



OIRGroup.com

TO: City of Santa Monica
FROM: OIR Group
DATE: 2-25-21
RE: Seventh 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 seventh update describes the progress we have made since our last posting.

Project Status

In this recent phase of our review, we have continued our interviews with individuals who had direct knowledge of the events leading up to, on, and after May 31. Much of this focus has been on the Santa Monica Police Department itself, and we have now conducted extended interviews with more than a dozen current or former Department members. This includes the former Chief and Assistant Chief, all of the command staff, other officers from a range of rank levels, and a civilian employee who specialized in social media monitoring for the agency at the time of the

unrest. We also spoke with the independent expert on force and tactics whom the Department had asked to do an initial assessment last summer in the aftermath of the unrest, and have had the chance to review his draft analysis.

At the same time, our recent interviews have incorporated the perspectives of other City officials. This includes several members of the current City Council as well as past members who were in office on May 31. We have also spoken with the Chief of the Fire Department and representatives from Public Works and the Office of Emergency Management. These individuals have given us important insight into other aspects of the City's response (including, for example, the work of the dispatch team in addressing 12 times their normal call volume on May 31).

Meanwhile, we are continuing our review of Police Department reports, emails, and other documentation relating to the response. We have listened to recordings of radio traffic to develop a more detailed sense of the Department's deployments and decision-making. And we have been working with the Department – which remains fully cooperative – to gain large-scale access to the body-worn camera recordings that exist from the throughout the day's events.

As we get closer to the report-writing phase of our process, 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