, 2021

# What is a Sentinel Event Review (SER)?

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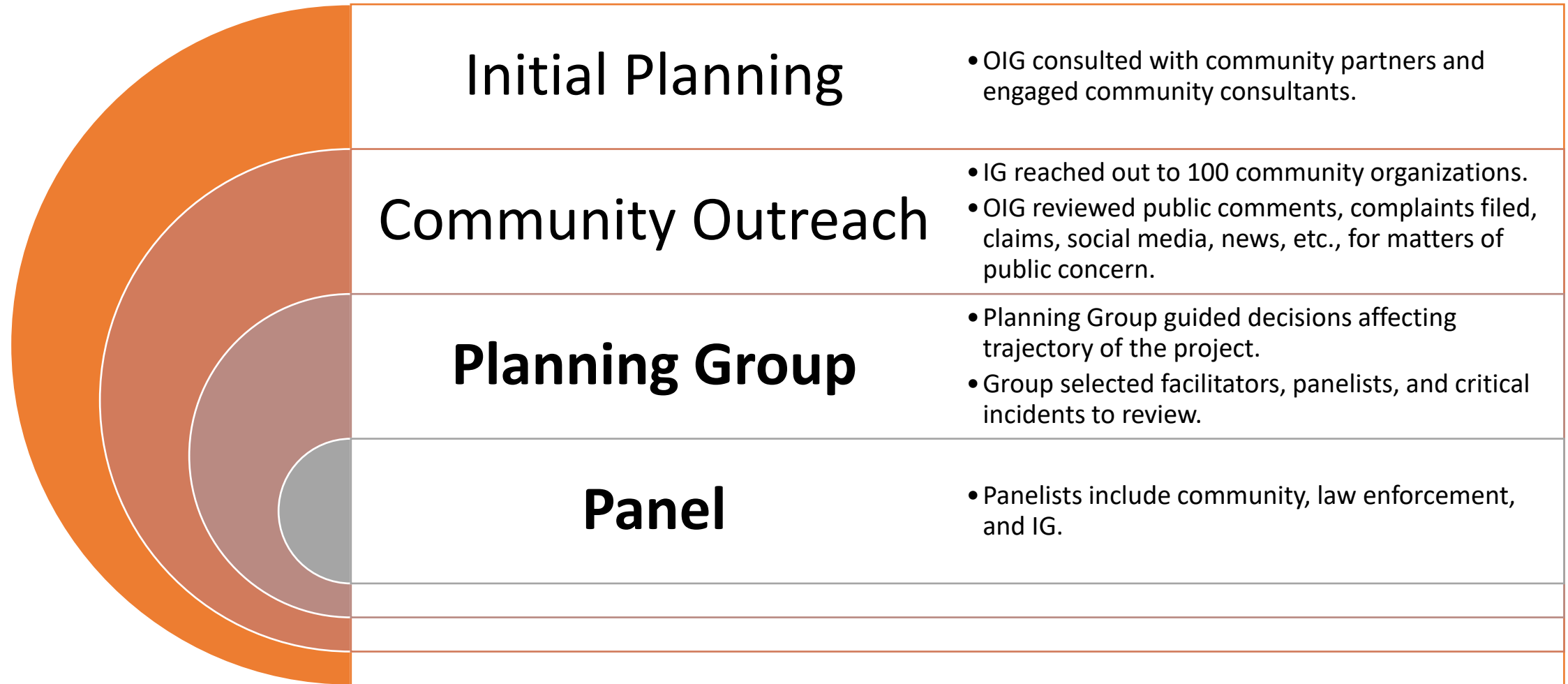
- Examine significant events with negative outcomes (“sentinel events”) for systemic root causes, in order to prevent recurrence.
- Used in healthcare, airline, and other high-risk industries for decades—used more recently in policing such as for officer-involved shootings.
- **This is the first known instance of applying SER to a rolling series of significant events.**



