

City of Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC)

Special Meeting Minutes March 21, 2016

Commissioner Conklin called the meeting to order. She welcomed the public and Commissioners A.J. VanderPol, Ladd Smith, Scott Richter, and Jenny Rose.

Richter made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. A.J. VanderPol seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Richter made a motion to approve the minutes from the 3/1/16 meeting with 2 discussed corrections. Jenny Rose seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Conklin gave an update on the visa process for the permanent ombudsman; the request for an expedited visa was not approved. Commissioners discussed potential options. VanderPol made a motion to ask Attorney Scott Railton to provide Mr. Humayun with the paperwork necessary to go to the border to revise his TN visa application and request entry. Rose seconded. The motion passed 4 to 1 with Richter voting nae.

Rose made a motion to allow Mr. Humayun to go through the lottery process if the paperwork is done by April first. Smith seconded. The motion passed, with Richter and VanderPol voting nae.

Conklin said only 1 attorney has applied to the OPOC vacancy, and the deadline is going to be extended.

Conklin said there is a requirement to review the Ordinance annually, and Council Member Breean Beggs would like to have a robust examination. There was a discussion about organizing and shepherding a conversation with the public about the ordinance.

Conklin asked Interim Ombudsman Bart Logue for feedback on the Ordinance. He stated that he could see some potential issues with the Ordinance that may need to be addressed in a re-write. He stated that the term Ombudsman should be expanded to Office of the Ombudsman as it applies to who is allowed to review files. He provided an example about viewing officer body camera footage. He also stated that he had concerns about the scope of independent investigations. As written, the ordinance also is problematic for hiring investigators as the ordinance currently only allows the Ombudsman to do this.

VanderPol made a motion for OPOC to take the lead on Beggs' request to lead a community program to get input on constructive changes to the ordinance. Smith and Rose seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Conklin and VanderPol will discuss how to move forward with Beggs.

Conklin adjourned the meeting at 6:38pm.

Submitted by Marty Huseman and approved by the Commission on April 5, 2016.