



Office of Police Ombudsman Commission

Updated Meeting Agenda

May 21, 2024

5:30PM – 7:30PM

City Council Chambers

TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Commission Briefing Session:

5:30 – 5:35pm	1) Welcome to the public	Commissioner Jasmin
	2) Agenda approval	Commissioner Jasmin
	3) Approve April meeting minutes	Commissioner Jasmin

Items:

5:36 – 6:30pm	1) Public forum	Citizens signed up to speak
	2) Guest Speaker	Maggie Yates
	3) OPO April Monthly Report	Luvimae Omana
	• Critical Incident – 4/19/24	
	4) OPO Annual Report	Luvimae Omana

Commission Business:

6:30 – 7:00pm	1) OPOC Annual Report	Commissioner Jasmin
	2) Summer Community Activities / Schedule	Christina Coty
	3) Commissioner Speak Out	Commissioners

Adjournment:

The next Ombudsman Commission meeting will be held on June 18, 2024.

Virtual Meeting Option

Meeting Link: <https://spokanecity.webex.com/spokanecity/j.php?MTID=m0e090bc819710be090a818a58140ddf5>

Meeting Number: 2495 501 1533

Password: XmVgKD99rn5

Join by phone: 1-408-418-9388 Access Code: 2495 501 1533

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 Spokane City Council Chamber in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., is wheelchair accessible and is equipped with an infrared assistive listening system for persons with hearing loss. Headsets may be checked out (upon presentation of picture I.D.) at the City Cable 5 Production Booth located on the First Floor of the Municipal Building, directly above the Chase Gallery or through the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Risk Management at 509.625.6221, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or mLOWmaster@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Risk Management 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

April 16, 2024

Meeting Minutes: 2:12

Meeting called to order at: 5:33pm

Attendance

- OPOC Commissioners present: Ladd Smith, Luc Jasmin, Amy McColm
- OPO staff members present: Bart Logue, Luvimae Omana, Christina Coty
- City Legal – Tim Szambelan

Briefing Session

- Agenda – Approved
- February Minutes – Approved

Items Session

- **Public Forum:**
 - Anwar Peace
 - Discussed how 10 years ago the SPD asked the Department of Justice to come in to conduct a technical assistance reform initiative. This resulted in 42 recommendations. One of the recommendations was to have the Ombudsman sit on the Chief Advisory Board. The Ombudsman has since been removed from that Board.
 - Mr. Peace asked for an additional DOJ technical assistance reform review
 - Debbie Novak
 - Spokane is in crisis for deaths of community members at the hands of police. We are currently ranked #2 in the nation. This is very unique for a city of our size and is alarming.
 - Hog-Tying was banned in the latest legislative session
- **Guest Speaker: Detective Dave Dunkin – Police Guild President & Sgt Trevor Winters – Police Guild Vice President**
 - Focus on bills statewide WACops State wide largest and oldest representation for Washington
 - Encouraged with the new administration. He's optimistic that the chronic issues that we have.
 - Either party can request to re-open the contract and negotiate further.
 - Contract expires in 2026, Negotiations should start prior to expiration but City of Spokane is notoriously waiting for the contract expires
- **Ombudsman February and March Monthly Report:**
 - March was insanely busy
 - Declined 1 case – The case was discovered during the annual report process.
 - The case was involving a 270 employee
 - Post the public safety meeting to the OPOC FB page
 - Themes in review boards – De-Escalation

Commission Business

- **Introductions:**
- **Pursuits:** Sgt Winters discussed the changes of legislation - a Police Officer cannot pursue unless the person has broken the law. This was just rolled back to levels prior to 2020.
 - SPD will review the risk vs. the reward
 - The officers do not need to ask to pursue, they just need to let them know.
 - Goes into effect in June
- **OPOC Legal**
 - Advertisement Spokane County Calendar Call, Gazette,
 - Motion to search with limitations – Approved
 - Sheila Hansen will help with Scope.
- **Commissioner Speak Out**
 - **Jasmin** – Excited to have Amy and the people who came tonight

