



# Office of Police Ombudsman Commission

Agenda  
February 19, 2019  
5:30PM – 8:00PM  
Council Chambers  
Lower Level, City Hall

**TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

## Commission Briefing Session:

|               |                                             |                   |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 5:30 – 5:45pm | 1) Welcome to public                        | Commissioner Rose |
|               | 2) Agenda approval                          | Commissioner Rose |
|               | 3) Approve January 22, 2019 meeting minutes | Commissioner Rose |

## Items:

|               |                                                                                      |                                                             |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5:46 – 6:45pm | 1) Public forum                                                                      | Citizens signed up to speak<br>Christina Coty<br>Bart Logue |
|               | 2) Administrative Specialist brief                                                   |                                                             |
|               | 3) OPO report <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 Critical Incidents</li></ul> |                                                             |

## Commission Business:

|               |                               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 6:46 – 8:00pm | 1) Legal update               | Dennis Hession    |
|               | 2) Letter to Chief Meidl      | Commissioner Rose |
|               | 3) Update on ordinance change | Commissioner Rose |
|               | 4) Commissioner Speak-Out     | Commissioners     |
|               | 5) 2019 potential speakers    | Commissioners     |

## Adjournment:

Next Ombudsman Commission meeting will be held on March 19, 2019

The password for City of Spokane Guest Wireless access has been changed:

Username: COS Guest

Password: 98S2yx5X

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION:** The City of Spokane is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs, and services for persons with disabilities. The Council Chambers and the Council Briefing Center in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., are both wheelchair accessible. The Council Briefing Center is equipped with an audio loop system for persons with hearing loss. The Council Chambers currently has an infrared system and headsets may be checked out by contacting the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Human Resources at (509) 625-6363, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or [msteinolfson@spokanecity.org](mailto:msteinolfson@spokanecity.org). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Human Resources through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.



# Office of Police Ombudsman Commission Minutes

January 22, 2019

Meeting Minutes: 1:39

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

## Attendance

- OPOC Commissioners present: Ladd Smith, Jenny Rose, James Wilburn – via phone
- OPOC Commissioner absent: Elizabeth Kelley
- Legal Counsel: Dennis Hession
- OPO staff members present: Bart Logue, Luvimae Omana and Christina Coty

## Items Session

- The Agenda was unanimously approved
- The December 11<sup>th</sup> minutes unanimously approved

## Public Forum

- Brian Breen – Questions for Commissioner Wilburn regarding his request for the Body Worn Camera footage (BWC) that he had requested. Questions regarding the email received from the Police Advisory Committee and the removal of the OPOC from that committee.

## Analyst Update

- Advanced Force Science Specialist course – 10 weeks long, to include meetings, study time for research and assignment / project submissions. Scientific study of how people react in stressful situations, particularly various uses of force incidents.

## OPO Report

- OPO report highlights
  - 108 contacts, 6 complaints, 5 Referrals, 17 OPO Interviews, and 6 IA Interviews
  - 23 meetings with SPD – including the biweekly IA/OPO meetings to ensure we are all on the same page.
  - Very busy month with OPO vacations and medical.

## Commissioners' Business

- Chief Meidl's letter regarding the OPOC's decision on C18-055 / OPO 18-32
  - The Ombudsman interprets Chief Meidl's letter as taking away the authority of the OPOC's ordinance, saying that the OPOC doesn't have the right to make the decision on the case.
  - Commissioner Rose, requested legal counsel advice on what else can the OPOC do aside from writing another letter
  - Scope of authority is determined by the scope of the ordinance, however the impact of the grievance filed by the Guild, complicates how we can act at this point.
  - Legal Counsel requested more time to review the grievance submitted by the Guild before recommending the next action. Mr. Hession will talk with the City Attorney's office to find out the status.
- Removal from Police Advisory Committee

