



November 17, 2022

Director Gino Betts, Jr.
Office of Police Accountability
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Betts,

Please see the below Management Recommendation response

Case Numbers: 2-21OPA-0398 / 2022COMP-0010

Topic: Case Management

Summary of the Management Action:

It was alleged a follow-up unit did not refer a felony case for charges until after the expiration of the statute of limitations.

Original Recommendation:

- Review, audit, and develop a comprehensive plan to improve case management processes and training for employees in follow-up units. The audit may include consultation with the vendor and analysis of case management best practices employed by other large departments. The plan should achieve the following:
 - Timely access, permissions, and training on relevant systems for employees assigned to follow-up units.
 - Automated safeguards to ensure that cases are not neglected beyond their statute of limitations
 - Training and/or reminders for officers to ensure alert packets are sent to follow-up units.
 - As future staffing allows the reallocation of resources to follow-up units to effectively manage the volume of cases received.

Action Taken:

On July 28, 2022, Mayor Harrell, in collaboration with Interim Chief Diaz announced an Executive Order directing a systemic assessment of the Seattle Police Department's Investigation Bureau. The Order (2022-05) directs the Department to assess policies, protocols, and practices related to the investigation of criminal offense and implement necessary solutions to advance justice and serve the needs of crime survivors. Since Executive Order 2022-05 was issued, the following steps have been taken:

- Initial initiatives have been focused on the Sexual Assault Unit (SAU), with a review of all unassigned cases, which have now been assigned to detectives for follow-up. To accomplish this increase in workload, SPD has doubled the number of detectives in the unit from four (4) to eight (8).
- SPD is in consultation with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission and Dr. Cassia Spohn from Arizona State University to review SAU's process and protocols, identify barriers for vulnerable populations and seek guidance on trauma informed and accessible communications tailored to these populations.



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- Going forward, all “felony crimes of violence with sufficient evidence allowing for a follow-up investigation” will be assigned to a case detective, including sexual assault cases. Additionally, we are in the process of identifying and contracting with leading national experts to conduct a thorough assessment of the entire Investigations Bureau. This work will also include a review of operations, protocols, investigative standards, and procedures, resulting in recommendations for improvements.

SPD Considers this Management Action:

In progress

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'ADZ'.

Adrian Z. Diaz
Chief of Police