



SENT VIA EMAIL

MEMORANDUM

September 11, 2023

To: Mayor Bruce Harrell, Councilmembers Lisa Herbold, Andrew Lewis, Teresa Mosqueda, Alex Pederson, and Sara Nelson, and City Attorney Ann Davison

From: Gino Betts, Jr., Director of the Office of Police Accountability (OPA)

Subject: OPA’s supplemental letter concerning a renewed Seattle Police Management Association (SPMA) agreement

On August 7, 2023, the Office of Police Accountability submitted an initial letter concerning the SPMA bargaining process to the Council. Since then, public comments have highlighted potential concerns with the agreement, leading to OPA reassessing and supplementing its initial position with this letter. Below, OPA has flagged potential issues and changes that would benefit the fulfillment of its obligations:

- Modify 16.4 Internal Investigations Procedures, C, 4, (p. 39) to automatically pause the 180-day clock for cases with SPD’s Force Review Board. This will afford OPA an entire 180-day investigation period rather than whatever time remains following the Force Review Board’s evaluation.
- Community stakeholders have called attention to section 16.6, “Bill of Rights,” entitling officers to rights established by “the past practices of the Department...” Some have interpreted the provision as restricting SPD from deviating from precedent even when best practices and public interest call for it. Accordingly, SPMA members’ rights should not be expanded beyond those outlined in the “Police Officers’ Bill of Rights” or those negotiated under a new agreement.

As always, OPA appreciates the Council’s consideration and the opportunity to weigh in on union negotiations that directly impact its work. Thank you, and please reach out if further input or clarification is required.

Sincerely,

Gino Betts Jr.
Director
Office of Police Accountability