



Seattle City Council Police Accountability Panel (SCCPAP)  
Minutes of Monday, May 5, 2008 Meeting  
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Present: Panelists Steve Herbert, Eric Schnapper, Leo Hamaji, Lynne Wilson, Veronica Alicea-Galvan  
Guests: Peter Harris, Council Central Staff; Betsy Graef, Councilmember Tim Burgess' Office  
Michael Pendleton, facilitator; Nancy Roberts, staff

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This meeting was considered an executive work session and was not taped or filmed.

The meeting was convened at 6:02 pm.

Discussion about process after the report is submitted. Peter Harris suggested that after it goes to City Council, Law would most likely review it, and then the council would begin to prepare ordinances or resolutions on whichever issues it decides to endorse. When the Mayor's Panel released their report, they had a press conference and attended a public safety committee meeting where they answered questions.

Peter Harris felt the idea of making the report available to stakeholders, such as OPA and the Police Chief, was polite and nice, but certainly not expected by stakeholders.

Peter Harris commented on the current draft report:

He looked for a relationship between the draft recommendations and the charge the panel was given, and found that while allusions were made to police culture, not much was directly said about police culture.

He also hoped that this panel considered the relationship between these recommendations and the Mayor's Panel recommendations to see if they were in agreement, and if these new recommendations perhaps expand on their recommendations.

Peter's overall suggestion was that the recommendations be reframed to focus on the purpose and reasoning behind the recommendations, in favor of "shoulds" with little background.

Discussion surrounded some recommendations, such as #1 and #5, which seemed redundant. The panel explained that while some of these actions may currently be allowed or actually happen, their desire was to formalized some of their practices. The panel wanted to help ensure consistency, avoid preferential treatment. Without guidelines, it is too easy for policies and practices to be changed without documentation, and practices are subject to the whims of individuals.

The recommendation was made to explicitly outline the relationship this panel envisions between OPA and OPARB.

There was a lot of struggle around the wording of Recommendation #6, which is a very important issue. The underlying concern is to ensure that the OPA maintain its independence without undue influence.

Eric will reframe the report and circulate it among the rest of the panel.

Meeting was adjourned after 9:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, in Room 370 in City Hall.