



January 16, 2024

Director Gino Betts, Jr.  
Office of Police Accountability  
PO Box 34986  
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Betts,

Please see the below Management Recommendation response

**Case Numbers:** 2022OPA-0361 / 2023COMP-0001

**Topic:** Money Evidence

**Summary of the Management Action:** After an asset forfeiture was settled in 2022, the Fiscal Unit alerted the Narcotics Unit that a money envelope from a 2017 search warrant execution was short \$10,800.

**Original Recommendation:**

- SPD should review its policies, procedures, and training for employees collecting and submitting money evidence and evaluate its alignment with national best practices.
- SPD should assess whether tools like automated money counters would help money evidence processing by limiting counting errors and aiding in counterfeit detection.
  - Assess whether additional automated money counters should be purchased.
- SPD should address intradepartmental communication gaps in the money evidence process.
  - Revisit SPD policy 7.080 with particular attention to whether a representative from an outside agency meets the requirement that funds are to be counted by two sworn officers.

**Action Taken:**

- SPD has reviewed Policy 7.080 and as written is confident that it meets both the accepted banking and law enforcement standards for handling money. In terms of whether a person from an "outside agency" fulfills the requirement that two sworn officers to be present when a money count is done, policy does not specify that the officers be from the Seattle Police Department, only that they both be certified law enforcement officers, therefore using officers from other agencies fits with the policy. Additionally, policy specifies that "employees equipped with BWV cameras will record the handling and counting of currency with BWV up to the point it is sealed in currency envelope or air-dry bag."
- While used in a limited capacity, money counting equipment is expensive and requires ongoing maintenance and training to operate. When a large quantity of money is seized, there are options that can be used, including securing the money and taking it to a bank and having them use their money counting equipment. SPD does not have the funds currently to purchase additional equipment.

**SPD Considers this Management Action:** Partially Implemented

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.



**Seattle**

Police Department

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ADZ' with a long, sweeping underline.

Adrian Z. Diaz  
Chief of Police