



**Seattle Office of  
Inspector General**

# OIG Public Safety Committee Presentation

February 22, 2024

# Accountability Partners

OPA

Investigates allegations of  
employee misconduct

CPC

Provides community input on  
policing & police reform

OIG

Conducts systemic oversight  
through review & audits of SPD  
and OPA

SPD

Supports & delivers public safety services

# Purpose

The purpose of OIG is to “help ensure the fairness and integrity of the police system as a whole in its delivery of law enforcement services by providing civilian auditing of the management, practices, and policies of SPD and OPA and oversee ongoing fidelity to organizational reforms implemented pursuant to the goals of the 2012 federal Consent Decree in United States of America v. City of Seattle, 12 Civ. 1282 (JLR).”

(Ord. 125315)

Together, the three accountability entities (CPC, OIG, OPA) work to ensure “constitutional, accountable, effective, and respectful policing.”

(Ord. 125315)

# Vision

**The Office of Inspector General supports *constitutional, informed, compassionate* policing through application of *objective, independent, systemic oversight*.**

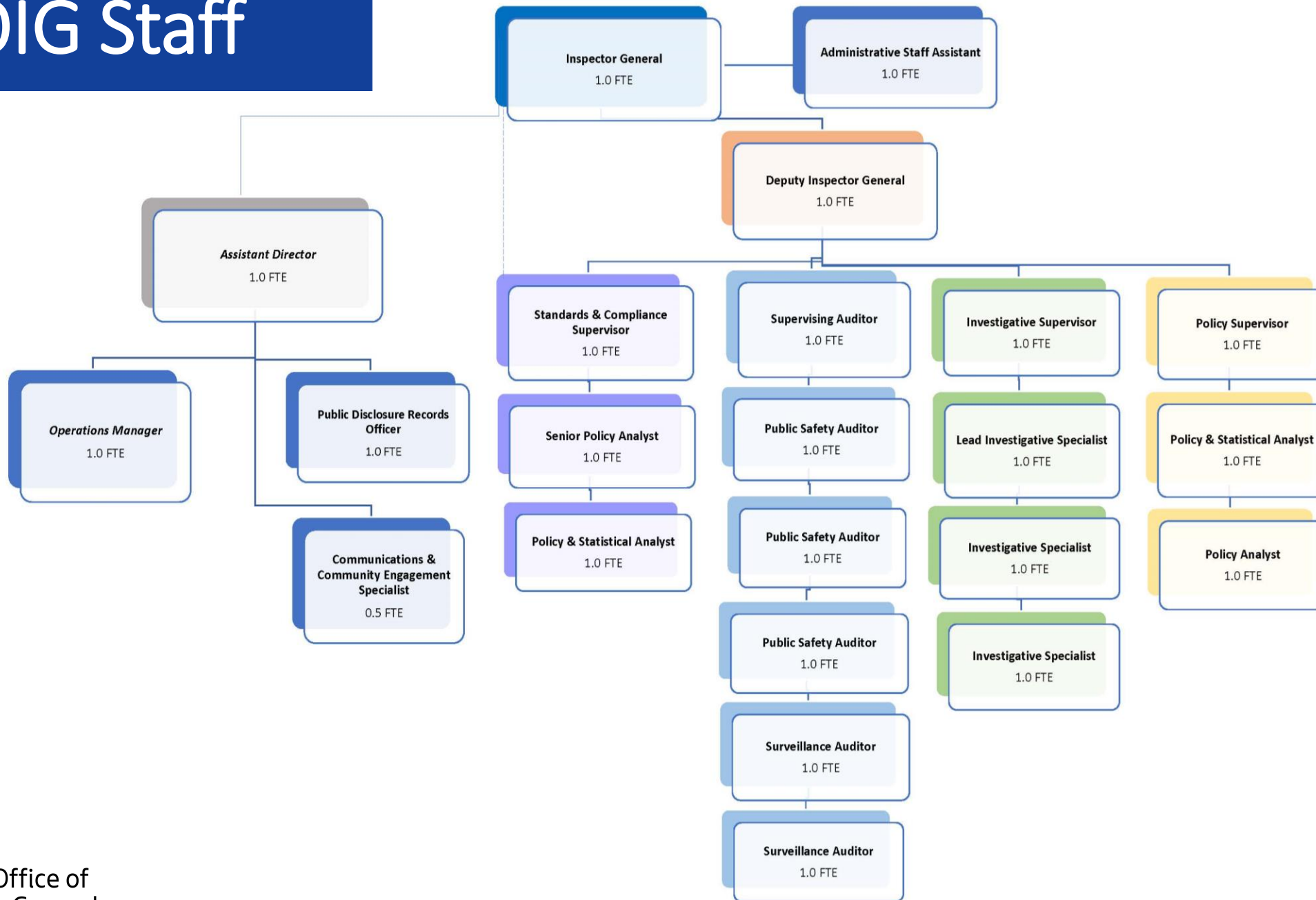
The credibility of OIG as an effective agent of reform requires:

A fundamental commitment to objectivity and accuracy, balanced with

Empathy for community concerns and perspectives on policing; and

An understanding of law enforcement principles, laws, and tactics for safe and effective policing.