Motion Passes or Fails: 3

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:42pm

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

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

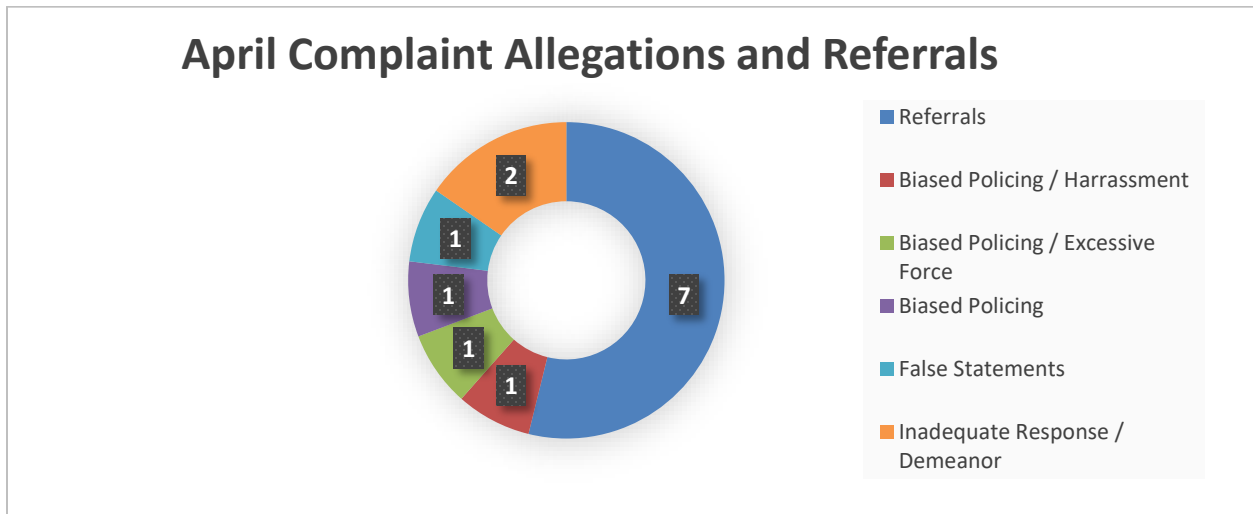


Office of the Police Ombudsman

Public Safety & Community Health Committee Report

Reporting Period: April 1-30, 2024

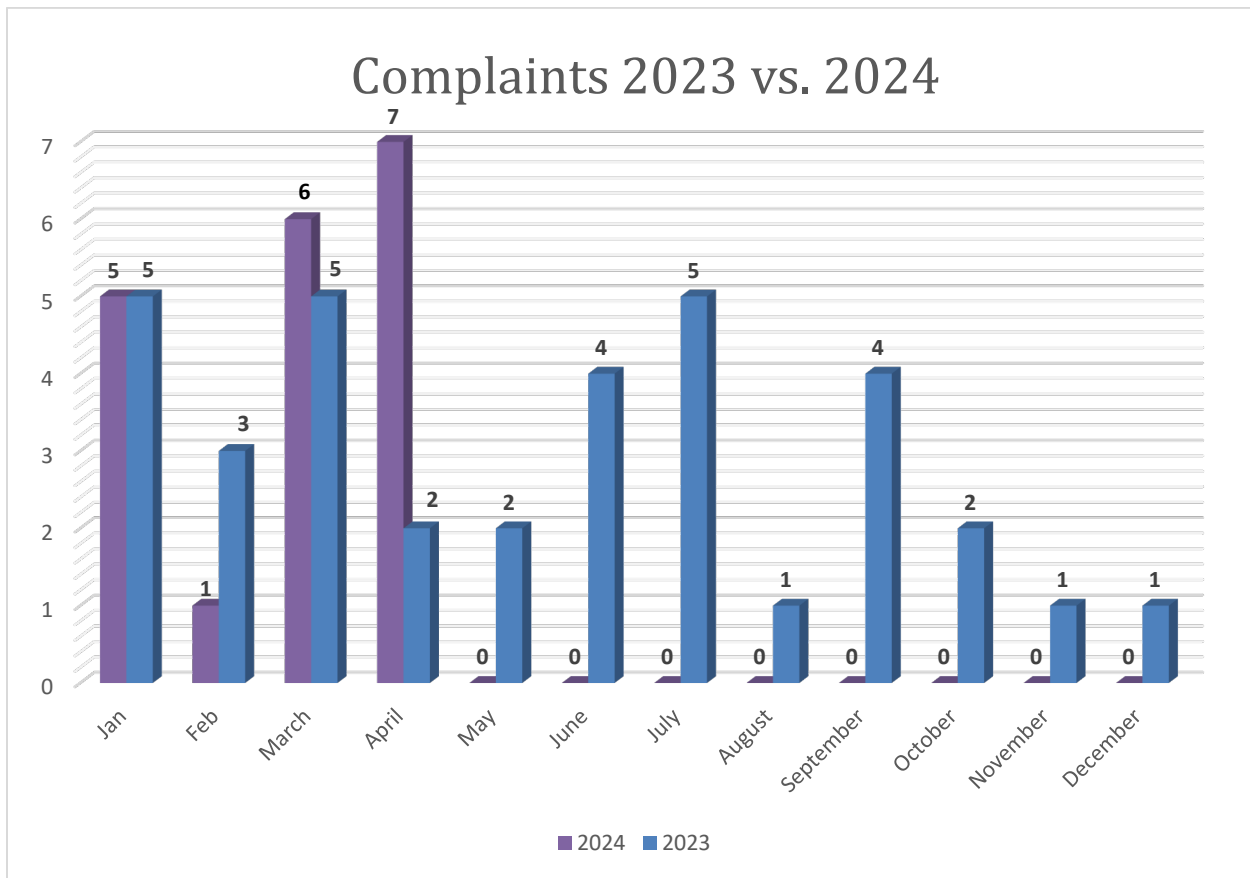
Complaints and Referrals



In April, the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPO) submitted 7 complaints and 4 referrals to the Spokane Police Department (SPD) Internal Affairs. The OPO also submitted 2 referrals to the Spokane County Sheriff Office (SCSO) and 1 referral to Detention Services.

- OPO 24-04: A community member stated that they have been targeted and racially profiled by an officed who has issued 2 moving violations to them in 2 months
- OPO 24-14: A community member stated that they were given a speeding ticket that he believes was based on inaccuracies
- OPO 24-15: A community member was frustrated that responding officers did not help to get their property back and refused to give their names
- OPO 24-16: A community member was frustrated that their assault was not investigated
- OPO 24-17: A community member stated that they were followed by officers due to their race
- OPO 24-18: A community member stated that they were racially profiled and excessive force was used on them. The community member was not the person the officers were looking for
- OPO 24-19: A community member contacted SPD to have them come out and pick up a bag of bullets that were found in a public park, they were initially told that they would not come out. The officer who did respond then educated the community member that the bullets should have been locked up
- ER 24-19: A community member is frustrated that deputies entered their home with their ex to grab their things without knocking; SCSO

- IR 24-20: A community member wanted to file a complaint on SPD. The complaint had already been filed and investigated; SPD / IA
- ER 24-21: A community member stated that officers of the jail lost their belongings; Detention Services
- IR 24-22: A community member is frustrated with officers continuously breaking into their apartment and moving items around; SPD / IA
- ER 24-23: A community member was concerned that their abuser is not being held accountable and was only charged with 4th degree assault; SCSO
- IR 24-24: A community member needs assistance due to their son stealing around \$200k from his deceased parents bank account; SPD / IA
- IR 24-25: A community member is frustrated that the person who threatened to shoot their child was not investigated; SPD /IA

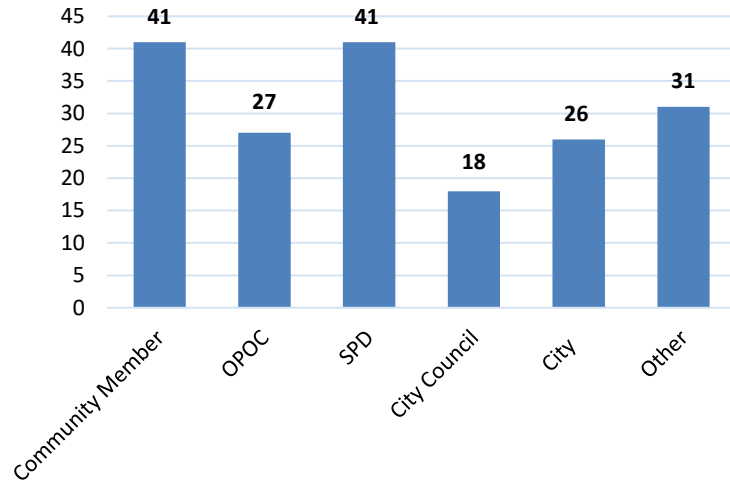


Contacts / Oversight

Contacts / Oversight

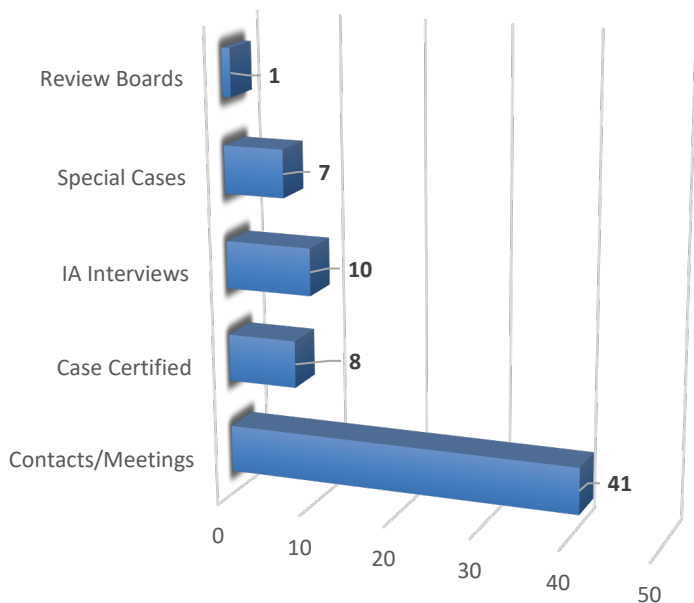
- 184 total contacts
- 15 OPO interviews were conducted
- 41 total SPD contacts