- On December 24<sup>th</sup>, the OPO received correspondence from Joan Butler, the Chair via Angie Napolitano informing of the OPO and OPOC of their removal from the PAC, citing a conflict of interest as the reason.
- No further response was received as to the reasoning.
- Action taken – Commissioner Rose will respond to Chair Butler.
- OPO Budget
  - No indication that the OPO will receive additional funds for 2019.
  - During vacation sellback, the OPO was made aware of a shortage in our budget for 2018. We went over our budget in line items that were salary / benefit related. Discussion ensued.
  - Legal Counsel will discuss budget gap with the City Administrator, Theresa Sanders.
- Update on Ordinance change
  - The ordinance change that was requested will be voted on January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Commissioner Speak Out
  - Commissioner Rose voiced concerns over having to pay \$438 out of her pocket to cover the cost of her substitute in order to attend NACOLE.
  - Commissioner Smith had no additional talking points.
- 2019 Goals
  - Invite guest speakers to speak at the OPOC meetings throughout the year.
  - Increase the OPOC presence in the community and be advocates for the Commission.
  - Interested in working with the Community Assembly and possibly doing a presentation during one of their meetings

**Motion Passes or Fails: 2**

**Meeting Adjourned at: 7:09PM**

**Note: Minutes are summarized by staff. An audio recording of the meeting is on file -  
Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman Commission**

<https://my.spokanecity.org/bcc/commissions/ombudsman-commission/>



**Office of the Police Ombudsman**

808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.  
 Spokane, WA 99201  
 509.625.6742 / spdombudsman.org

February 19, 2019

**Public Safety & Community Health Committee Report**

Reporting Period: January 1-31, 2019

| Snapshot of Activities    |                                      | Monthly | Year to Date |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| <b>Community Outreach</b> |                                      |         |              |
| OPO                       | Total community events and meetings  | 5       | 5            |
| OPOC                      | Community outreach / activities      | 5       | 5            |
| <b>Commendations</b>      |                                      | 0       | 0            |
| <b>Complaints</b>         |                                      |         |              |
|                           | Received complaints                  | 9       | 9            |
|                           | Referred complaints                  | 10      | 10           |
| <b>Contacts</b>           |                                      | 131     | 131          |
| <b>Case Review</b>        |                                      |         |              |
|                           | Request for further investigation    | 5       | 5            |
|                           | Investigations certified / concurred | 19      | 19           |
|                           | Declined certifications              | 0       | 0            |
|                           | Special cases reviewed               | 19      | 19           |
| <b>Interviews</b>         |                                      |         |              |
|                           | OPO interviews                       | 17      | 17           |
|                           | Internal Affairs interviews          | 9       | 9            |
| <b>Training</b>           |                                      | 1       | 1            |
| <b>Critical Incidents</b> |                                      | 2       | 2            |
| <b>Mediations</b>         |                                      |         |              |
|                           | Conducted                            | 0       | 0            |
|                           | Declined                             | 0       | 0            |
| <b>Recommendations</b>    |                                      | 0       | 0            |
| <b>Other Activities</b>   |                                      |         |              |
| SPD Related               | Meetings / contacts                  | 53      | 53           |
|                           | Review boards                        | 0       | 0            |
|                           | Closing meetings                     | 0       | 0            |

## 1. Outreach

### a) OPO

- i. Leadership Spokane Alumni event (1/7)
- ii. Meeting with Mayoral Candidate Shawn Poole (1/14)
- iii. OPOC meeting (1/22)
- iv. Meeting with Sandy Williams of the Black Lens (1/23)
- v. Leadership Spokane Gala (1/26)
- vi. Black Lens 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (1/29)

### b) OPOC Actions – Commissioners attended the following events, some events were attended by multiple Commissioners:

- i. Served at the House of Charity (1/5)
- ii. Chair and Vice-Chair meeting with Legal Counsel (1/14)
- iii. Martin Luther King Jr. March and celebration (1/21)
- iv. OPOC meeting (1/23)
- v. Meeting where Commissioner Wilburn and Mr. Logue viewed body worn camera (BWC) footage involving the disproportionate uses of force during interactions between African Americans and SPD with IA (1/29)

