



# City of Seattle

Seattle Police Department

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February 9, 2016

Director Pierce Murphy  
Office of Professional Accountability  
720 Third Avenue, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: 2015OPA-1035 Management Action Recommendations

Dear Director Murphy:

In your December 29, 2015, letter, you noted confusion among the SPD command structure with respect to whether, and under what circumstances, the In Car Video System Policy (Manual Section 16.090) requires supervisors to record their activity. Specifically, you noted ambiguity as to (1) whether the term "officer" as used in the policy is intended to cover all employees who operate in-car video systems, and (2) whether the term "police activity" covers what might be deemed "supervisory" or "administrative" activities of sergeants and lieutenants at the scene.

To clarify, it is, and has been, the Department's expectations that all employees who operate in-car video systems follow 16.090 when responding to and at the scene of an active event, regardless of rank. We will, accordingly, issue a Directive clarifying 16.090 to make clear (1) that the policy extends to sworn employees of all ranks who operate in-car video systems, and (2) that a supervisor's obligation to record activity that falls under 16.090(6) begins at the point the supervisor first logs to the call and ends consistent with the parameters of 16.090(8) (when the supervisor has completed his or her part, if any, of the active investigation; there is little possibility that the supervisor will have further contact with the subject of the event; and the employee is leaving the area of the event.)

Thank you for bringing this to my attention. As always, please let me know if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. O'Toole  
Chief of Police

cc: Judge Anne Levinson (Ret.)  
Deputy Chief Carmen Best  
Brian Maxey, Chief Operating Officer  
Assistant Chief Lesley Cordner  
Rebecca Boatright, Senior Police Counsel