April Contacts



Oversight Activities

April SPD Engagement



Case Work

8 – Cases certified
10 – IA Interviews

Review Board

Cases

7 – Use Of Force
0 – K9
0 – Collision
0 – Pursuit

Critical Incidents

OIS on 4/19/2024
On Shadle Park

Training / Other Activities



Highlights:

- Community Meetings / Events – OPOC Meeting, Leadership Spokane Board Meeting (2), PSCHC Meeting, Leadership Spokane Class Day – Human Needs, other meetings (8)
- Oversight / Outreach – IA Biweekly meeting, NACOLE board meeting (2), NACOLE Committee meeting (5)
- Training – Journeyman Leadership training (2), Leadership retreat, NACOLE Webinar – Using Data and Collaboration to Drive Innovative Change
- OPOC Community Meetings – NAACP, Chief Garry Park Neighborhood Council, Public Safety Community meetings (2), OPOC meeting

Upcoming:

- OPOC Mayoral appointment
- WSCJTC Commission meeting
- NOLA Peer Review report
- OPO / OPOC Annual report
- Chief of Police hiring panel
- OPO / OPOC budget request

Office of the Police Ombudsman Commission Meeting:
Held in person, the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm
Virtual meeting options available.

Agendas and meeting recordings can be found at:

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

2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

DRAFT



CITY OF SPOKANE
**OFFICE OF THE
POLICE OMBUDS**

808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard
Spokane, Washington 99201
myspokane.org/opo | opo@spokanecity.org

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MEET THE OPO



Bart Logue

Police Ombuds



Luvimae Omana

Deputy Ombuds



Christina Coty

Executive Assistant



Tim Szambelan

OPO Attorney

Our Mission

The Office of Police Ombudsman exists to promote public confidence in the professionalism and accountability of the members of the Spokane Police Department by providing independent review of police actions, thoughtful policy recommendations, and ongoing community outreach.

2023 Office of the Police Ombuds Commission

Commissioners:

Luc Jasmin, Chair
Ladd Smith, Vice-Chair
Jenny Rose
Lili Navarette
James Wilburn

Contact Information:

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my.spokanecity.org/bcc/commissions/ombudsman-commission

MESSAGE FROM THE OMBUDS

Bart Logue



Enclosed is the comprehensive report covering the period from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. Throughout 2023, the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPO) received 1820 contacts, marking a 6% increase from the previous year and surpassing pre-pandemic levels by over 400. We registered 36 OPO-generated complaints, representing a 13% increase from 2022, while overall complaints to the police department decreased by 13%, totaling 77. Additionally, the OPO sent 17 commendations to the police department, doubling the number from the previous year. Our team reviewed 91 cases, certifying 88 and declining to certify three, while also facilitating one case for mediation. Moreover, oversight on Internal Affairs interviews surged to 94, compared to 45 in the previous year.

I wish to underscore the fundamental principles outlined by NACOLE (National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) regarding effective oversight, particularly in light of the recent bargaining session for the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the City of Spokane and the Police Guild. These principles include independence, clearly defined and adequate jurisdiction and authority, sufficient funding and operational resources, and public reporting and authority.

- **Independence:** The cornerstone of effective oversight lies in its independence from law enforcement influence, especially during high-profile issues.
- **Jurisdiction and Authority:** A clear and robust mandate is essential for an oversight agency's efficacy in fulfilling its mission.
- **Funding and Resources:** Adequate financial support ensures thorough, timely, and competent performance of oversight duties, including training and outreach efforts.
- **Public Reporting:** Transparency through public reports enhances an agency's credibility and fosters accountability within the community.

Regrettably, despite our efforts to advocate for these principles during the bargaining sessions, the final revisions to the agreement failed to incorporate our recommendations. Instead, the agreement further constrained our office's autonomy, diminishing our ability to conduct independent investigations and limiting transparency in reporting. Notably, the removal of the Ombudsman from the selection process of the Deputy Ombudsman undermines the integrity of our office.

Budgetary constraints have posed additional challenges, with the city unilaterally reducing funding allocated to the OPO, jeopardizing our operational capacity and training initiatives. As outlined in the Spokane City Charter, the OPO's responsibilities necessitate independence and adequate resources to fulfill its mandated duties.

It is imperative that we address these issues to uphold the integrity of civilian oversight and foster community trust. The forthcoming bargaining session presents an opportunity to rectify these shortcomings and reaffirm our commitment to independence and transparency. Our presentation alongside the Police Guild at the NACOLE conference provided valuable insights, and the opportunity to conduct a peer review in New Orleans underscores the respect our office commands within the oversight community.

Looking ahead to 2024, I remain dedicated to enhancing communication, strengthening community trust, and advocating for the resources necessary to fulfill our mandate. I pledge to collaborate with the City to safeguard the independence of the OPO and advance our efforts towards accountability and transparency.

Highlights

OPO ACTIVITIES

2X*more commendations***109%***more IA interviews*

2023	2022	Change	Highlight of Activities
1820	1715	6%	Citizen contacts
76	93	-18%	Participation or attendance in community meetings and events
17	8	113%	Letters of officer appreciation / commendation
36	31	13%	OPO generated complaints
61	63	-3%	Referrals to other agencies / departments
1	1	0%	Cases offered to SPD for mediation
3	3	0%	Cases declined to certify
88	70	26%	Cases certified
93	83	12%	Interviews of citizens with ongoing or potential complaints
94	45	109%	Oversight of IA interviews
158	156	1%	Special cases reviewed
415	452	-8%	Meetings with SPD
13	20	-35%	SPD review boards

OUTREACH

Oversight Related

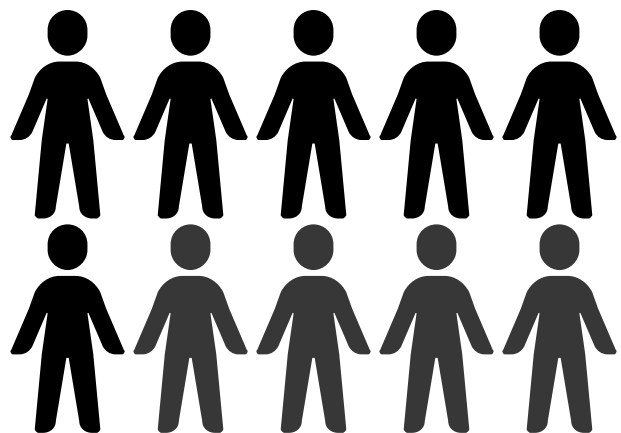
- National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) board meetings
- Washington State Criminal Justice Training Committee meetings
- Facilitated civilian oversight community meeting in Marin County, California
- Pierce County Council oversight assistance
- Peer-to-peer review of the New Orleans Office of the Independent Monitor
- Presented at the North Miami PD oversight 101 training
- Presentation to the United States Ombudsman Association Public Safety Chapter
- Panelists at the NACOLE annual conference
- City Council Annual Report presentation
- Spokane Human Rights Commission presentation