## 2. Commendations / Complaints

### a) Received Complaints

- i. **OPO 19-02 – Demeanor:** Complainant said officer was rude, arrogant and threatened arrest for kidnapping a minor, who was in citizen's care during the time.
- ii. **OPO 19-03 – Inadequate Response:** Complainant stated a sergeant told them that the citizen's report was closed due to a lack of resources.
- iii. **OPO 19-04 – Demeanor:** Officer who responded to parking incident was rude and showed no interest in helping.
- iv. **OPO 19-05 – Inadequate Response:** Complainant called police for a response but didn't receive one for 10 hours.
- v. **OPO 19-06 – Demeanor / Inadequate Response:** Complainant was almost struck by a vehicle while they were crossing the street. This was witnessed by an officer. Officer refused to take action did not give name or provide badge number upon request.
- vi. **OPO 19-07 – Policy Violation - Other:** Complainant witnessed an officer arrest an individual allegedly for jaywalking.
- vii. **OPO 19-08 – Inadequate Response:** Complainant alleges no response from NRO regarding drug deals taking place out of an RV that has been parked in neighborhood.
- viii. **OPO 19-09 – Inadequate Response / Harassment:** Complainant alleges that they are unable to file reports because they have been blocked.
- ix. **OPO 19-10 – Inadequate Response:** Complainant has not received follow up from SPD regarding report made.

### b) Referred Complaints

- i. **IR<sup>1</sup> 19-01** – No response to activated alarms; Alarm User Program

---

<sup>1</sup> IR refers to internal referrals made to the Spokane Police Department routed through Internal Affairs

- ii. **IR 19-02** – Customer service; Internal Affairs (IA)
- iii. **IR 19-03** – Requested after hours assistance number / resources; IA
- iv. **ER<sup>2</sup> 19-04** – Alleged that civil rights were violated while in jail; Spokane County Sheriff's Office (SCSO)
- v. **ER 19-05** – Was splashed from head to toe with slush by a resource officer driving by; District 81
- vi. **IR 19-06** – Requested that OPO forward a letter to the SPD; IA
- vii. **IR 19-07** – Citizen requested follow up on calls placed regarding stolen merchandise and identity theft; IA
- viii. **IR 19-08** – Citizen was frustrated with the lack of response regarding the Lewis and Clark High School threat; IA
- ix. **ER 19-09** – Citizen was frustrated with the lack of response regarding the Lewis and Clark High School threat; District 81
- x. **ER 19-10** – Citizen frustrated with an inadequate response from the SVPD; SCSO

### 3. Case Review

- i. C18-073 / OPO 18-45 – Investigation certified
- ii. C18-081 – Investigation certified
- iii. C18-040 / OPO 18-21 – Requested further investigation
- iv. C18-090 / OPO 18-57 – Investigation certified
- v. C18-079 / OPO 18-38 – Investigation certified
- vi. C18-052 / OPO 18-29 – Investigation certified
- vii. C18-083 / OPO 18-53 – Investigation certified
- viii. C18-088 / OPO 18-56 – Requested further investigation
- ix. C18-086 / OPO 18-55 – Requested further investigation
- x. C18-101 / OPO 18-63 – Investigation certified
- xi. C18-100 / OPO 18-69 – Requested further investigation / Investigation certified
- xii. C18-067 – Investigation certified
- xiii. C18-105 / OPO 18-67 – Investigation certified
- xiv. C18-57 / OPO 18-87 – Investigation certified
- xv. C18-092 / OPO 18-47 – Investigation certified
- xvi. C18-084 / OPO 18-51 – Investigation certified
- xvii. C18-086 / OPO 18-55 – Investigation certified
- xviii. C18-094 / OPO 18-49 – Investigation certified
- xix. C19-003 / OPO 19-05 – Investigation certified
- xx. C18-055 – Investigation certified
- xxi. C19-001 / OPO 19-02 – Requested further investigation / Investigation certified
- C18-106 – Investigation certified