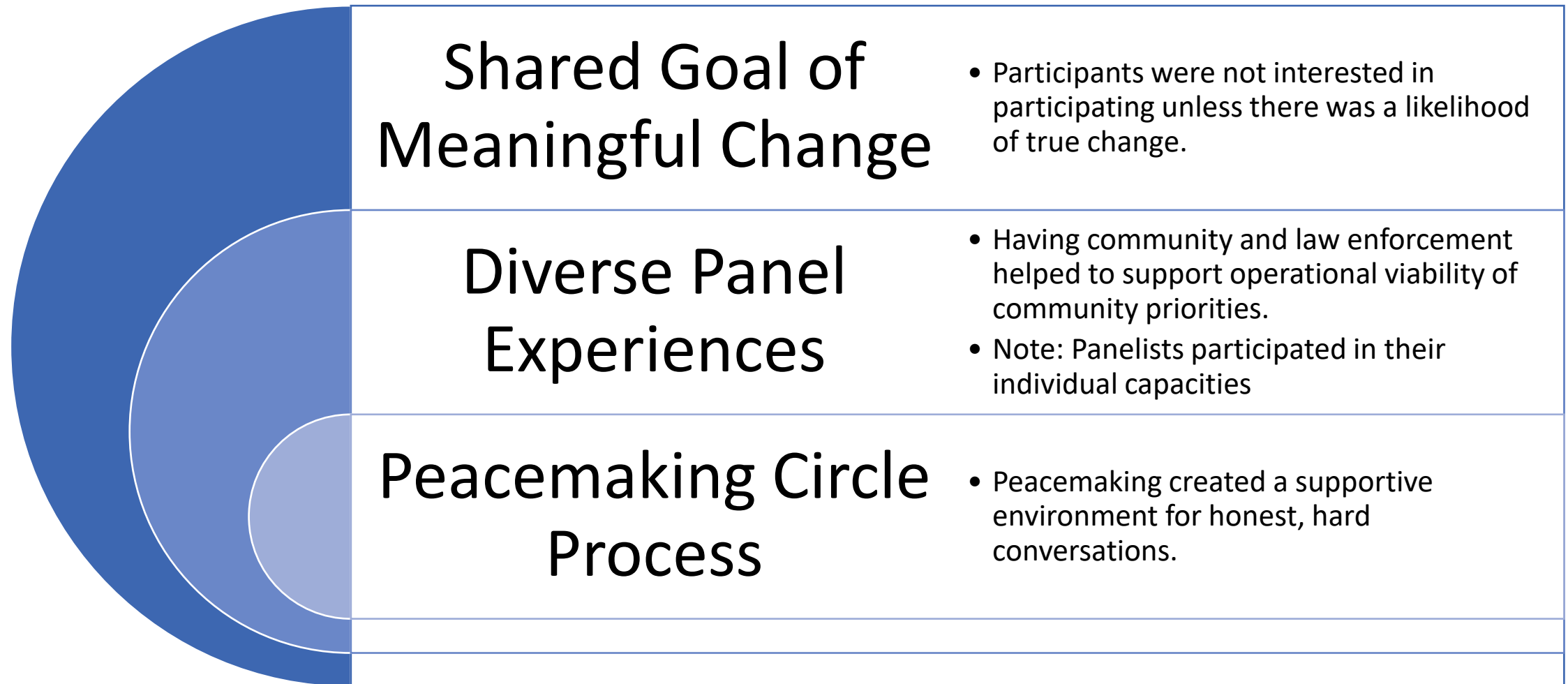
“Focus on community perspectives and concerns; define implementable recommendations for SPD change.”

