

# Serious and Deadly Force Investigation Taskforce

## Fifth Meeting Agenda

September 20

2pm to 5pm

Seattle City Hall

600 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Room 370

Seattle, WA

### Taskforce Attendees:

Gregg Caylor, Lisa Daugaard, Jim Graddon (Co-Chair), Lisa Judge, Mark Larson, Michelle Merriweather, Andrew Myerberg, Sweetwater Nannauck, Lorena Sepin, Andre Taylor (Co-chair)

*Allotted times are suggestions.*

I. **Updates** (2:00 – 2:15)

*Provide updates on the Taskforce's work between meetings.*

II. **Values and Expectations** (2:15 – 2:30)

*Consider Taskforce approval of values and expectations.*

### NOTES:

The Taskforce voted to adopt the following values and expectations:

#### Values

**Trust:** Community and police have confidence in the investigations of police officers' serious and deadly uses of force. (Also: **Credible**)

**Clear:** The investigation process and reports are clear and consistent so that community and police understand them. (Also: **Understandable**)

**Fair:** The investigations are conducted in a manner that is impartial and is not biased against the police or the victim. (Also: **Objective**)

**Informative:** The investigations produce information that is useful for determining a finding or revealing the truth of a matter.

**High-Quality:** The investigations are of high caliber, and investigators utilize generally accepted investigative and evidentiary techniques.

**Respectful:** Investigators treat involved people, such as victims, suspects, witnesses, family members, and officers, with respect and dignity at the scene and throughout the

investigation process, including adopting a response protocol that includes an immediate acknowledgement and recognition of the impact of the incident, a neutral stance, a clear commitment to conducting a full and fair investigation, and information concerning the type of investigation to be conducted and its timeline.

**Timely:** Investigations are conducted efficiently and effectively.

**Thorough:** Investigations are exhaustive, in which all relevant details and leads are examined.

**Transparent:** The community and police understand the investigation process and understands how to access information about each investigation such as investigation reports.

### **Expectations**

1. Investigators have expertise and experience in conducting high-profile, complex criminal investigations.
2. Investigators can and do respond to each incident promptly.
3. Investigators have sufficient capacity and resources to carry out high-quality, timely investigations.
4. Clear definitions and policies govern the investigations.
5. The investigation process protects against conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest.

### III. **Recommendations** (11:30 – 11:45)

*Begin discussion on recommendations utilizing Recommendations Worksheet.*

#### **NOTES:**

The Taskforce began to discuss the first question on the worksheet, “Who conducts the investigation?”

- Quality of investigations would dip substantially as there is not a peer in Washington.
- Peer agencies are often less willing to hold agencies accountable and give a greater amount of latitude. SPD’s policies are stricter.
- SPD has the best skilled, trained people to do this work, but that is not the problem. If we recommend a change to the current state of affairs, it must move the needle on community legitimacy. Otherwise, we should stay with what we have.
- If key community voices are saying they will not feel confident with a multiagency taskforce, for example, then we should not go with it.
  
- A potential model is utilizing the state Attorney General’s Office of the Criminal Justice Training Commission—something that is centralized and thus there is a fair amount of

scrutiny. They have a budget, are separated from peer entities, and have standards. We would not be losing anything in skillset, but are gaining something in terms of centralization, lots of eyes, lots of community and civilian dialogue. Probably a way to build something like that.

- The issue with a centralized model is that it is costly, and no one would do that just for SPD.

IV. **Next Steps** (4:50 – 5:00)

*Determine next steps.*

**NOTES:**

The Taskforce decided to schedule another meeting in October to continue its discussion on recommendations.