



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

History of Seattle's Police Accountability System

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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City of Seattle's Current Accountability Triad





History of the Triad

Community Police Commission

- Established by MOU in July 2012 pursuant to the USDOJ & City of Seattle Consent Decree.
- Originally comprised of 15 members of the community.
- Made permanent and independent by the Police Accountability Ordinance (ORD 125315) in June 2017. Increased size of Commission to 21 members.
- The CPC assumed community outreach and policy review functions of the OPA Review Board. (See Ord 120728)
- In July 2023, reduced commission size to original 15 members and overhauled authorizing legislation. (see Ord 126860)

Office of the Inspector General for Public Safety

The Office of Inspector General for Public Safety (OIG) was established in 2017 by the Police Accountability Ordinance.

The OIG assumed the functions that had previously been performed by the Police Auditor. (See Ord 120728)

The OIG assumed the operational audit functions that had previously been handled by the OPA Auditor and the OPA Review Board. (See Ord 120728)

Lisa Judge was confirmed by the City Council on April 30, 2018, as the inaugural Inspector General (IG).

Office of Police Accountability

- In 2002, SPD's Internal Investigations Unit, now OPA, is to be led by a civilian Director. (See Ord 120728)
- Police Accountability Ordinance civilianized OPA supervisors / intake personnel. (ORD 125315)
- Police Accountability Ordinance revised investigations timelines (e.g., 180-Day Clock), standard of proof and disciplinary appeals and grievance processes.

Highlights of the Accountability System

Pre/Post Ordinance 125315

<u>Old System</u>		<u>New System</u>
Sworn investigators only		Mix of sworn and civilian investigators
Sworn investigative supervisors	<u>OPA</u> Office of Professional Accountability	Civilian investigative supervisors
Director selected by Mayor		CPC on Director search committee
No subpoena power		Power to subpoena
Auditor under contract in Executive branch	<u>OIG</u> Office of Inspector General for Public Safety	New independent office of IG
Role limited to auditing OPA investigation process	(Replaces OPA Auditor)	Empowered to review any SPD policy or departmental policies related to SPD
No public workplan	(Replaces some functions of OPA Review Board)	Workplan with input from Community Police Commission
No role in policy recommendations or CBAs		Formal role in policy recommendations, including CBAs
No subpoena power		Power to subpoena
Temporary	<u>CPC</u> Community Police Commission	Permanent
Role limited to terms of Consent Decree	(Replaces some functions of OPA Review Board)	Role expanded to formal review and comment upon any policy that affects public trust
All members appointed by Mayor		15 members equally appointed by Council, Mayor and CPC

Questions?