*from SER Principles and Goals*

# Focusing on Community Perspectives



# Forming Viable Consensus Recommendations



# Peacemaking Circle

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- Saroeum Phoung and Thary Lim of PointOneNorth Consulting facilitated a peace and reconciliation approach, to create a supportive environment for open conversations on difficult topics. **This is the first known use of Peacemaking in a sentinel event review.**

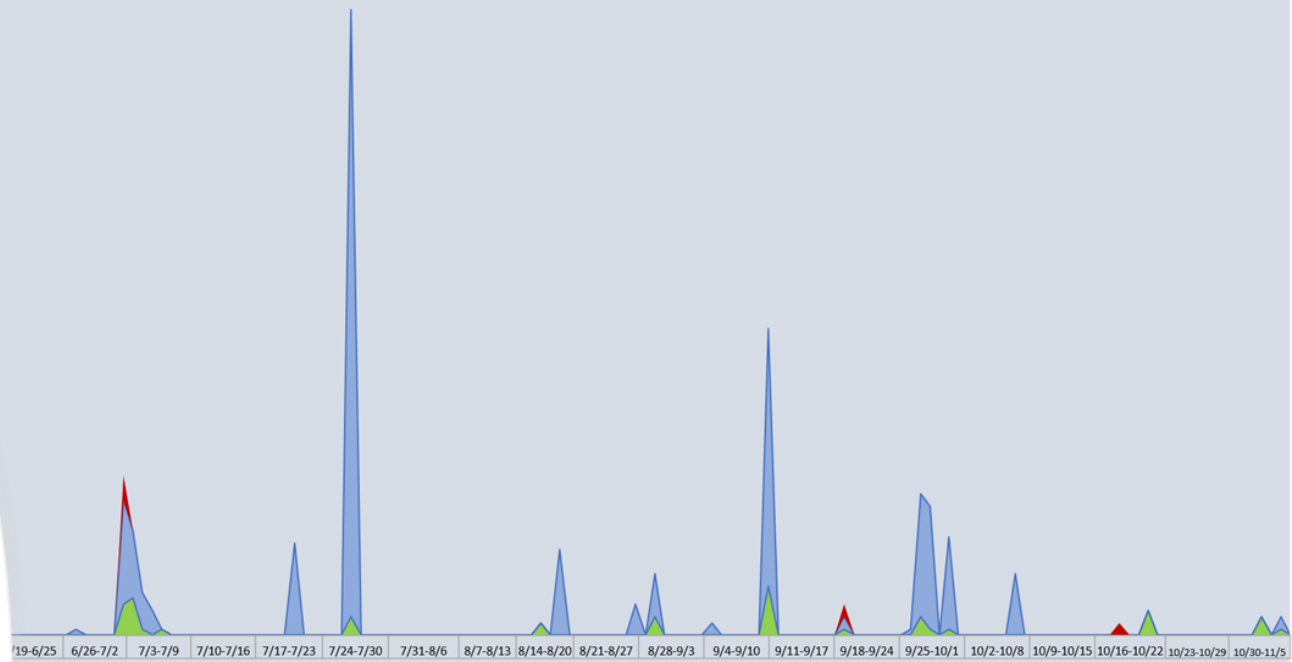
*Panel meeting in community space donated by Donna Moodie.*



# Data Review & Incident Selection

SPD had over 750 protest-related uses of force in 2020. Periods of intense activity happened in five identifiable waves.

