

COMMENTS TO 2007 POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REVIEW PANEL

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Strengths of Current Oversight Structure

- Preservation of internal investigation function
- Grant of significant authority vested in OPA Director
- Terms of office for OPA Director
- Specific reference in ordinance to reporting obligations of Director to Mayor/Council
- Access to chief/command staff/department afforded by Director serving within department
- Multi-tier oversight system

Areas of Suggested Improvement for Current Oversight Structure

- Clarify and strengthen reporting role of OPA Director to Executive
- Strengthen OPA authority to respond to public disclosure requests
- Strengthen role of OPA Investigation Section and OPA Director in response to and review of officer-involved shootings and other critical incidents (**See** January 2007 OPA Report on Use of Force Complaints, pp.24-25)
- Dedicated budget to OPA (or separate budget submittal process to Executive)
- Enhance role of OPA in final decision-making on discipline
- Shift responsibilities of OPARB from review and report of individual cases to an executive/advisory board
- Enhanced engagement by and political support of Executive to OPA