Community Meetings and Events

- Police and community panel at the February OPOC meeting
- Panel of Community Leaders at the Community School
- Good Gab podcast by Skills'kin
- Journey Continues Graduation
- National Night Out
- Unity in the Community
- SPD Annual Awards ceremony
- Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) graduation ceremonies
- North East Youth Family and Educational Services Masquerade Ball
- Leadership Spokane
- SCAR meetings
- P4C SCAR workgroup
- Leadership Round Tables
- Met with interested political candidates

Other

- City negotiation team
- Mayor's Quarterly Meetings
- PSCHC monthly meetings
- Internal Affairs bi-weekly meetings
- Use of Force Review Board
- Collision & Pursuit Review Board
- BLEA mock scenes actor
- Ride alongs with Spokane Police Department

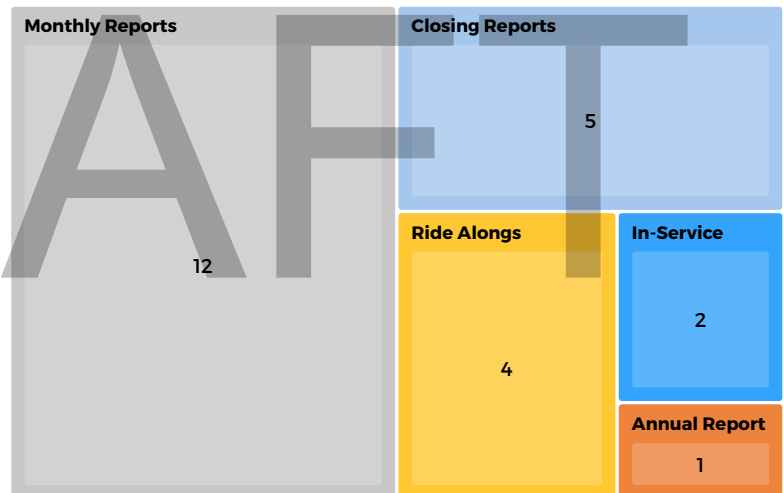


TRAINING

- NACOLE annual conference
- NACOLE webinars
- SPD In-Service training
- Constitutional policing conference
- International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference
- Benton-Franklin County Federal Civil Trial Practice seminar
- Public Records Act University training by the Attorney General's Office
- WSBA webinars

REPORTING

The OPO issued 12 monthly reports and five closing reports in 2023 with 13 recommendations. The underlying themes through most reports were compliance with policy to refer cases of potential misconduct to Internal Affairs and providing feedback to chain of command reviewers and tracking the recommendations made during the reviews.



The reports involved issues of:

- critical evaluation of force;
- regulating the approved tactics and force officers can use;
- SPD classifying intentional pointing of a firearm as a Training Failure despite teaching “on target, on trigger” for at least 10 years;
- chain of command review procedures; and
- SPD’s creation and use of the Administrative Review category outside of policy.

For more information on reports, visit <https://my.spokanecity.org/opo/documents/>.

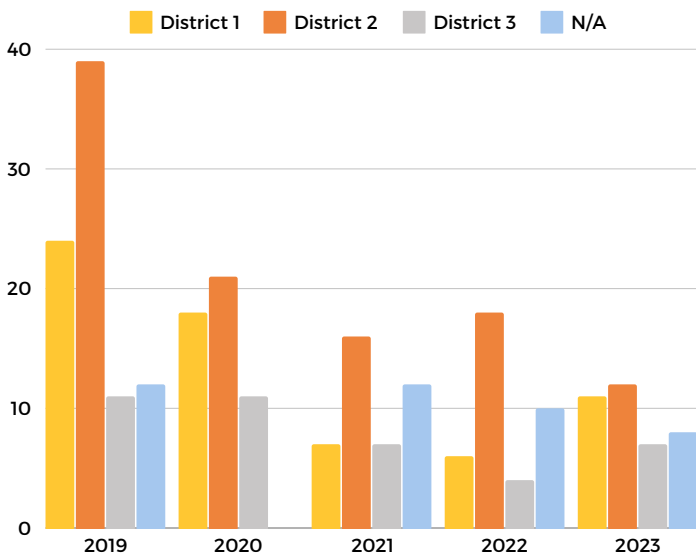
COMMENDATIONS, COMPLAINTS, & REFERRALS

The OPO submitted 17 commendations to SPD and forwarded 36 complaints to Internal Affairs for investigation. District 2 generated the most complaints from the community. There were 175 total allegations made in 77 complaints. The community made 65 of the complaints and 12 were internally generated. The most common complaints were on Inadequate Response and Demeanor.

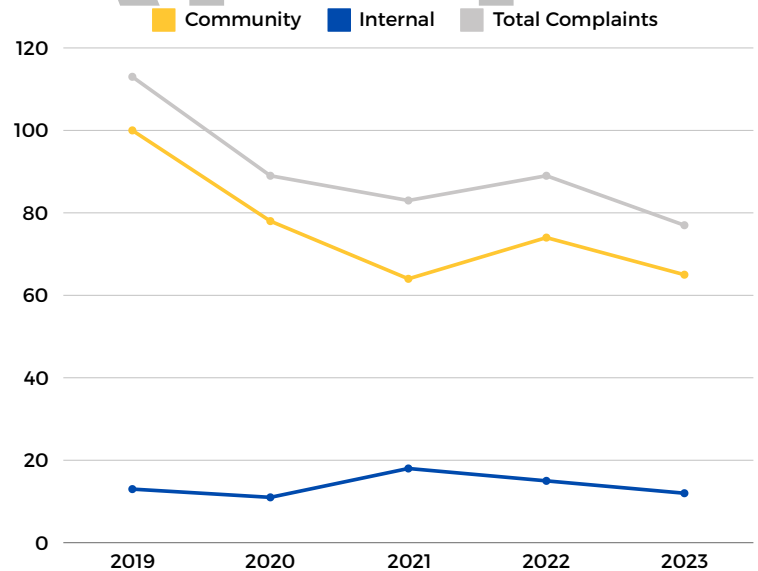
77
total complaints

13%
decrease in total complaints

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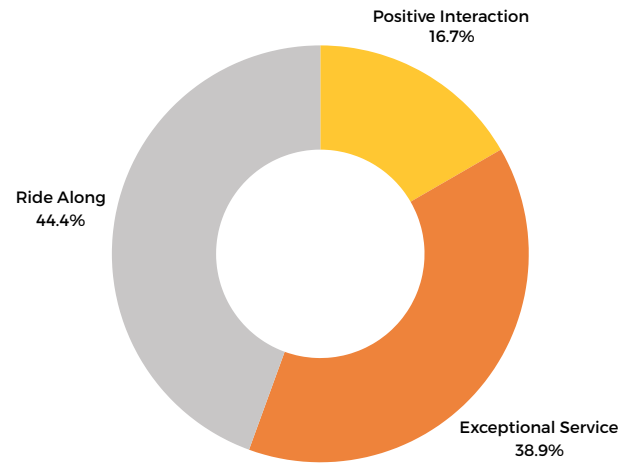
Five year complaints by City Council district



Five year complaint trends

Commendations

The OPO submitted 17 commendations or letters of appreciation. Nine were submitted by the OPO or OPOC Commission for ride alongs. An OPOC Commissioner submitted a separate commendation letter for officers as well. The community submitted eight commendations for positive interactions with officers and for receiving exceptional service.



