



For Immediate Release

January 10, 2019

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Office of Police Accountability initiates investigation into fatal New Year's Eve officer-involved shooting

Seattle, WA – This week the Office of Police Accountability (OPA) initiated an investigation to assess whether the conduct of the Seattle Police Department (SPD) officer who fatally shot Iosia Faletogo complied with police policies and procedures. The incident occurred on December 31, 2018, in North Seattle following a traffic stop. OPA anticipates its investigation will be complete by the end of July.

OPA also recommended that SPD seek an independent review of the incident by an outside law enforcement agency. The evidence collected during that investigation would be used to determine whether the officer's conduct during the incident was lawful.

Regarding the proposed course of action, OPA Director Andrew Myerberg said: "Together, these investigations are intended to provide a thorough and impartial evaluation of the facts, which are critical not only for evaluating the case, but for ensuring transparency and maintaining public confidence in the SPD and the police accountability system."

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OPA is part of Seattle's police accountability system. OPA ensures that the actions of Seattle Police Department employees comply with law and policy by conducting thorough, objective, and timely investigations, recommending improvements to policies and training, and engaging in collaborative initiatives that promote systemic advancements. OPA is civilian-led and has a staff comprised of both sworn and civilian employees.