



# 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 1, 2022  
**Re:** Partial Certification Memo for Case Number: 2021OPA-0032

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## Partial Certification Memo

OIG has reviewed the investigation for case number 2021OPA-0032. OIG can certify this case as objective. This case cannot be certified as timely or thorough.

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."

Here, 2021OPA-0032 was submitted to OIG for review on June 3, 2022. Unfortunately, the 180-day timeline expired September 24, 2021. Accordingly, this investigation cannot be certified as timely.

As it relates to thoroughness, under section 3.29.260.A.2, "OIG shall have discretion to direct at the time of classification or during the investigative process that any other investigation not including the allegations listed in subsection 3.29.260.A.1 be submitted by OPA for review and certification."

In this case, OIG is concerned with the allegation of professionalism. While it is a listed allegation in 3.29.260.A.1, it was not investigated in 2021OPA-0032. Based on the case file, it appears that OIG also raised concern regarding professionalism being excluded from the investigation on September 14, 2021.

After reviewing the BWV in this case, it remains unclear why professionalism was not investigated. This most specifically applies to NE # [REDACTED] and his unresponsiveness, that may have transitioned into antagonism, toward the community member (CM) complainant. As well as NE # [REDACTED]'s choice to approach the other involved CM, saying, "she seems off," speaking about the complainant (see NE # [REDACTED]'s reviewed BWV at 7 min 50 sec). Such conduct continued, as NE # [REDACTED] repeated, "she's off, I'm telling you...she shouldn't be security, at all...she's 220..." (see BWV at 7 min 50 sec – 9 min). This behavior should have triggered an investigation into professionalism.

Similarly, investigation into professionalism would have also been appropriate for NE # [REDACTED]. According to NE # [REDACTED] BWV, initially he was unable to follow what the CM complainant was communicating, which appeared to both frustrate her, and result in her stating that, while she called SPD for help, it seemed that NE # [REDACTED] didn't want to help her (see NE # [REDACTED] reviewed BWV at 3 min 53 sec).

A seemingly strained dynamic continued with NE # [REDACTED] throughout the incident, which ended in the CM complainant asking for NE # [REDACTED]'s card and requesting that he write down NE # [REDACTED]'s name. While the card was provided, NE # [REDACTED] questioned why she wanted the other officer's name. Instead of simply providing the name, per policy and at the CM's request, he told her that she could find the other officer's name in the report (see BWV at 19 min 58 seconds). While the officer's name was ultimately provided, it was unclear why NE # [REDACTED] initially challenged the request.



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OIG understands that NE # [REDACTED] has separated from the Department, and that his leave ahead of separation contributed to the delay in this case. Unfortunately, NE # [REDACTED] does not appear to have been on leave during OPA's investigation. A bifurcated case may have resulted in the timely and thorough investigation of at least a portion of 2021OPA-0032.

Based on the reasons provided above, while OIG can certify 2021OPA-0032 as objective, the case cannot be certified as timely or thorough.

Respectfully,

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

Nicolette Lattanzio, OIG Public Safety and Investigation Specialist