



101 W. Colfax Avenue, Ste. 100
Denver, CO 80202
p: 720.913.3306
f: 720.913-3305
www.denvergov.org/oim

June 11, 2020

Re: OIM Investigation into DPD Approach to George Floyd Demonstrations

Dear Councilmembers:

I write in response to your letters dated June 2 and 5, 2020, requesting that the Denver Office of the Independent Monitor (“OIM”) conduct an investigation that examines the Denver Police Department’s (“DPD”) approach to the demonstrations held in response to the recent murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minn. You have asked that we evaluate, among other things, the DPD’s use of physical force, chemical agents, riot gear, and surplus military equipment, as well as its handling of community complaints regarding alleged officer misconduct during the demonstrations.

We accept.

As you know, the OIM provides oversight of the DPD through the review of internal investigations, disciplinary proceedings, and policies and practices in that agency. Given the length of the demonstrations in our city, conducting this investigation will require us to review hundreds (if not thousands) of hours of HALO and body-worn-camera footage, radio transmissions, and community generated video, digest a large volume of documentary evidence, and interview command staff, line officers, and community members. While I expect the investigation to be time and labor intensive, I assure you that our small staff will move expeditiously, and we have already drafted our first request for documents and information, which we will issue to the DPD shortly.

Thank you for your trust in us to do this essential work. I am gratified by the pledge of complete cooperation from Executive Director Robinson and Chief Pazen, and I look forward to collaborating with them and their teams as we conduct this review. I will keep you apprised of our progress in the weeks and months ahead.

Respectfully,

Nicholas E. Mitchell
Independent Monitor

cc: Alan Salazar, Chief of Staff
Murphy Robinson, Executive Director of Public Safety
Paul Pazen, Chief of Police
Citizen Oversight Board Members