



Seattle Office of Inspector General

June 6, 2025

Review of Cal Anderson Protest on May 24, 2025

SEATTLE - The Office of Inspector General (OIG) will conduct a thorough review of the Seattle Police Department's (SPD) protest response at Cal Anderson Park on Saturday, May 24, 2025. This situation has generated significant community concern and outcry, given the broad implications for protection of both free speech and vulnerable communities in Seattle.

OIG will assess SPD crowd management tactics including officer interactions and use of force, in keeping with our systemic oversight responsibilities, as well as obligations under the recently adopted less lethal weapons ordinance. The review will also include examination of broader City functions that may have contributed to the negative outcomes.

In keeping with our commitment to community-centered review of events that impact public trust, OIG will partner with the Community Police Commission (CPC) to engage with impacted communities and individuals. CPC and OIG are committed to ensuring impacted voices and perspectives are taken into account in the review process.

We are pleased to share a statement from Mayor Harrell acknowledging the importance of this process and collaboration: "As a learning organization, it is imperative to consistently examine our work. This is especially critical in our efforts to strengthen public safety and build an effective, accountable police department. I strongly support this sentinel event review because it will deliver a comprehensive review of the event, collect important feedback, and provide expert analysis that can be used to guide our police department's response to events in the future. I'm very pleased Chief Barnes and Inspector General Judge will closely collaborate with the CPC and community members for this assessment."

The OIG is part of Seattle's independent police oversight system and provides systemic oversight to help ensure the fairness and integrity of Seattle's police system. Reports detailing previous OIG reviews from the 2020 protests can be found here: <https://www.seattle.gov/oig/sentinel-event-review>