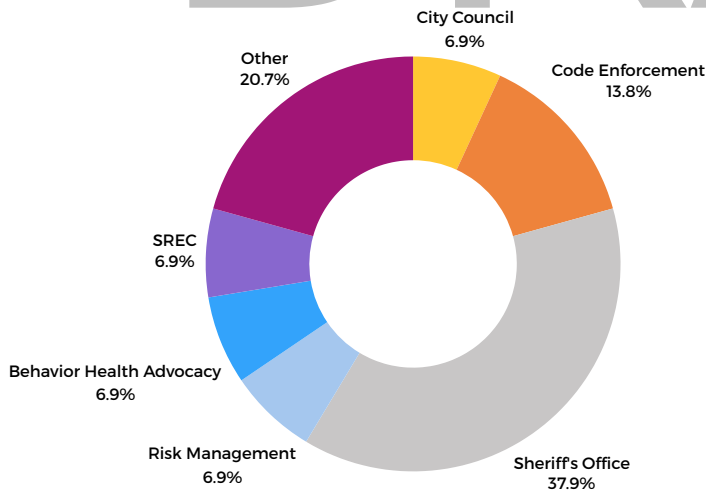
Types of commendations or letters of appreciation the OPO submitted

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Referrals

The OPO submitted 61 referrals with 32 internal referrals made and 29 external referrals made. Referrals decreased by 3%. Most external referrals were made to the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office followed by various other agencies or offices including:

- Frontier Behavioral Health
- Human Resources department
- Human Rights Commission
- Detention Services
- Mayor’s Office
- Streets department



Complaints that were referred outside of IA

Internal referrals are all made to the police department. A majority of referrals were sent to IA, with IA forwarding some referrals to Dispatch, the False Alarm Program, and the front desk for follow up.

Complaints Analysis

The most common types of complaints received from the community were Inadequate Response and Demeanor, followed by Excessive Force, Standard/Policy Violation, and Biased Policing. The most common internal complaint is Standard/Policy violation.

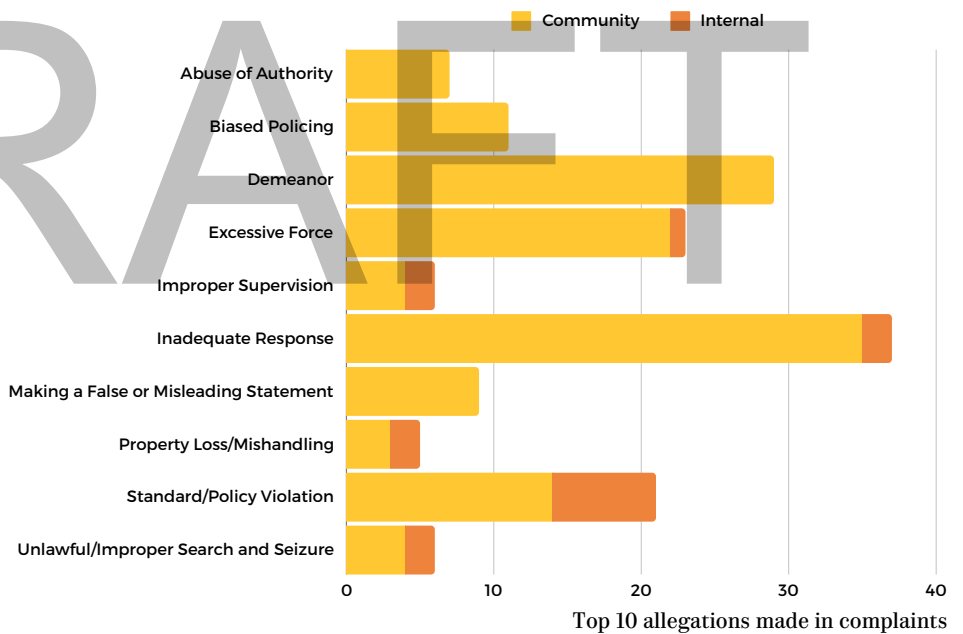
For full details on OPO complaints, visit: <https://my.spokanecity.org/opo/complaints/>.

3X
more biased policing allegations

2
**officers terminated*

*2nd officer was terminated after 2023 data was analyzed

- Examples of Standard/Policy Violations**
- Engaging in on-duty sexual relations
 - Insubordination
 - Supervisor policy compliance
 - Mishandling evidence
 - Falsification of records
 - Prohibited speech
 - Off-duty actions
 - Civil Service rule/City policy



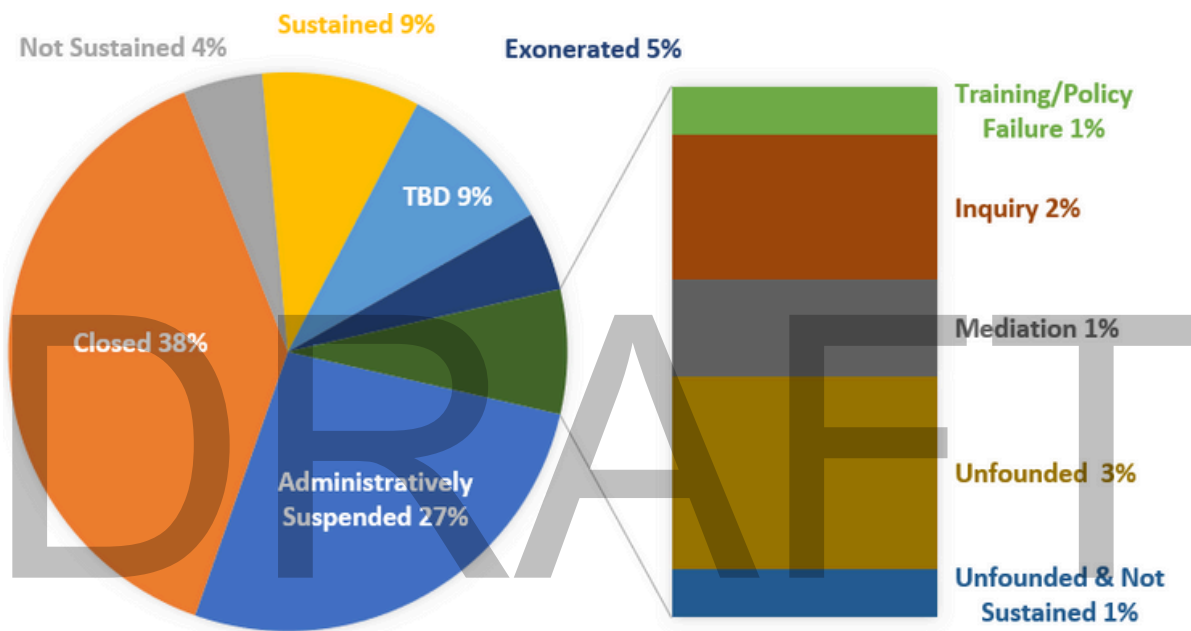
While there are numerous allegations of Excessive Force and Biased Policing, six of the 34 allegations warranted a chain of command review. 27 of the 34 allegations of Excessive Force and Biased Policing were closed or administratively suspended. One allegation was mediated.

