



OIRGroup.com

**TO: City of Santa Monica**  
**FROM: OIR Group**  
**DATE: 11-19-20**  
**RE: Second 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 second “bi-weekly” update describes the progress we have made since our first posting on November 5.

### ***Project Status***

#### **Document Review**

We have now accumulated a significant amount of documentary material, produced by the Department and City, which gives detailed insight into several aspects of the May 31 response. Some of these documents relate to events in preceding days that affected Santa Monica as well as

surrounding communities. These materials will help us get a sense of what the Department did understand – and could and should have understood – about the developing levels of public engagement in the aftermath of George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis – and the various forms that engagement was taking.

We are also establishing a basis for reconstructing in detail the course of activity in the City as it unfolded on the 31<sup>st</sup>, and the deployment decisions made by the Police Department in response.

## **Interviews**

Interviews with knowledgeable parties within SMPD will help inform our understanding. We have continued the interview process, and recently had a lengthy interview with a key Department decision-maker that framed key issues and guided some of the next focal points of our outreach.

## **Listening Sessions**

We solicited the participation of community stakeholders. Supported by City staff, we held our first virtual “Listening Session” for two hours on the evening of November 17. This session was live streamed on the City’s CityTV 16 YouTube channel and recorded. We conducted a brief poll as a first means of ascertaining the different perspectives being represented; then the majority of the session was given over to contributions by numerous public speakers. There were approximately 45 active participants, and our hope is that others were also able to view the event.

The input we received covered a range of concerns. But, for all their distinctive experiences, the speakers clearly shared a deep commitment to the City and a hope that the information they provided would lead to an accurate, constructive report about May 31. We are grateful for their insights.

## **Next Steps**

We will soon be announcing the date of a second listening session, and we welcome your further contributions as the process continues. Several residents have already provided helpful information by emailing OIR Group’s founder at the following web address:

Michael.Gennaco@oirgroup.com