



June 8, 2022

Interim Director Grainne Perkins
Office of Police Accountability
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Perkins,

Please see the below Management Recommendation response.

Case Numbers: 2020OPA-0741 / 2021COMP-0032

Topic: Long Range Acoustic Device

Summary of the Management Action:

The complainant alleged they suffered a torn eardrum from the SPD Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD)

Original Recommendation:

- Create a policy outlining the appropriate use of the LRAD, including sound level. Prohibit SPD from weaponizing the LRAD in the future through the "alert" function.
- Develop training for any officer who will be assigned to use the LRAD.
- Work with the accountability entities to ensure that the policy and training addresses community concerns and reflects best practices and standards of constitutional policing.

Action Taken:

In the decision to deploy the LRAD equipment, SPD considered the impact it could have on officers and the public. Hearing damage from any source is a factor of exposure time, frequency, and intensity of the audio broadcast. The loudest alarm function has been permanently disabled so it cannot be weaponized. The LRAD is only used as a loudspeaker for communication purposes. When used, it is for short duration public safety broadcasts.

The department is working on training curriculum and will provide it in the next iteration of Crowd Management Training. Even with this training, only individuals who have been trained on using the equipment by the SME's will be allowed to operate it. Policy 14.090-POL-8(3) authorizes the use of Sound Amplification Equipment when available. SPD believes equipment use is more appropriately addressed in training rather than policy. Our accountability partners are aware of the LRAD equipment and its limitations and are satisfied with its use.

SPD Considers this Management Action:

Fully Implemented

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Adrian Z. Diaz
Chief of Police