

Investigative Observations

The report states that on the evening of October 11, 2018, four (4) Pittsburgh Bureau of Police detectives engaged in an altercation with four (4) members of the Pagans Motorcycle Club resulting in severe injury to one of the members of the club and multiple civil lawsuits by those involved against both individuals and the City.

The report states that, while it is likely that the detectives began the evening on an assigned surveillance operation they were not performing within that surveillance capacity when engaging with the Pagans. This is a violation of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police (PBP) policy.

The report states that the detectives engaged in the consumption of alcohol while on duty in violation of published PBP policy at the time.

The report states that video evidence shows that Detective Lincoln struck Mr. Deluca, one of the Pagans, eighteen (18) times in the face while Detective Burgunder held Mr. Deluca by the hair and other unidentified PBP officers pressed him to the bar.

The report states that Mr. Deluca, Detective Honick, and Detective Lincoln were sprayed with OC spray and, aid was rendered, however, Mr. Kopy was sprayed by the overspray and was not rendered aid.

The report states that there was not an operational plan filed nor was there a policy that one be filed other than a letter stating the operation would take place so that interference from other outside agencies did not occur.

The report states that there was no clear exit/extraction plan for the operation nor a cash handling procedure that was followed.

The report states that there were significant differences between the criminal complaint filed by Detective Burgunder and the apparent events on the video surveillance taken from Kopy's CCTV system by Executive Director Elizabeth Pittinger and Investigator Bridgett as well as the footage provided by OMI from the same system after a subpoena was served for other materials from the incident.

After Action Policy Changes discussed at CPRB Meeting Dated: October 26, 2020

The report states that during the meeting Chief Schubert and Assistant Chief Bickerstaff discussed the following changes to policy and procedure documents and activities.

1. The PBP alcohol policy for undercover operations in Narcotics and Vice was under review and that "an operation like that had not happened since the incident."
2. One of the two general use of force orders was changed from the "Continuum of Control" to the "Matrix of Control." In this order, de-escalation is more heavily emphasized and a listing of steps upward is replaced with a circular diagram that is intended to show the use of force decisions as fluid up and down instances, not linear steps on a progressive decision incline.
3. There was a review of operational plans involving undercover operations planning and implementation.

There was no plan as of the meeting for PBP officers to be subject to a BAC test before and after undercover operations. To establish a baseline BAC for the operation and the level of possible intoxication after the conclusion.

The report emphasized that there has been a significant beginning in the necessary culture change for the PBP to become a community-oriented policing organization with a service-oriented attitude which will add materially to the relationship and safety of both citizens and officers in the City of Pittsburgh.