# OIG Staff



\*Temporary operating structure

# Areas of Work

**OIG provides systemic oversight of SPD to ensure that the department is addressing crime and improving quality of life through constitutional, effective policing.**

OIG oversight efforts occur in five main areas:

Audits

OPA Classification /  
Investigation  
Review & Conflict  
Investigations

Policy Review &  
Best Practices

Standards &  
Compliance

Communications & Community Outreach

# Recent OIG Projects

Audit of Youth Access to  
Legal Counsel

Follow-up Audit:  
SPD Compliance with  
Chapter 14.12 of Seattle  
Municipal Code

Safer Traffic  
Enforcement  
Workgroup

Use of Force Report to  
the Federal Court



# Current Priorities

Transitioning the  
Work of the  
Federal Monitor

Surveillance  
Technologies

Equity  
Assessment

Responsive Policy  
Projects

Collaboration  
with SPD on Data  
Transparency



# OPA Classification & Investigation Review

**OIG performs duties of the former "OPA Auditor" plus expanded duties of conflict investigation**

Reviewing OPA's classification handling of complaints

Certifying whether OPA investigations are thorough, timely, and objective

Oversight of handling complaints against the Chief

Conducting conflict investigations

# 2024 Work Plan – Investigation & OPA Review

## New

- **OIG contacts tracking system**
- Improved system for OPA referrals
- Documentation system for OPA communications
- **OIG website dashboard**
- Online complaint filing system

## Recurring

- Case certification and classification review
- **Quarterly report on OPA classification decisions**
- Semi-annual report on OPA review

# 2024 Work Plan – Policy Projects

## New

- **SER Process for OIS Involving People in Crisis**

## Ongoing

- Effective Interviewing and Use of Deception in Public Safety
- Data Collaborations
- Review of Local Mutual Aid Agreements
- Review of Federal Mutual Aid Agreements

## Recurring

- State Legislative Agenda
- Annual Trends in Inquests, Claims and Lawsuits
- Annual Study of OPA Sworn and Civilian Staff

# 2024 Work Plan - Audits

## New

- **Follow-Up Review of Chief of Police Disciplinary Determinations**
- Audit of Vehicle Operation During Pursuit and Emergency Response
- **Audit of Impacts of Overtime on Officer Performance**

## Ongoing

- Audit of COVID-19 Leave Administration
- Audit of Extended Leave Prior to Retirement

## Recurring

- Chapter 14.12 Biannual Reviews
- **2023 Annual Surveillance Usage Reviews**

# Annual Surveillance Usage Reviews

- OIG is required to perform annual reviews on 16 Technologies in 2024
  - OIG reviewed 10 surveillance technologies in 2023
  - Number of technologies expected to grow
- OIG partnered with City Auditor to develop a risk framework
  - All technologies reviewed based on survey and available data
  - Compliance Reviews for limited set of technologies
    - Highest risk scores
    - New technologies

# Prior Recommendations

OIG regularly checks on implementation of prior recommendations. Some notable recommendations reviewed recently include:

- **Audit of SPD Patrol Canine Teams (2020):** Promptly assess the performance of all patrol canine teams to determine (1) ability to meet minimum state patrol canine certification requirements and (2) to determine whether these skills translate to field proficiency.
  - OIG reviewed certification records and found all patrol canine teams successfully passed their WSPCA certification and all are up-to-date.
  - Current training/certification practices meet state standards and after-action reviews are conducted after serious incidents.
- **Audit of Destruction of Post-Conviction DNA Evidence (2020):** SPD should take immediate steps to address capacity issues at the Evidence Warehouse, which is 94 percent full and the vehicle storage facility, which is at 100 percent capacity.



# Community Engagement

OIG is responsible to community and strives to be accessible, flexible, and present.

OIG maintains relationships in the Seattle community to further assist the IG in “meeting its mission in a way that reflects the values of Seattle’s diverse communities” (Ord 125315).

## Examples:

- SER Panel
- Targeted Stakeholder Engagement
- Roundtable Workgroups