



**For Immediate Release:**

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## **OPA refers the 'Makeshift Tombstone Case' to OIG for investigation due to a conflict of interest**

**Seattle, WA** — In July, the Seattle Office of Police Accountability (OPA) received several complaints concerning a political flag and a makeshift tombstone displayed at an SPD precinct. On July 12, 2023, OPA opened an intake investigation under case number 2023OPA-0303. During the intake investigation, OPA Director Gino Betts, Jr. identified a conflict preventing OPA from further involvement. Specifically, an SPD officer assigned to OPA when the investigation was opened was among those accused of misconduct.

Although that officer has since transferred from OPA, it was determined under section 2.2 of the [Seattle Office of Police Accountability Internal Operations and Training Manual](#) that he had professional relationships with OPA's investigators and leadership, creating the appearance of partiality.

On September 12, 2023, the director referred the case to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). For the reasons above, OPA will not participate in future aspects of the investigation.

For further information, please contact the Office of the Inspector General at: [oig@seattle.gov](mailto:oig@seattle.gov).

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