### 4. Special Cases Reviewed

- i. **12** Use of Force
- ii. **3** Pursuit

<sup>2</sup> ER refers to external referrals made to a resource outside of the Spokane Police Department

- iii. 4 Collision
- iv. 0 K9 Deployment

**5. Activities**

- a) OPO staff members participated/engaged in the following other activities:
  - i. PSCHC meeting (1/7)
  - ii. Leadership Spokane Gala planning (1/2, 1/10, 1/12, 1/25, 1/26)
  - iii. NACOLE Strategic Planning Committee (1/7)
  - iv. Interview for Leadership Spokane (1/9)
  - v. Advanced Force Science Specialist course orientation (1/9)
  - vi. IA biweekly meeting (1/10)
  - vii. Advanced Force Science class meeting (1/23)
  - viii. Meeting where Commissioner Wilburn and Mr. Logue viewed BWC footage involving the disproportionate uses of force during interactions between African Americans and SPD with IA (1/29)
- b) SPD related
  - i. 48 meetings/contacts with IA
  - ii. 5 meetings/contacts with SPD
- c) OPO met with/had contact with OPO Commissioners/staff:
  - i. OPOC Legal Counsel Hession on (1/3, 1/20)
  - ii. Commissioners on (1/7, 1/8, 1/23)
  - iii. Commissioner Smith on (1/10, 1/16, 1/27)
  - iv. Commissioner Rose on (1/10, 1/22)
  - v. Commissioner Wilburn on (1/16, 1/22)
  - vi. Commissioner Kelley on 1/29
- d) OPO met with/had contact with City Council members/staff:
  - i. Council Member Burke on 1/10

**6. Next Steps**

- a. Annual Reports for OPO and OPOC
- b. Align budget / conference options for the year

***You are invited to the***  
**Why Race Matters Workshop: History, Systems, and Strategies**

**Co-sponsored by:**

**Spokane NAACP**

**I Did the Time**

**Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR)**

**Community Building Foundation and Greater Spokane Progress**

**Saturday, March 2, 10am – 5pm**

**At the Spokane EnVision Center**

**(130 S. Arthur Street)**

We are offering the Why Race Matters Workshop to the community to develop a collective understanding and common language around institutional and structural racism, and why addressing race matters. Using the acclaimed documentary “Race: The Power of an Illusion,” the workshop addresses how racial inequities have been built into institutions and structures throughout our country, why it is important to use a racial equity lens, and what we can do to advance racial equity in our organizations and in our community.

Using the acclaimed documentary “Race: The Power of an Illusion,” this workshop, led by a multi-racial team of local facilitators, addresses how racial inequities have been built into institutions and structures throughout our country, why it is important to use a racial equity lens, and what we can do to advance racial understanding and equity in our organizations and in our community.

**This interactive workshop provides a foundation for further racial equity work:**

- **Examine** beliefs about race, advantage and justice, and how these issues impact our communities, organizations, and institutions.
- **Gain** awareness of historical cases of institutional racism.
- **Define** terms and develop an understanding of the difference between: structural, institutional, and individual racism; equity and equality; and implicit and explicit biases.
- **Identify** structural and institutional racism
  - **Develop** understandings of mass incarceration and the criminal justice system especially with how it pertains to racial demographic outcomes and how it impacts us today.
  - **We will work** to increase exposure to the complexities of the intersections with other oppressed identities and groups.
- **Discuss** local examples of institutional racism and begin to think about solutions.