Most internal complaints were standard/policy violations. This is the catch-all category for any policy violation outside of those frequently used. Examples of allegations made are provided above.

Outcomes of Allegations

Community complaints

The most common outcomes for community made complaints were Closed or Administratively Suspended for a combination of 65% of all community made allegations. 21% of allegations received a chain of command review with 9% Sustained finding and 8% either Exonerated or Unfounded.



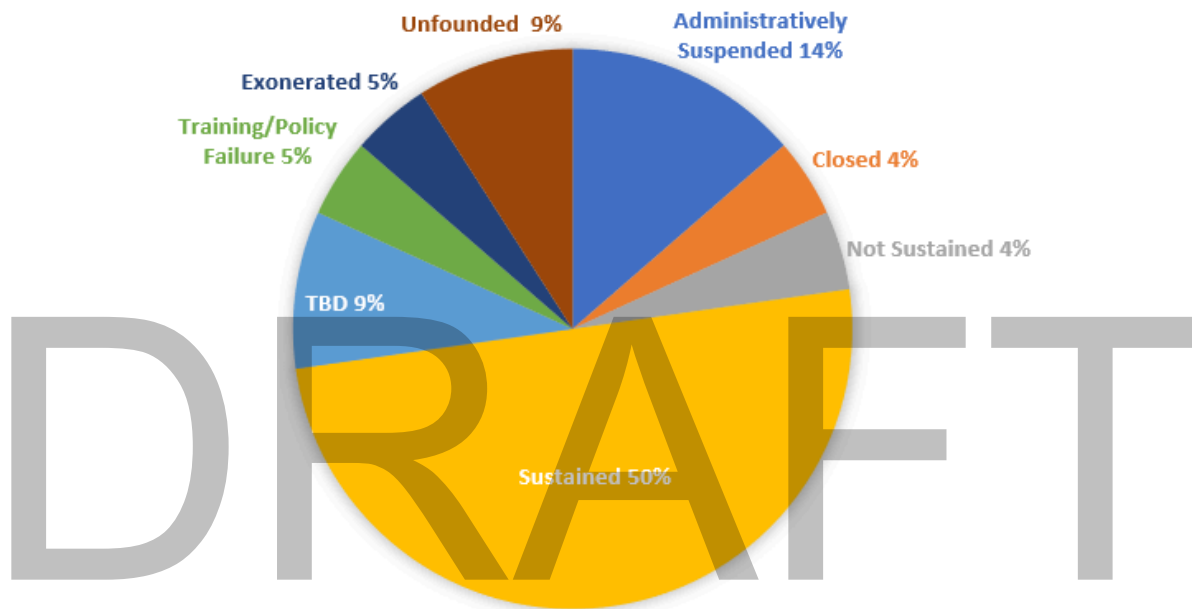
Community complaint outcomes

The OPO and IA have worked to efficiently review complaints that do not rise to the level of a chain of command review through the Closed or Administratively Suspended classification. Complaints are closed when they are disproven upon initial review of body worn camera footage or other evidence and both the IA Lieutenant and the Ombuds agree are properly classified as Unfounded,

Exonerated, Not Sustained, or Training Failure. 41% of Administratively Suspended allegations are sent to a supervisor for informal follow-up for minor allegations. This system ensures the complaints receive proper review and closure and supervisors can counsel or mentor officers on minor infractions.

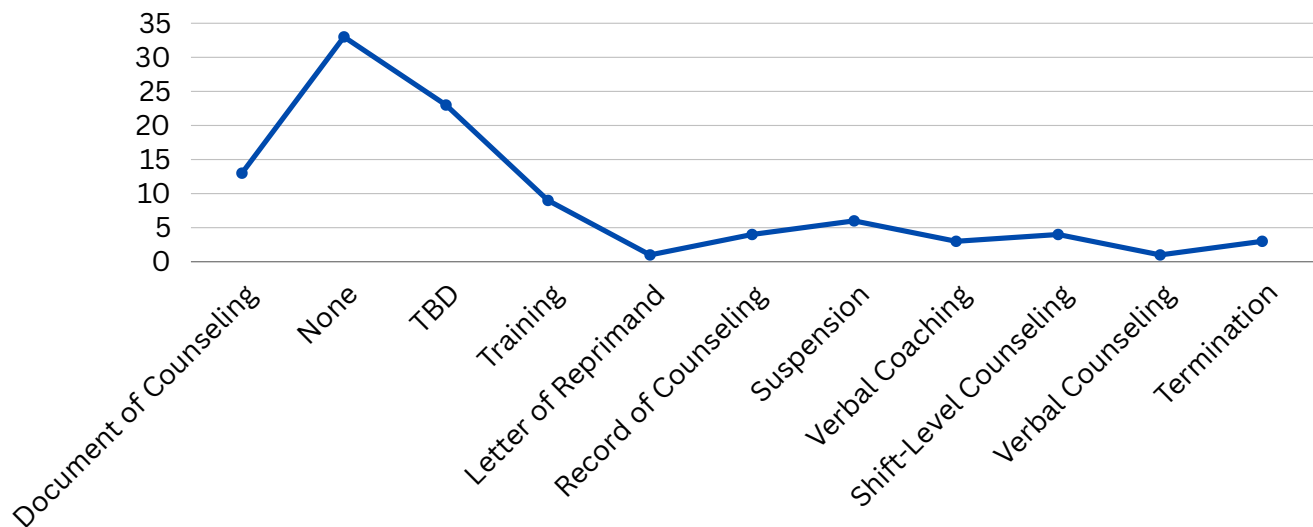
Internal complaints

The most common outcome for internally made complaints was Sustained at 50% of all internally made allegations. The remaining allegations reviewed by the chain of command were not sustained, unfounded, exonerated, or were considered a training/policy failure at 23%. 18% of internal complaints were Closed or Administratively Suspended and did not receive a chain of command review.



Internal complaint outcomes

Discipline



Disciplinary findings by the chain of command

STATISTICS OF INTEREST

The data in this section is provided by SPD. The OPO has tracked this data to provide the public with general information on some statistics that may be of interest.

20%

increase in UOF from 2020

7,000

increase in calls for service since 2020

	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change From Previous Year
Non-Deadly Use of Force	71	66	80	85	6%
Critical Incidents	3	2	5	2	below average
Pursuits	14	13	11	12*	9%
Preventable Collisions	17	31	29	35	21%
Officer Response to Calls for Service	100,468	94,300	99,751	107,567	8%

*Pursuits are still pending review
Four years of statistics of interest

The statistics of interest remained mostly stable but slightly increased across all data points tracked. Use of force incidents has increased every year since 2020. This may be in part due to the changes in the Washington State Legislature that impacts police tactics and use of force.

