



Office of Police Ombudsman Commission Minutes

April 16, 2021

Meeting Minutes: 0:57

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

Attendance

- OPOC Commissioners present: Ladd Smith, Jenny Rose, Luc Jasmin, Lili Navarrete and James Wilburn
- Legal Counsel: David Bingaman
- OPO staff members present: Bart Logue, Luvimae Omana and Christina Coty

Briefing Session

- Agenda approved

Guest Speaker

- Police Chief Meidl
 - Letter to the Editor – Primary concern was in regard to the police tactics bill that is going through Olympia. This would impact pursuits (regulating pursuits with a statewide standard), tear gas usage, the use of neck restraints and choke holds, the use of armored vehicles (such as the Bear Cat) and the use of K9's being closely regulated.
 - Chief Meidl believes that some of these changes in the initial proposal could potentially result in more officers and citizens being potentially injured. Chief Meidl believes that this bill will not make our community safer.
 - During the May 31st Protest/Civil Unrest, the department anticipated peaceful protests by community leaders and groups in the early afternoon. What was not expected was the preparedness of other individuals who were prestaging supplies of milk, water, protest signs that were being used by shields and various makeshift weapons. These individuals were not interested in protesting, but causing damage.
 - Approximately 300-400 people broke away from the main group of protestors at the Public Safety building and started marching downtown. They were throwing rocks, bricks and spray-painting police vehicles. SPD was outnumbered approximately 1-10 and they were unable to prevent the protestors from doing the damage that they were causing to the downtown area. The line in the sand was when they broke into the Nike store and started looting, this is when the dispersal orders were issued to which not very many complied. This was when the decision was made to deploy smoke (not tear gas at this time). It wasn't until people were acting as human shields for the people who were throwing things at officers was tear gas used. This went on well into the evening.

Commissioner Responses

- Commissioner Smith
 - Requested further clarification regarding the use of tear gas as a means of crowd control
- Commissioner Navarrete
 - She had concerns that the Chief compared the tactics of LNR's to those being used by people who have gone through Judo training.

Public Forum

- None

Motion Passes or Fails:

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:27pm

**Note: Minutes are summarized by staff. A video recording of the meeting is on file -
Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman Commission**

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