**This workshop is free of charge and lunch is provided. *Donations are welcome.***

**Register Today! [Click here](#) to register. *Registration deadline is February 28.***

*For more information about the workshop, contact: Anne Martin, Greater Spokane Progress at [anne@spokaneproggress.org](mailto:anne@spokaneproggress.org) or 509-624-5657*





**Wilburn & Associates, LLC**  
*Champions for Diversity & Social Justice*

**WILBURN & ASSOCIATES, LLC. PRESENTS**

# **A NIGHT OF COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS**

**“Why Can’t African Americans Just Get  
Over It?”**

**The Impact of the Psychological  
Effects of Slavery”**

---

**FEBRUARY 23, 2019**

**6:00-8:00 PM**

**WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY CENTER**

**What better way to celebrate Black History Month  
than to discuss issues important to our community.**

**Get Tickets: [wilburnassociates.org](http://wilburnassociates.org)**

**FREE & Open to the Public**



OFFICE OF  
POLICE OMBUDSMAN  
808 W. SPOKANE FALLS BLVD.  
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201  
509.625.6742  
FAX 509.625.6748

January 03, 2019

Chief of Police  
Spokane Police Department  
1100 W. Mallon Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99260

**RE: C18-055**

Chief Meidl,

I am writing to clarify my attendance at the upcoming interviews regarding C18-055, which involve allegations that an employee (of the Spokane Police Department) improperly/inappropriately interacted with citizens. As you know, I refused to certify the investigation in this case as thorough or objective. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, the Office of the Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC), following the procedures set forth in SMC §04.32.030(F), directed Internal Affairs to further investigate this complaint. On December 03<sup>rd</sup>, Sergeant John Griffin, President of the Police Guild, wrote a letter to you filing a grievance on the OPOC's direction. On December 24<sup>th</sup>, you wrote a letter to the OPOC where you cited a partial definition of "OPO Involved Investigation" intimating this case did not rise to the level of an investigation under the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPO) or the OPOC's jurisdiction. See SMC §04.32.020(L). However, you also acknowledged that portions of the complaint had not been thoroughly investigated and you would be reassigning it to Internal Affairs.

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, I received invitations to upcoming officer interviews for this case. I promptly called Director MacConnell and asked why I was invited to officer interviews in a case you do not believe I have any jurisdiction and the interviews seem to go against the grievance filed. Director MacConnell later stated that she had met with Assistant Chief Lundgren about this and agreed that SPD would not change the precedence of involving me in both interviews and reviews of these types of cases. I have asked Director MacConnell to memorialize this direction to me in writing.

I recognize that your public stance is different from this. I also recognize the Guild has filed a grievance in this matter. I will attend the interviews in this case as invited as I believe this case is within my jurisdiction and authority as the Police Ombudsman. The OPO has a clearly established pattern of authority in similar cases, and my attendance will preserve that precedence. I am not attending in defiance of your opinion or the grievance. I'm hopeful our differences will be resolved expeditiously as it is important to continue the work that the community expects of this office. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (509) 625-6743.

Sincerely,

Bart Logue  
Police Ombudsman  
City of Spokane

[www.SPDOmbudsman.org](http://www.SPDOmbudsman.org)

Email: [SPDOmbudsman@spokanecity.org](mailto:SPDOmbudsman@spokanecity.org)

[www.facebook.com/SPDOmbudsman](http://www.facebook.com/SPDOmbudsman) • [www.twitter.com/SPDOmbudsman](http://www.twitter.com/SPDOmbudsman)

## Coty, Christina

---

**From:** Meidl, Craig  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 03, 2019 11:02 PM  
**To:** Logue, Bart; Lundgren, Justin; MacConnell, Jacqui; Stevens, Barton  
**Cc:** OPO Commission; Dennis Hession; Omana, Luvimae; Coty, Christina; Szambelan, Timothy; Ormsby, Michael; Sanders, Theresa  
**Subject:** RE: Letter of Intent to Attend Interviews re: C18-055

Bart

I think there was a misunderstanding; I'm glad you forwarded this so we can clear it up. I have no intention of attempting to change the process we currently have in place surrounding OPO participation in Internal Affairs interviews. The Guild waived any right to protest OPO participation in Internal Affairs misconduct investigative interviews that are not of a serious nature (as defined in SMC 04.32) several years ago. I would not support any grievance to change our current practice surrounding OPO attendance at officer interviews; the current process is well-established and clearly would fall under "past practice". To be clear, the Guild has not objected to OPO attendance at officer interviews either.