Prior to legislative changes, SPD had 71 use of force incidents in 2020. This represents a 20% increase from 2020 to 2023. Preventable collisions have steadily increased from 2020 by 106%. Lastly calls for service bounced back from pandemic levels and increased by 7% compared to 2020.

Critical Incidents

Critical Incident #1	
5th & Browne	
May 10, 2023	Race: White
	Status: Deceased

Summary

Officers responded to a report of a male brandishing a firearm. They located the subject, who fled in an occupied vehicle. Despite attempts to pin the vehicle, the subject escaped on foot. One officer pursued on foot. The subject eventually stopped, faced the officer, and the officer fired one round.

Critical Incident #2	
9212 North Colton Street	
December 3, 2023	Race: White
	Status: Deceased

Summary

Around 9:30am, an SPD officer on shoplifting prevention duty at Walmart spotted a subject attempting theft. Backup was called, and both officers approached the subject as they exited the store. A prolonged confrontation ensued, involving attempted TASER applications. At roughly 10:20am, an officer-involved shooting took place.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The OPO wrote five closing reports and issued 13 recommendations. Closing reports are based on complaints, uses of force, collisions, and pursuits. To view full recommendations and SPD's responses, please visit <https://my.spokanecity.org/opo/recommendations/2023/>.

Update on 2022 Recommendations

1. Prohibition on striking handcuffed subjects - **In Progress, collaboration with the OPO**
2. Request for public records - **TBD with City Administration**
3. Universal policy and disclosure agreement for all city employees - **TBD with City Administration**

Police Chief's Responses



8 of 13 implemented

Implemented



4 of 13 not implemented

Not Implemented



1 partially/not implemented

**Partly Implemented /
Partly Not Implemented**

Recommendation Topics

Implemented

SPD implemented 8 of the 13 recommendations made by the OPO. The common themes of these recommendations were proper classification, communicating department expectations, and review procedures of cases going through the chain of command. OPO recommendations include:

- procedures when an undocumented use of force is discovered;
- strengthening the Administrative Review Panel's analysis;

- evaluating the necessity of each application of force;
- Administrative Reviews should be clearly addressed by policy;
- providing feedback to supervisors with departmental guidance;
- tracking recommendations made during chain of command reviews;
- clearly defining the limits of the Training Failure category; and
- using metrics to ensure supervisory and review board evaluations are tracked and evaluated to uphold policy and high standards.

Partly Implemented / Partly Not Implemented

SPD partly implemented and partly did not implement an OPO recommendation on implementing a tracking system that accounts for all uses of force. SPD cited being limited by technology but would be willing to work with the OPO to come up with solutions. They hope to have the requisite technology by the fourth quarter of 2024 pending approval for funding.

The second part of this recommendation involved updating the terminology in its manual on non-reportable force. SPD implemented this portion of the recommendation.

Recommendation Topics (cont).

Not Implemented

SPD did not implement 4 of the 13 recommendations the OPO made. As discussed above, proper classification and review procedures of cases going through the chain of command were the focus of closing reports in 2023. SPD policy requires reviewers make “in” or “out” of policy determinations and any potential misconduct discovered should be sent to IA for investigation. However, in practice, the chain of command makes disciplinary decisions without an IA investigation which shortcuts officer due process rights.

These include recommendations on:

- forwarding new allegations of misconduct in a review to IA for investigation;
- allegations of misconduct labeled as “Administrative Review” be sent to IA for investigation;
- update use of force policy language; and
- updating policy to ensure proper determinations that limit findings to “in” or “out” of policy and forwarding allegations of misconduct to IA for investigation.

OPO 2023 Complaints

Visit the OPO webpage to view a full summary of complaints received.



2023

DRAFT
ANNUAL

REPORT



**OFFICE OF THE
POLICE OMBUDS
COMMISSION**

808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard
Spokane, Washington 99201

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OPO COMMISSION



Ladd Smith, vice-chair (left); Lili Navarrete (middle); Luc Jasmin III, chair (top right); Jenny Rose (bottom right)

Our Mission

The Office of Police Ombudsman Commission exists to promote public confidence in the professionalism and accountability of the members of the Spokane Police Department by providing, through the Ombudsman, independent review of police actions, thoughtful policy recommendations, and ongoing community outreach. The Commission also assists the OPO in communicating with Spokane's diverse communities and the general public about the complaint filing and investigation process.

509-625-6755 (voicemail) | 509-625-6748 (fax)

opocommission@spokanecity.org

my.spokanecity.org/bcc/commissions/ombudsman-commission

Monthly meetings every 3rd Tuesday at 5:30pm at City Hall

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Luc Jasmin III



In 2023, the OPOC experienced a continued lack of support from the City Administration and City Council. Despite the City Administrator's invitation for the Police Ombudsman to participate in contract negotiations, the Police Guild collective bargaining agreement (CBA) adopted by the City Council not only ignored the Ombudsman's input but also curtailed the Ombudsman's authority without prior discussion. The OPOC aligns with the OPO's advocacy for negotiations to align the CBA with the City Charter.

Significant budget cuts to the OPO and OPOC 2024 budget further confirmed the Administration's efforts to limit the OPO's authority. Budget independence is crucial to the overall success of civilian oversight. However, the OPOC recognizes the City's current budget deficit required all departments to make concessions. The OPO agreed to reduce expenses on its already bare bones budget. Then, additional funding cuts were unilaterally made that greatly impacted operations and employee benefits. The OPOC fully supports the OPO's efforts to reestablish its budget and gain budgetary independence.

Additionally, the Spokane Police Department (SPD) declined to adopt four of the OPO's recommendations from the previous year. These recommendations primarily concern misconduct allegations discovered during different complaint reviews or use of force incidents, which the SPD categorized as "minor" policy violations and handled outside the formal complaint investigation process in a new category called "Administrative Review." This artificially lowers the number of alleged policy violations and denies officers due process and creating a new review system separate from established protocols.

Summary of

OPOC ACTIONS & DEVELOPMENTS

The OPOC held a combination of six regular meetings and one special meeting. The OPOC continued use of the hybrid format of in-person and virtual meetings to provide greater public access to monthly meetings.

7

OPOC meetings

13 OF 13

*OPO
recommendations
approved*

Approved OPO recommendations to SPD

1. In August, the OPOC approved five recommendations, R23-01 to R23-05, based on two closing reports. One report was on an Internal Affairs complaint, C23-052 / C21-051 / C22-052, and the other report was from a pursuit review, P22-011.
2. In September, the OPOC approved three recommendations, R23-06 to R23-08, based on one closing report on a use of force, F23-009.
3. In November, the OPOC approved five recommendations, R23-09 to R23-13, based on two closing reports on use of force cases, F22-064 and F23-035.

OPOC hosted a police reform panel discussion

In February, the OPOC hosted a panel on police reform which included stakeholders from the community, City officials, and law enforcement. This panel inspired the OPOC to regularly invite local leaders to speak at OPOC meetings and provide greater visibility of their organizations to the community. Guests have included the Spokane Chief of Police, SPD Police Guild President, City Council President, the OPO intern, local pastors, and the Spokane County Sheriff. The OPOC looks forward to building and expanding this initiative in the upcoming year.