Level 1  
Level 2  
Level 3

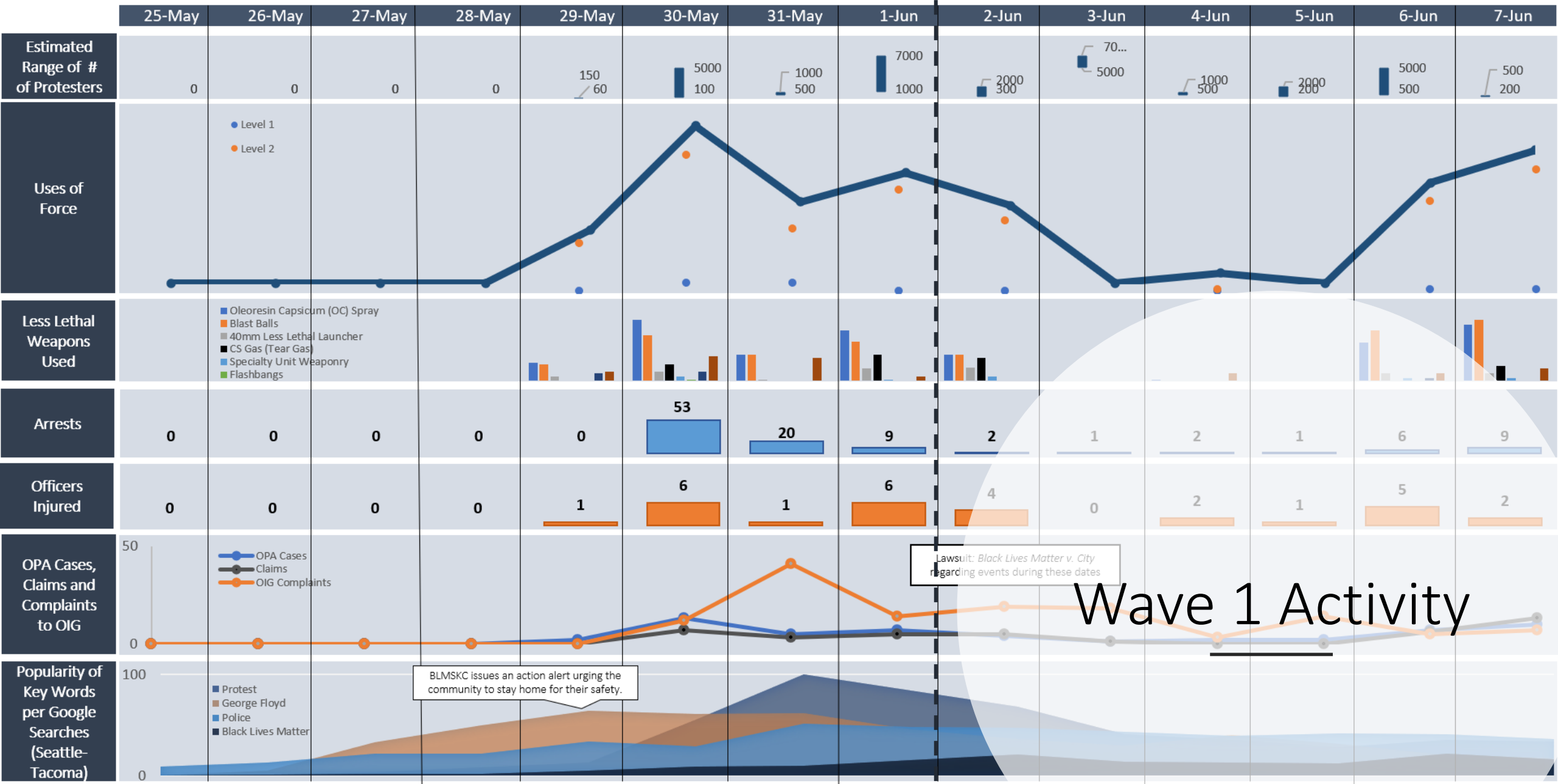


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# Five