The grievance you referenced is narrowly limited to the investigation that occurred related directly to Ofc Hice. The second prong of the complaint, related to the second contact the complainant had with two officers, is unrelated to any disagreement I may have surrounding the Hice investigation. I believe the process used by IA to research the second contact with the two officers was not in line with proper investigative practices. I directed IA to conduct a formal investigation into the second contact while ensuring we follow the appropriate investigative protocols for IA investigations.

In short, nothing has changed in your ability or authority to attend officer interviews at your discretion as you have previously. My disagreement is narrowly and exclusively limited to the authority under SMC 04.32 for the OPOC to compel further investigation of a complaint that does not meet the definition of "serious" per the ordinance.

Hopefully this clears up any misunderstanding. Thank you for keeping me in the loop.

Craig



**Craig Meidl** | Spokane Police Department | Chief of Police  
509.625.4063 | [cmeidl@spokanepolice.org](mailto:cmeidl@spokanepolice.org)

---

**From:** Logue, Bart <[blogue@spokanecity.org](mailto:blogue@spokanecity.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 6:55 PM  
**To:** Meidl, Craig <[cmeidl@spokanepolice.org](mailto:cmeidl@spokanepolice.org)>; Lundgren, Justin <[jlundgren@spokanepolice.org](mailto:jlundgren@spokanepolice.org)>; MacConnell, Jacqui <[jmacconnell@spokanepolice.org](mailto:jmacconnell@spokanepolice.org)>; Stevens, Barton <[bstevens@spokanepolice.org](mailto:bstevens@spokanepolice.org)>  
**Cc:** OPO Commission <[opocommission@spokanecity.org](mailto:opocommission@spokanecity.org)>; Dennis Hession <[dennisphession@gmail.com](mailto:dennisphession@gmail.com)>; Omana, Luvimae <[lomana@spokanecity.org](mailto:lomana@spokanecity.org)>; Coty, Christina <[ccoty@spokanecity.org](mailto:ccoty@spokanecity.org)>; Szambelan, Timothy

**COMMUNITY INPUT SIGN-UP SHEET**  
**CITY OF SPOKANE OFFICE OF POLICE OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION MEETING**  
**2/19/2019**

Community Input shall be for a period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes unless extended by the Chair. **Each speaker will be limited to five (5) minutes.** If you wish to speak during the Community Input time period, please sign-up below

| NAME             | ORGANIZATION | RESIDENT of SPOKANE? | PHONE/E-MAIL (optional - for follow up, if needed) |
|------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Please Print  |              | Circle one: Yes No   | Phone:<br>E-mail:                                  |
| 2. Please Print  |              | Circle one: Yes No   | Phone:<br>E-mail:                                  |
| 3. Please Print  |              | Circle one: Yes No   | Phone:<br>E-mail:                                  |
| 4. Please Print  |              | Circle one: Yes No   | Phone:<br>E-mail:                                  |
| 5. Please Print  |              | Circle one: Yes No   | Phone:<br>E-mail:                                  |
| 6. Please Print  |              | Circle one: Yes No   | Phone:<br>E-mail:                                  |
| 7. Please Print  |              | Circle one: Yes No   | Phone:<br>E-mail:                                  |
| 8. Please Print  |              | Circle one: Yes No   | Phone:<br>E-mail:                                  |
| 9. Please Print  |              | Circle one: Yes No   | Phone:<br>E-mail:                                  |
| 10. Please Print |              | Circle one: Yes No   | Phone:<br>E-mail:                                  |