

Seattle Community Police Commission

Our City. Our Safety. Our Police. **Better Together.**

May 12, 2014

VIA EMAIL

Interim Chief Harry Bailey
Seattle Police Department

Merrick Bobb
Federal Monitor

Dear Interim Chief Bailey and Mr. Bobb:

The Community Police Commission (CPC) would appreciate hearing from the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and the Monitoring team about the status of the Firearms Review Board (FRB) proceedings with respect to several officer-involved shootings in 2014 (and perhaps 2013) for which reviews have not been completed.

These reviews are mandatory under current department procedures; any Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) review must await completion of the FRB process and there is a limited time frame in which the OPA can proceed; and delays may compromise the value and retrievability of evidence. For all three reasons, the fact that the FRB has not met this year threatens to undermine the public trust in the police reform process and the Seattle Police Department.

Like the Monitor and other SPD reform stakeholders, the CPC has recommended that the FRB process be consolidated with the Use of Force Review Board. We understand that that and other changes in the FRB process are under discussion between the Monitor and the parties to the consent decree, and it is quite possible that the CPC will support the changes being considered. Our inquiry should not be read to suggest that responsibility for the current situation lies solely or primarily with SPD. We understand that all parties may be engaged in good faith efforts to improve the review of serious uses of force.

Nonetheless, the situation is of serious concern to us. The CPC would appreciate an update on the status of the reviews and the reasons for delay. We invite you to join us at our next CPC meeting on May 14, 2014, to fully apprise Commissioners of the situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Dugaard'.

Lisa Dugaard, Co-Chair
Community Police Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Narasaki'.

Diane Narasaki, Co-Chair
Community Police Commission

Cc:
City Attorney Peter Holmes
Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Michael Diaz
Mayor Ed Murray
Community Police Commission