Waves of Activity







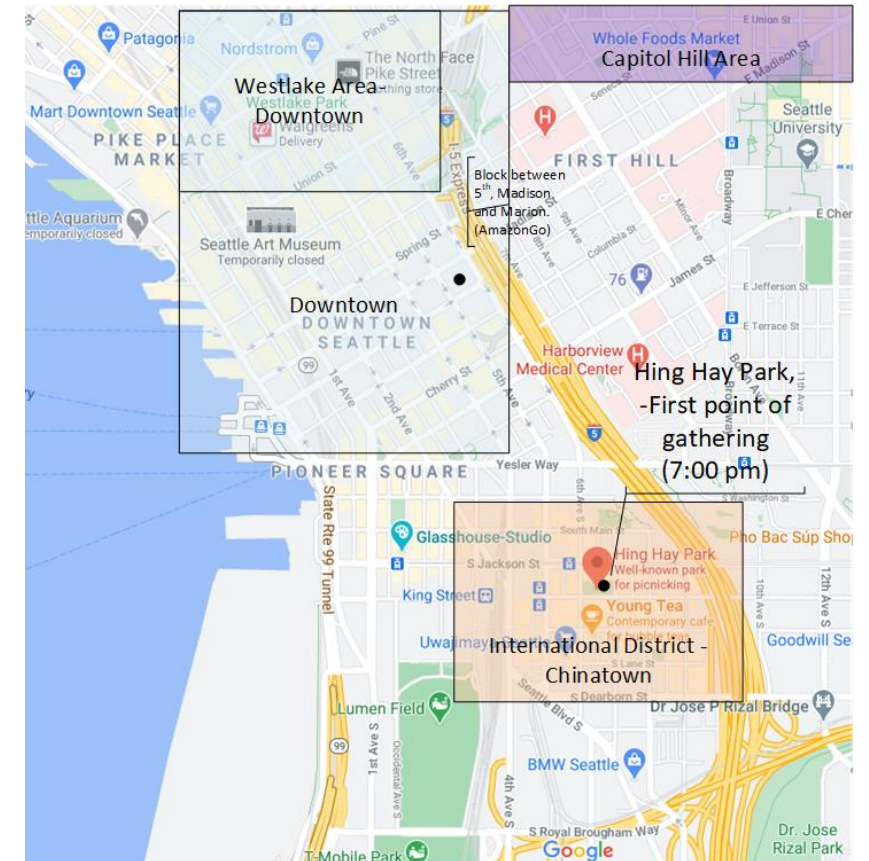
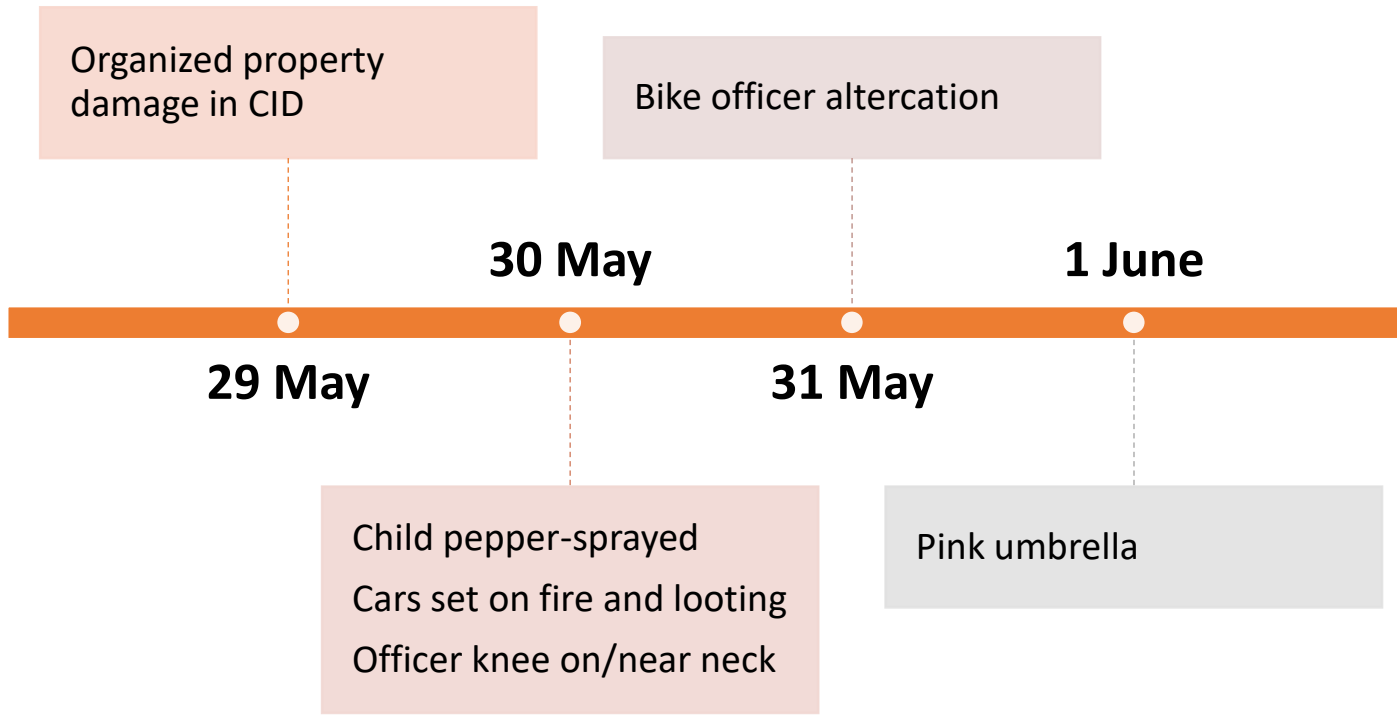
# Wave 1 Activity

