



Seattle Office of Inspector General

To: Gráinne Perkins, Interim OPA Director
CC: Nelson Leese, Interim OPA Assistant Director of Investigations and Legal Affairs
From: Nicolette Lattanzio, OIG Public Safety Audit and Investigation Specialist
Date: July 13, 2022
Re: Partial Certification Memo for Case Number: 2020OPA-0009

Partial Certification Memo

OIG has reviewed the investigation for case number 2020OPA-0009. While it can be certified as objective, it cannot be certified as either thorough or timely.

Under section 3.29.260.B of Seattle's Accountability Ordinance, initial investigations shall be submitted, "to OIG for OIG's review sufficiently in advance of investigation deadlines in order to allow the deadlines to be met in the event OIG directs additional investigation."

While the Complainant in this case raised allegations mostly centered around communication, BWV made it clear that the Named Employee (NE) in this case was not the only employee involved in this incident. While the NE did not interact significantly with the Complainant, another responding officer was present, directly communicated the Complainant, and in some instances, may have contributed to the miscommunications that led to the complaint. Yet, this officer was not classified as a NE. Instead, he was classified as a Witness Employee (WE).

OIG could have requested additional investigation to remedy this deficiency, specifically, that the WE be reclassified as a NE, and that he also be interviewed. Although, as this case is constrained by an expired 180-day investigation timeline, OIG cannot request additional investigation into this matter and instead, cannot certify this case as thorough.

As mentioned, the 180-day investigation timeline expired. While it expired January 14, 2021, this case was submitted to OIG for review on June 23, 2022. Unfortunately, because the case was submitted for review after the 180-day timeline expired, this investigation cannot be certified as timely.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicolette Lattanzio".

Nicolette Lattanzio, OIG Public Safety and Investigation Specialist