

CITY OF SPOKANE ETHICS COMMISSION

Ethics Commission's Findings, Conclusions and Decision Regarding Complaint filed by Evan Sims against Ombuds Bart Logue

FINDINGS

The Ethics Commission makes the following findings:

1. On or about May 6, 2025, Evan Sims filed an ethics complaint against Spokane Police Ombuds Bart Logue.
2. Mr. Sims alleged acts of moral turpitude, deception, and misconduct by the Spokane Police Department. "Bart Logue demonstrated willful alignment with institutional deception in this case and was an accessory to acts of moral turpitude, which is an act of moral turpitude in itself". Mr. Sims complaint lists that he believes Ombuds Logue violated "Section H Commission of Acts of Moral Turpitude or Dishonesty Prohibited" of SMC 1.04B.050. Mr. Logue's complaint inaccurately attributes that prohibition of conduct as Section H. The proper section of 1.04B.050 for this allegation is section N. The complaint by Mr. Sims was reviewed with the proper section in mind.
3. On May 6, 2025, Staff Director Megan Kapaun forwarded the complaint to the Ethics Commission.
4. In the time between the complaint being alleged and the next meeting of the Ethics Commission, Staff Director Kapaun reviewed the complaint for jurisdictional issues pursuant to SMC104B.150A to see (1) if Ombuds Logue is subject to the Code of Ethics and (2) if the alleged conduct, if found to be true constitutes prohibited conduct in violation of any provision of SMC 1.04B.050. Staff Director Kapaun determined that Ombuds Logue is subject to the Code of Ethics but that the alleged conduct, if true, is not a violation of SMC 1.04B.050 and recommended to the Ethics Commission that at the June meeting the complaint be dismissed.
5. On June 18th, 2025, the Ethics Commission held a meeting to review the complaint to determine whether, pursuant to SMC 01.04B, the Commission had jurisdiction to conduct further proceedings and whether the complaint, on its face, alleges facts that, if true, would substantiate a violation. At meeting, the Commission considered the May 6, 2025 complaint filed by Mr. Sims in conjunction with the Code of Ethics listed in SMC 1.04B.050.

CONCLUSIONS

The Ethics Commission makes the following conclusions:


The complaint met the requirement 1.04B.140 with respect to the complaint being submitted on the correct form and by alleging a violation against Ombuds Logue as a staff member in the City of Spokane who is subject to the Ethics Code. The complaint failed, however, to identify any specific acts committed by Ombuds Logue that if true would be a violation of the Code of Ethics and therefore failed to meet the requirement of being an ethics violation under SMC 01.04B.050. Additionally, the complaint failed to describe facts constituting a violation in sufficient detail so that the Commission and Ombuds Logue could reasonably understand the nature of the complaint

being alleged and how the function of Ombuds Logue constituted a commission of a crime of moral turpitude or dishonesty relating to his duties as Ombuds. Mr. Sims stated concerns that "the conduct of the Ombudsman in this matter constitutes willful neglect, obstruction of truth, and a knowing betrayal of the principles of transparency, accountability, and justice". The allegations made against Ombuds Logue, if true, are not a violation of Section N of SMC 1.04B.050.

DECISION

Based upon the Findings and Conclusions set forth above and the deliberation of the Ethics Commission, the Ethics Commission concludes that the complaint by Mr. Sims must be dismissed pursuant to SMC 01.04B.200 on the basis that it failed to describe facts constituting a violation of the Code of Ethics by committing a crime of moral turpitude in the interaction between Ombuds Bart Logue and Evan Sims.

This decision was approved by a vote of 5 to 0 of the Ethics Commission members present for and participating in the hearing.



Jennifer Huffaker

6/18/25

Date