



OIRGroup.com

TO: City of Santa Monica
FROM: OIR Group
DATE: 11-5-20
RE: First Status Update for “After-Action Review of the Events of May 31, 2020”

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. In light of significant public interest, one of the project’s stipulated requirements is a publicly available bi-weekly status report that is intended to track our progress in meeting the project’s objectives as established by the City. We have formally begun our work and are pleased to provide this initial update.

OIR Group is a team of police practices experts whose members have worked in the field of civilian oversight of law enforcement for nearly twenty years. It is led by Michael Gennaco, a former federal prosecutor and a nationally recognized authority regarding oversight in policing. OIR Group has worked in jurisdictions throughout California and in other parts of the U.S.

Project Status:

Three OIR Group team members met with newly retired Chief Renaud as we began our work. She was candid in offering her perspective and providing us with detailed information about the Police Department’s actions on May 31; she also put those events into the context of what had occurred in the prior days and what information was available to the Department as the different challenges emerged over several hours on the 31st. The former Chief was generous with her time, and we benefitted from the chance to speak with her.

Chief Renaud has also provided internal documents that will help to re-create the key events from that period; we are currently in the process of reviewing those materials and using them as a basis for framing our next lines of inquiry and identifying other key personnel within the Department to interview.

We have also begun to actively coordinate with the Interim City Attorney regarding our workplan and needs. Within days of our engagement, we were provided numerous documents relevant to our scope of review. More recently, he provided us with copies of the civil claims for damages that have been filed against the City in conjunction with May 31 events; these claims cover a range of alleged harms and reflect the different ways that business owners, residents, and demonstrators experienced the day's happenings.

The Interim City Attorney will also be assisting us in setting up "listening sessions" that will allow us to hear directly from interested members from the public as we begin to shape findings and recommendations. Working within the pandemic's continuing constraints, we plan to conduct these events virtually, and will provide additional information about dates and times when the schedule is finalized.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve the City by conducting this review. And we welcome your input as the process continues. We can be reached in a variety of ways through our website: www.oirgroup.com.