



## **MEETING AGENDA**

Tuesday, April 15, 2025  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
City Council Chambers

### **Commissioners:**

Jenny Rose  
Luc Jasmin III  
Amy McColm  
Ladd Smith  
Phillip Wetzel

### **OPO Staff:**

Bart Logue  
Luvimae Omana  
Christina Coty  
**OPOC Legal Counsel**  
Brennan Schriebman

### **Introduction** - *Commissioner Rose*

1. Welcome
2. Agenda and minutes approval
3. Public forum
4. Guest Speaker - Assistant Chief of Police - Matt Cowles

### **OPO Reports** - *Ombuds Bart Logue and Deputy Ombuds Luvimae Omana*

1. March Monthly Report
2. OPO Annual Report

### **Commission Business** - *Commissioner Rose*

1. OPOC Annual Report
2. OPO / OPOC Annual Report approvals
3. OPOC Retreat agenda topics
4. Legal advisor information
5. Training at SPD Academy
6. May Meeting
7. Commissioners speak out
8. Adjournment

The next scheduled OPOC meeting will be held on May 20, 2025

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# Office of Police Ombuds Commission Minutes

**March 18, 2025**

Meeting Minutes: 1:28

Meeting called to order at: 5:32

## Attendance

- OPOC Commissioners present: Jenny Rose, Luc Jasmin, Ladd Smith, Amy McColm, Phillip Wetzel
- OPOC Commissioner absent: None
- OPO staff members present: Bart Logue, Luvimae Omana, Christina Coty
- OPOC Legal – Brennan Schreiber

## Briefing Session

- Agenda – Commissioner McColm motioned to approve the agenda; Commissioner Wetzel seconded
  - 4 commissioners approved
  - 1 abstention
- February Minutes – Commissioner McColm motioned to approve the minutes; Commissioner Smith seconded
  - 4 commissioners approved
  - 1 abstention

## Items Session

- Public Forum: No one signed up to speak
- Ombuds Monthly Report for February:
  - 183 contacts in month, 21 interviews, 5 complaints and 8 referrals, 6 cases certified, 1 case returned for further investigation, 11 special cases reviewed, 1, review board, 15 IA interviews, 52 SPD meetings, 16 community meetings, 2 trainings
  - SPD Invitation for the OPOC to attend a training at the SPD Academy April 18<sup>th</sup>. Flyer will be coming. A notice will need to be posted regarding a quorum of the OPOC being present, but no business of the commission will be conducted.

## Commission Business

- OPOC Expansion Resolution Draft –
  - Discussed the pros and cons of adding additional commissioners. Commissioner McColm recommended working with the resolution language but holding off on the expansion until we are more stable with the replacements of commissioners who are leaving.
  - There were questions regarding when to use the legal advisor and when to use OPO staff for administrative work.
  - Executive session for April's meeting to discuss the legal budgetary concerns
  - Commissioner McColm motioned to table the discussion of the expansion of the commission until the retreat; Commissioner Smith seconded

- 5 commissioners approved
- Guest Speakers
  - The commission discussed several options for guest speakers
  - Mayor, Jarrel Haynes, Human Rights Commission, Chief Hall, Assistant Chiefs, Police Guild, Walter Kendrick (SCAR), NROs, WA Coalition for Police Accountability, IA
- OPOC Retreat / June Meeting
  - OPOC Retreat Scheduled for June 26-27
  - No meeting for June
  - Christina will send out the training from examples
- Commissioner Speak out
  - McColm – Was happy to see that the SPD was training on the recommendations that the OPO made. She had concerns about the Blue Lives Matter flag and that an officer was wearing a punisher emblem on their uniform at the range. She went on a ride along with a Sgt. and it was great
  - Wetzel – Also went on an SPD ride along and attended the SPD in-service and it was great
  - Jasmin – Was dis-heartened about the Blue Lives Matter flag. Hoping that SPD Awards will have representation from the OPOC
  - Smith – Nothing
  - Rose – Nothing

**Motion Passes or Fails: 3**

**Meeting Adjourned at: 7:20**

**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/>

2025 / MAR

Public Safety & Community Health Committee

# MONTHLY REPORT



OFFICE OF THE  
POLICE OMBUDS  
INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT

# HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

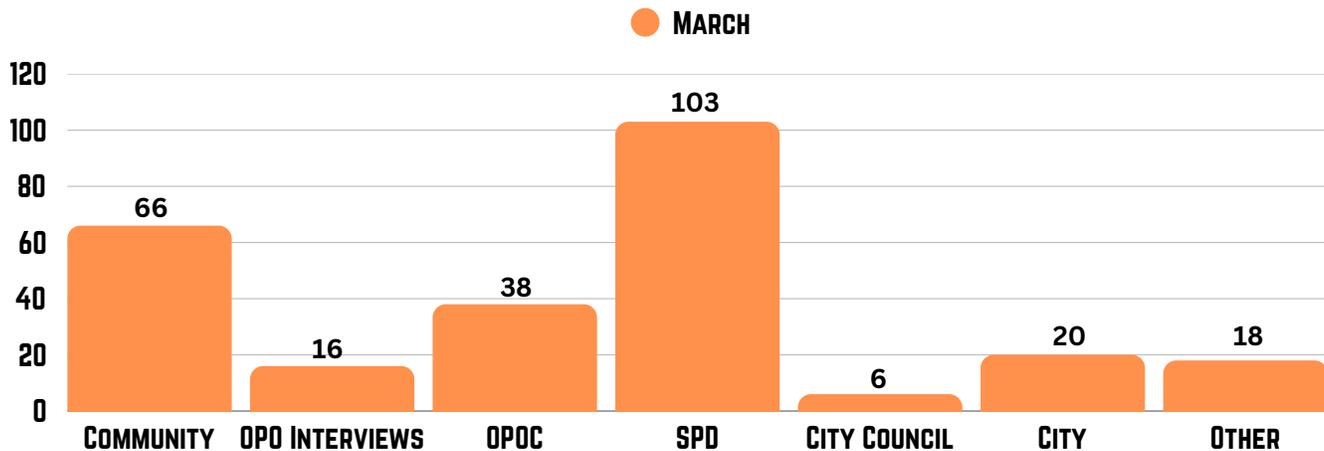
Current	YTD	Contacts, Complaints, and Referrals
267	<b>678</b>	Contacts
16	<b>61</b>	OPO interviews
1	<b>3</b>	Letters of officer appreciation / commendations
4	<b>16</b>	OPO generated complaints
5	<b>19</b>	Referrals to other agencies / departments
0	<b>0</b>	Cases offered to SPD for mediation
0	<b>0</b>	Mediation completed

Current	YTD	IA Investigation Oversight
11	<b>25</b>	Cases certified
0	<b>1</b>	Cases returned for further investigation
0	<b>0</b>	Cases declined to certify
0	<b>0</b>	Web cases reviewed
8	<b>35</b>	Oversight of IA interviews

Current	YTD	Other Oversight Activities
14	<b>56</b>	Special cases reviewed*
2	<b>6</b>	SPD review boards / D-ARPs
55	<b>182</b>	Meetings with SPD
8	<b>21</b>	Oversight meetings
17	<b>50</b>	Community meetings
7	<b>10</b>	Training
0	<b>2</b>	Critical incidents

\*Use of Force, K9, Collisions, Pursuits, and AR

# CONTACTS



## Community meetings

- OPOC Meeting
- Community School Panel
- SPD Employee and Volunteer Awards
- Youth Leadership Spokane Governance Day
- Magnusen Club Guest Speaker

