



Seattle Office of
Inspector General



2024 Mid-Year Presentation to City Council

July 9, 2024

Outline

- **Audits and Reviews**
 - 2024 Audits
 - Annual Surveillance Usage Reviews
 - 2024 Association of Local Government Auditors
- **Investigations**
 - OPA Reviews
- **Policy Projects**
 - OPA Sworn-Civilian Staffing Study
 - Claims & Lawsuits Against SPD
 - SPD Mutual Aid
 - Emerging & Standard Practices Research
- **Standards and Compliance**
 - Use of Force
 - Crisis Intervention
- **Communications and Community Engagement**
 - 2024 Communications Strategy
 - Inquiries from Community
 - Community Engagement

AUDITS AND REVIEWS

2024 Audits

Audit of SPD Paid COVID-19 Leave

Found that SPD developed an approval process for paid COVID-19 leave that reduced the likelihood of misuse/erroneous use, but did not follow established procedures for providing additional employee leave benefits.

Issued April 2024

Follow-up Audit of Chief of Police Disciplinary Determinations

Limited Scope audit to determine trends in disciplinary actions since the 2021 discipline audit, and the results of any appeals of final discipline that have been adjudicated in that time.

Expected Issuance Q3 2024

Audit of Extended Leave Prior to Retirement

Assessment of the financial and operational impacts on SPD of extended sick leave use prior to retirement.

Expected Issuance Q4 2024

Audit of Vehicular Pursuits

Examining effectiveness of SPD vehicular pursuits in apprehending subjects, negative outcomes, and processes for documenting and reviewing pursuits

Expected Issuance Q4 2024

Surveillance

Landscape Analysis

- OIG developed a landscape analysis to identify other cities with similar surveillance ordinances and compare requirements.

Annual Review

- 16 technologies are subject to annual review this year.
- City Auditor and OIG developed a risk-assessment tool to better manage review resources

Surveillance Pilot Program

- Will work with expert to develop an evaluation of new 'pilot' surveillance technologies; Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), Real Time Crime Center (RTCC), and Automated-License Plate Reader (ALPR) expansion.
Will convene a stakeholder workgroup to provide ongoing engagement and evaluation of concerns.

Association of Local Government Auditors 2024 Conference



OIG Received an 'Exemplary' Knighton Award for the 2023 Audit of Youth Access to Legal Counsel.



OIG Auditors presented on best practices and lessons learned for using body-worn video as audit evidence.

INVESTIGATIONS

(Review of OPA)

Classification Review Statistics

Classification Type	Total Reviewed
Contact Log	41
Bias Review	55
Supervisor Action	98
Mediation	1
Rapid Adjudication	1

*All statistics presented reflect data as of 7/1/24

Investigations Review

- OIG has issued 140 certifications on 135 cases in 2024.
- 94% of certifications issued were full certifications.
- Nine partial certifications.



POLICY

OPA Sworn-Civilian Staffing Study

Annual study assessing OPA's mix of sworn and civilian staff in compliance with Ordinance 125315 (3.29.270.D).

- Conclusions:
 - Impact of attrition rates for OPA staff and SPOG restrictions on the role and number of civilian investigators on:
 - Sample size availability.
 - Complexity of investigations conducted by sworn investigators and civilians.
 - New SPOG CBA provides for two additional civilian investigators → Expected increase in available information, robust future analysis.

Claims & Lawsuits Against SPD

Ongoing report in compliance with Ordinance 125315, 3.29270 ¶14.

- Analysis of complaint types, resolutions, and payments paid by the City:
 - Claims and lawsuits filed by community members related to police action, police negligence and others.
 - Claims filed by SPD personnel.
- Review of litigation process and budget composition for expenditures incurred on behalf of SPD.
- Evaluation of OPA findings of civilian complaints related to lawsuits settled by the City.

Mutual Aid

Review of emerging and standard practices; SPD obligations; current agreements.

- Findings
 - SPD requested aid 31 times between 2014-2023. Local agencies requested aid from SPD 24 times.
 - Records gaps.
- Recommendations
 - Improved documentation and records management.
 - Update policy to include expectations for SPD officers where policies may conflict with those of a requesting agency.
 - Update mutual aid agreements.

Emerging & Standard Practices Research

Survey of policies in other jurisdictions to identify best practices regarding:

- Crowd management
 - Dialogue policing
 - Public safety and 2026 FIFA World Cup
 - Use of blast balls in crowd management
- Police interactions with gender diverse persons
- Vehicle tactics
- Pursuits of non-automobile vehicles



STANDARDS & COMPLIANCE

Use of Force Assessment

- OIG completed the Seattle Police Department Use of Force Assessment on February 29, 2024.
- This was the first report conducting in the transition of duties from the Federal Monitor to OIG.
- OIG developed qualitative and quantitative methods to assess SPD use of force from 2021-2023.
- OIG will provide ongoing assessment of SPD force review with formal periodic reviews and real-time feedback.
- The forthcoming Crisis Response Assessment will include a qualitative assessment of SPD use of force during crisis contacts.

Crisis Assessment

Evaluation of SPD response to individuals in crisis.

- This will provide an update of information since the Federal Monitor's last assessment.
- The assessment will include:
 - A quantitative assessment of SPD crisis response for 2021-2023.
 - A qualitative assessment of SPD crisis response by reviewing a sample of body-worn video, reporting, and chain-of-command review from 2023.
 - An evaluation of crisis trainings provided to SPD officers.

Ongoing Assessments

- Supervision
 - In each of the assessments completed by the Standards and Compliance Team, OIG will review aspects of supervision.
 - OIG included a qualitative assessment of supervision issues for the SPD Force Review Board in the recent Use of Force Assessment.
 - OIG is currently assessing SPD chain-of-command review in crisis cases where force was used by officers.
- Bias-free Policing
 - All areas of OIG assessments include a bias component where possible and appropriate.
 - OIG has partnered with academic subject matter experts and is the initial stages of an Equity Assessment of SPD.

COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Communication & Outreach



- Development of a 2024-2027 OIG Communications Strategy, including:
 - Conducting an internal **values survey** to ensure that our communications plan is informed by and aligns with our core values;
 - Updating our **social media strategy** to more effectively communicate with community; and,
 - Developing an **OIG podcast** to collaborate with other oversight organizations and communicate vital information to community members.
- Optimizing our process for receiving and responding to inquiries from the community in a timely manner.
- Continuing to prioritize community engagement in all our communication efforts.

Thank you!



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