



OIRGroup.com

**TO: City of Santa Monica**  
**FROM: OIR Group**  
**DATE: 1-14-21**  
**RE: Fifth Status Update for “May 31, 2020 After-Action Review”**

### *Introduction*

OIR Group was selected by City officials to conduct a comprehensive review of the City’s response to the multi-faceted events of May 31. We are a team of police practices experts whose members have worked in the field of civilian oversight of law enforcement for nearly twenty years.

Our specific mission in Santa Monica is to independently assess the Police Department’s response to the evolving conditions on May 31, a day on which peaceful protests were rendered more complex by a significant amount of criminal activity that included vandalism and looting of local businesses. Utilizing our access to internal Department records (including audio and video recordings of events from that day), our opportunities to interview Department members involved in the response, and our involvement in various forums for receiving public feedback, we look forward to providing the City with a report that details our findings and recommendations.

This fifth update describes the progress we have made since our last posting at the end of the year.

### *Project Status*

We expect to move into the drafting phase of our project in the hopes of providing a report to the City by the spring. We have now accumulated a significant amount of information in terms of the police perspective into what occurred, and are continuing to supplement that with additional interviews with SMPD personnel who have specific knowledge about events on May 31 from the perspectives of planning, performance, and post-incident assessment.

We have also continued our focus on external stakeholders. We spoke with a longtime Santa Monica resident with connections to different activist organizations who provided an overview of police community relations and recent dynamics. We've also begun to learn more about the work of the Public Safety Reform Advisory Committee, and hope to use that group's accomplishments to gain further insight into Department history and current operations.

### *Listening Session # 2*

We held our initial remote listening session with interested members of the public on November 17. Our second session is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19 at 5:30. Details for accessing it are available through the City website. The format will be the same: representatives from OIR Group will be facilitating, but the primary purpose is to learn the impressions of community members and thereby inform our report's findings and recommendations.

In the meantime – and subsequently – we continue to welcome correspondence from individuals who would like to share information or viewpoints. Please contact us at the following email address: [Michael.Gennaco@oirgroup.com](mailto:Michael.Gennaco@oirgroup.com)