Lawsuit: *Black Lives Matter v. City* regarding events during these dates

BLMSKC issues an action alert urging the community to stay home for their safety.

Sources: 1. The Estimated Range of Protests shows the range - minimum and maximum - of the demonstration's size perceived by Seattle Police Department (Source: SPD Blotter.) 2. The Use of Force depicts the total uses of force per day. The orange circles the level-2 uses of force and the blue circle the level-1 uses of force. There were no level-3 uses of force during this period, but this could change as investigations advance (Source: Force Review Unit report as of 11/05/2020.) 3. The arrests depicts the number of arrests related to the demonstration (Source: SPD Blotter as of 11/30/2020.) 4. Officers injured depicts the max number between SPD's Blotter arrests reported injuries and SPD's HR reports of injured per day (Source SPD Blotter and SPD's reports on injuries as of 11/30/2020.) 5. OPA cases refer to the number of OPA cases filed by the Office of Police Accountability (OPA) regarding the demonstration; Claims refers to the number of claims received by the Financial Administrative Services related to demonstrations (Source FAS "Protest related claims" as of 10/14/2020.) For both date refers to when incident happened and not when OPA received the complaint. 6. The number of complaints received and classified as demonstrations related. The date refers to when OIG received the complaints (Source OIG Call Log as of 20/11/2020.) 7. The Google searches per word are relative to the highest point on the chart for the given region and time. A value of 100 is the peak popularity for the term. A value of 50 means that the term is half as popular. A score of 0 means there were no searches for the term.

# Wave 1 Incidents Reviewed



# SER Process

John Hollway of the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice facilitated identification of Contributing Factors and Panel Recommendations.



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## Contributing Factor categories:

- Communication
- Cultural leadership
- Operational supervision
- Tactics
- Policies and procedures
- Equipment
- Environment
- Other



# 54 Recommendations: Five Themes

## Community Legitimacy

- Addressing the gap between what SPD may be permitted to do by law and what is expected by community (structural vs. perceived legitimacy)

## Situational Awareness

- Moving from a mindset of crowd management and control to one of crowd facilitation and crowd safety

## Communication and Community Engagement

- Improving communication with communities and protesters before, during, and after protests

## Tactics and Equipment

- Being aware of how certain tactics can escalate tensions

## Officer Wellness and Training

- Recognizing the impacts of long shifts and prolonged hostile environments on officer wellness and behavior



Any Questions?

[www.seattle.gov/oig/reports](http://www.seattle.gov/oig/reports)