

Thoughts on Potential Rapid Assessment of Seattle's Police Oversight System

Draft June 8, 2020

- 1) A baseline assessment of Seattle's police oversight system would complement a more sweeping rethinking/restructuring of the Seattle Police Department.
- 2) Ideally, an assessment of Seattle's police oversight system would include broad community input and adhere to the principles of empowerment evaluation, as outlined in our [2017 report](#).
- 3) To set the stage for an in-depth assessment with broad community input, a short-term Rapid Assessment of Seattle's police oversight system might be helpful.
- 4) A Rapid Assessment of Seattle's police oversight system could:
 - a) Provide a snapshot of how well the oversight system is functioning in 2020.
 - b) Identify key questions to promote effective functioning and continuous improvement in our police oversight system.
 - c) Provide a repeatable methodology to reassess system-functioning periodically.
 - d) Identify preliminary outcome measures that would let the City know whether its police oversight system is yielding positive change.
- 5) Such a Rapid Assessment of Seattle's police oversight system would rely heavily on conducting self-assessments, using tools outlined in our [2017 report](#) as well as a brand-new (February 2020) police oversight audit tool developed by a team of researchers and scholars from across England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland (see attached infographic).
- 6) The self-assessment tools would allow the CPC, OIG, OPA themselves to give voice to what's working/what's not working.
- 7) The UK police oversight audit tool also includes feedback from a technical review panel of external researchers and practitioners.
- 8) Logistics:
 - a) When should a rapid-self assessment be completed? It might make most sense to complete the rapid assessment once decisions have been made about the 2020 SPD budget.
 - b) Who would conduct the self-assessments? One option might be to have CPC, OIG, and OPA self-organize and self-administer the assessments. Alternatively OCA or some other entity could administer and compile the assessments. In either scenario, it would be essential to have enthusiastic support/buy-in from CPC, OIG, and OPA.
 - c) Who would participate in the technical review panel? OCA has a short-list of five researchers/practitioners who might be a good fit for the technical review panel; suggestions from CPC, OIG, and OPA would be welcome. Members of the technical review panel may need stipends for participation.

PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTABLE POLICING

These Principles for Accountable Policing are intended to provide a practical baseline which will inform the practice and structure of accountable policing. The Principles apply to the police and oversight bodies. The Principles have been drafted primarily with public bodies in mind but are applicable to all forms of policing.

