



City of Seattle

Seattle Police Department

February 7, 2018

Director Andrew Myerberg
Office of Police Accountability
720 Third Avenue, 18th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Management Action Recommendation (2017OPA-0571)

Dear Director Myerberg:

I am writing in response to your January 25, 2018 Management Action Recommendation, which arises out of an allegation concerning the use of less lethal force tools by two employees assigned to SWAT during the events of May Day 2016. You determined that the use of one of these tools was lawful and proper and within policy. With respect to the other, you state you were unable to reach a determination for the reason that you were not provided a SWAT manual to review. You rightly note that policy requires that specialty units maintain manuals that provide guidance with respect to specific tools.

This is an issue that the Audit, Policy, and Research Section (APRS) identified in 2017. While unit manuals have evolved organically over the years, in 2018 APRS is working to consolidate all manuals within APRS, and as such, the Department has been reaching out to Precincts, Investigative, and Specialty units to (1) determine what manuals currently exist and (2) offer assistance in updating. It is our expectation that all updated unit manuals will be available through APRS by the end of 2018. While manuals may provide additional guidance, however, it remains the Department's position that whether force is reasonable, necessary, and proportional, regardless of unit assignment or instrument, is to be assessed consistent with the overriding parameters of Manual Section 8.200.

As always, please let me know if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmen Best".

Carmen Best
Chief of Police

Cc: Deputy Chief Chris Fowler
Brian Maxey, Chief Operating Officer
Assistant Chief Lesley Cordner
Rebecca Boatright, Chief Legal Officer
Fe Lopez, Executive Director, Community Police Commission