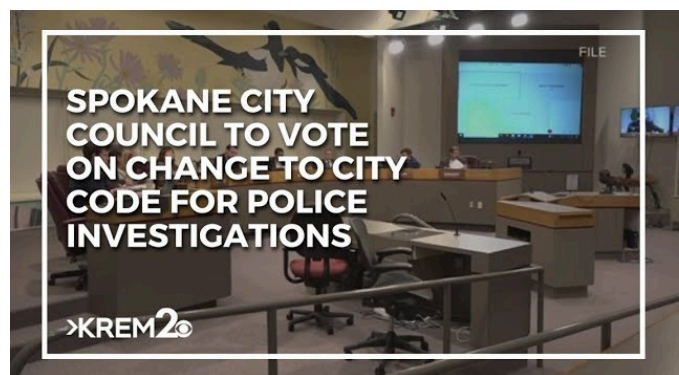


Left to right: Breean Beggs, Walter Kendricks, John Nowels, and Craig Meidl

OPOC voted on procedural language for investigations on the Chief of Police

After the OPO's initial independent investigation, concerns arose regarding investigating the Chief of Police. Previously, the Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) provided complaints against the Chief of Police be forwarded to Human Resources. In June 2023, the City Council amended the SMC to empower the OPO to investigate the Chief.

To ensure continuity, the OPOC voted on on procedural language that made the Commission the final authority on complaints against the Police Ombudsman.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Commissioner Rose (left) and Sheriff Nowels with students from the Community School

In 2023, Commissioners continued to focus on community engagement. Commissioners attended: the Martin Luther King Jr. March, Community Police Reform Panel, National Night Out, a panel of community leaders at the Community School, Northeast Youth and Family Services Masquerade Ball and fundraiser, and Neighborhood Council meetings, NAACP meetings.

TRAINING

Training opportunities in civilian oversight continue to be an area of focus for the Commissioners. However, the opportunities during 2023 continued to be limited with non-essential travel being restricted by the Administration. Despite this, two Commissioners attended the NACOLE (National Association of Civilian Oversight over Law Enforcement) Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois. In March, the OPOC conducted a follow up strategic planning/training retreat that was facilitated by the Executive Director of NACOLE.

OPO RECOMMENDATIONS

The OPO wrote five closing reports and issued 13 recommendations. Closing reports are based on complaints, uses of force, collisions, and pursuits. To view full recommendations and SPD's responses, please visit <https://my.spokanecity.org/opo/recommendations/2023/>.

Update on 2022 Recommendations

1. Prohibition on striking handcuffed subjects - **In Progress, collaboration with the OPO**
2. Request for public records - **TBD with City Administration**
3. Universal policy and disclosure agreement for all city employees - **TBD with City Administration**

Police Chief's Responses



8 of 13 implemented

Implemented



1 partially/not implemented

**Partly Implemented /
Partly Not Implemented**



4 of 13 not implemented

Not Implemented

Recommendation Topics

Implemented

SPD implemented 8 of the 13 recommendations made by the OPO. The common themes of these recommendations were proper classification, communicating department expectations, and review procedures of cases going through the chain of command. OPO recommendations include:

- procedures when an undocumented use of force is discovered;
- strengthening the Administrative Review Panel's analysis;
- evaluating the necessity of each application of force;
- Administrative Reviews should be clearly addressed by policy;
- providing feedback to supervisors with departmental guidance;
- tracking recommendations made during chain of command reviews;
- clearly defining the limits of the Training Failure category; and
- using metrics to ensure supervisory and review board evaluations are tracked and evaluated to uphold policy and high standards.

Partly Implemented / Partly Not Implemented

SPD partly implemented and partly did not implement an OPO recommendation on implementing a tracking system that accounts for all uses of force. SPD cited being limited by technology but would be willing to work with the OPO to come up with solutions. They hope to have the requisite technology by the fourth quarter of 2024 pending approval for funding.

The second part of this recommendation involved updating the terminology in its manual on non-reportable force. SPD implemented this portion of the recommendation.

Recommendation Topics (cont).

Not Implemented

SPD did not implement 4 of the 13 recommendations the OPO made. As discussed above, proper classification and review procedures of cases going through the chain of command were the focus of closing reports in 2023. SPD policy requires reviewers make “in” or “out” of policy determinations and any potential misconduct discovered should be sent to IA for investigation. However, in practice, the chain of command makes disciplinary decisions without an IA investigation which shortcuts officer due process rights.

These include recommendations on:

- forwarding new allegations of misconduct in a review to IA for investigation;
- allegations of misconduct labeled as “Administrative Review” be sent to IA for investigation;
- update use of force policy language; and
- updating policy to ensure proper determinations that limit findings to “in” or “out” of policy and forwarding allegations of misconduct to IA for investigation.



OPO EVALUATION

In 2023, the OPO's community engagement increased significantly. They responded to 1820 contacts, conducted 93 interviews with community members regarding complaints, and participated in 94 officer and complainant interviews within SPD. Additionally, they attended 415 SPD meetings and 13 review boards. The OPO oversaw 36 complaints against SPD, totaling oversight of 77 complaints, and made 61 referrals. They remained active in statewide and national oversight efforts.

In terms of reporting, the OPO issued five reports with 13 recommendations, focusing on policy and procedure improvements. These reports addressed opportunities for enhancing policy, training, and communication within the department, particularly regarding case review procedures and feedback mechanisms.

Mr. Logue actively furthered the OPO's mission by engaging with the Administration, Police Guild, and Spokane Police Department to address challenges. Despite negotiation setbacks, he persisted, enhancing oversight of investigations. He offered strategic recommendations to the police department based on Spokane incidents, complaints, and relevant events from other areas.

Beyond his office duties, Mr. Logue maintained a strong presence in the oversight community. He participated as a panelist at the 2023 NACOLE Annual Conference and serves on the national board of NACOLE, he chaired both the Board and Executive Board for Leadership Spokane, and is a commissioner for the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission.

Ms. Omana consistently enhanced the OPO's professional reputation through thorough research and recommendation presentations. She adeptly facilitated mediations and collaborated closely with the IA Lieutenant to guide investigations, providing detailed feedback for improvement. As a review board member, she reviewed various reports and body camera footage, sharing insights for training and policy enhancement. Additionally, she played a key role in organizing a panel for the 2023 annual conference, featuring representatives from the OPO, Police Guild, and the former Denver monitor.

OPO EVALUATION (CONT.)

Ms. Coty efficiently manages OPOC meetings, offers exceptional customer service, and enhances administrative practices. Despite challenges, particularly in accounting and travel, she diligently works to achieve positive outcomes and improve processes. Her meticulousness ensures prompt availability of office products and effective preparation for public meetings. She excels in problem-solving and contributes significantly to creating and implementing solutions.

Overall, the OPOC commends Mr. Logue's leadership in advancing police oversight in Spokane in 2023. Despite obstacles, he remains a steadfast advocate for the OPO's mission, driving progress forward.

DRAFT