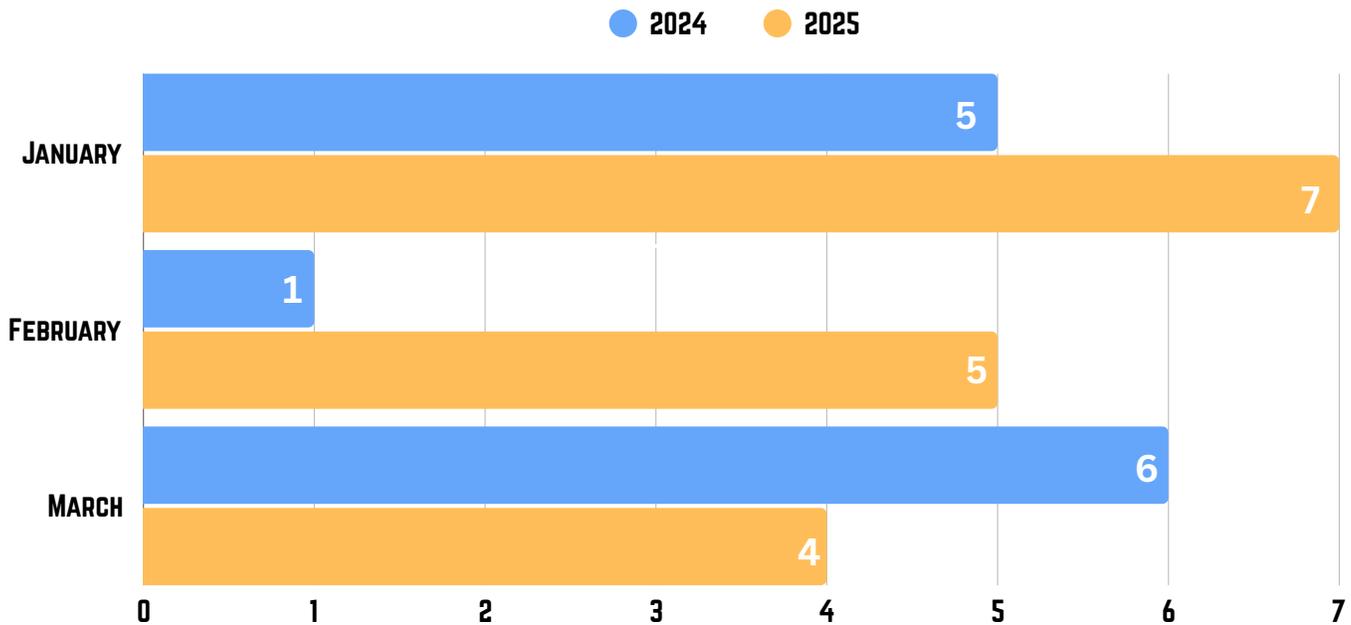
## OPOC activities

- OPOC Monthly meeting
- SPD In-Service
- SPD Ride along
- SPD Employee and Volunteer Awards
- Neighborhood Council
- SPD Quarterly PAC
- Mapping resources for mentally ill and addicted persons encountering the criminal justice system training

## Oversight / Outreach

- NACOLE Executive Board / Committee meetings (3)
- Use of Force Review Board
- Collision and Pursuit Review Board
- WSCJTC Decertification hearing
- Meeting with Chief Hall and Assistant Chiefs

# COMPLAINTS



Monthly comparison of OPO complaints

## SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS

OPO 25-15	A community member stated that they notified a detective that they had made false statements against their partner and that they had wanted to set the record straight. The detective was not interested in learning the new information.
OPO 25-16	A medical worker had been assaulted by a patient and wanted to press charges. The responding officer refused to charge the patient and stated it was an unfortunate part of the medical worker’s job.
OPO 25-17	A community member is concerned that SPD has tint on their patrol vehicles that are too dark. They state that this could potentially cause a dangerous situation.
OPO 25-18	A community member stated that they believe SPD officers are harassing them due to a complaint filed last year

## COMMENDATION

L25-19*	An OPOC commissioner sent a letter of appreciation to an officer for their ride-along.
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\*New numbering system for commendations

Type of Referral	#
Internal	4
External	1

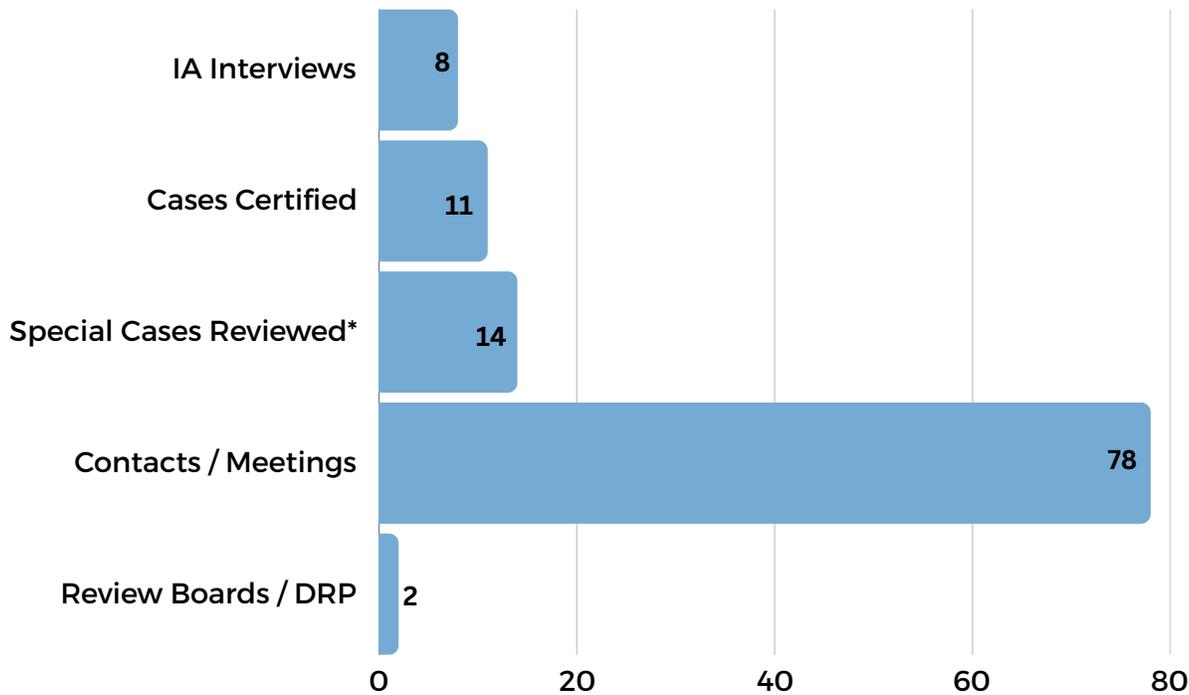


## REFERRALS

### Summary of referrals

IR 25-15	<b>A community member noticed that there was surveillance being done and wanted to know if the person had a warrant. SPD/IA</b>
IR 25-16	<b>A community member had a few questions about why they were told to move during a protest. SPD/IA</b>
IR 25-17	<b>A community member wanted to speak with the supervisor who oversees the crisis intervention team. SPD/IA</b>
IR 25-18	<b>A community member wanted to check on the status of their case. SPD/IA</b>
ER 25-19	<b>A community member was concerned with inaccurate information they received from an SCSO deputy. Spokane County Sheriffs Department</b>

## OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES



### Training

- NACOLE Winter Board Meeting Training
- SPD In-Service
- Certified Mediation Training

### Upcoming

- Deputy Ombuds Position
- Analyst Position
- WSCJTC Commission meeting
- OPO / OPOC Annual Reports

OPOC Meetings - In person: Every 3rd Tuesday @ 5:30pm in City Hall | Virtual: available  
For more information visit: <https://my.spokanecity.org/opoc>



2024

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



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

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# MEET THE OPO



Bart Logue

Police Ombuds



Luvimae Omana

Deputy Police  
Ombuds



Christina Coty

Executive  
Assistant



Timothy Szambelan

Legal Counsel

## OUR MISSION

The Office of Police Ombuds 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.

# MESSAGE FROM THE OMBUDS

Throughout 2024, the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPO) experienced a significant increase in public engagement, receiving 3,091 contacts—a 70% increase from the previous year and nearly double pre-pandemic levels. The OPO generated 44 complaints, marking a 22% rise from 2023, while total complaints to the police department increased by 31%, reaching 101. Additionally, the OPO issued seven commendations and eight letters of appreciation, maintaining our recognition of exemplary service.

In our commitment to oversight, the OPO reviewed 79 cases, certifying 78 while declining certification in one instance. Collaboration between the OPO and Internal Affairs (IA) on cases before reaching the need for decertification has continued to improve. Oversight of IA interviews also expanded significantly, reaching 101 compared to just 45 in 2022.

## **STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

According to National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), the effectiveness of civilian oversight relies on fundamental principles: independence, clearly defined authority, adequate resources, and public transparency. The City of Spokane has taken steps to reinforce these principles.



The new City Administration has demonstrated an unprecedented commitment to police accountability, engaging in regular discussions with the OPO and prioritizing proper funding. The City Council has also explored measures to protect the OPO budget from political influence, ensuring long-term stability. Meanwhile, the Administration, Police Department, and Police Guild have expressed a willingness to address key concerns in the upcoming Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) negotiations.

The Spokane Police Department (SPD) underwent significant leadership transitions in 2024, with Chief Meidl retiring and a couple of interim chiefs serving before Chief Hall's appointment in August 2025. Each

leadership shift has contributed to greater openness to oversight, leading to tangible progress. Notably, in early 2025, SPD formally adopted all previous OPO-recommended changes to Administrative Review Panels, ensuring these improvements were embedded in policy rather than remaining unimplemented commitments. In late 2024, the OPO raised concerns about SPD review boards reinforcing force usage rather than emphasizing de-escalation. The department responded by restructuring board membership and philosophy, ensuring alignment with modern policing standards. Additionally, the OPO facilitated discussions between SPD leadership and the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) to reinforce de-escalation training practices.

As a Commissioner for the WSCJTC, I have participated in multiple decertification panels for officers accused of substantial misconduct. Washington State leads the nation with its emphasis on community member involvement as well as mandatory and discretionary mandates for decertification. I also had the opportunity to present on these reforms at the 2024 NACOLE Annual Conference and was invited to participate in a workgroup at the Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab.

## **REPORTING, TRANSPARENCY, & THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT**

In 2024, the OPO issued five closing reports, resulting in 21 policy and training recommendations. However, the CBA continues to restrict the OPO from offering

independent opinions on matters of public concern. These limitations hinder transparency and, in at least one case, contributed to the spread of misinformation regarding an officer's termination. Future negotiations must address these restrictions to ensure the OPO can fulfill its mission effectively. Despite ongoing challenges, the Police Guild has engaged in meaningful discussions with the OPO, contributing to higher-quality reports and fostering increased transparency. Guild representatives have also maintained regular attendance at OPOC meetings, participating in public discussions and demonstrating a commitment to constructive engagement.

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025**

Moving forward, the OPO remains committed to strengthening public trust, advocating for policy improvements, and ensuring oversight remains independent and effective. Collaboration with Chief Hall and City leadership will be crucial in advancing accountability, transparency, and public safety in Spokane. The progress made in 2024 lays a strong foundation for continued reform, and I look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

# OPO ACTIVITIES

2024	2023	Change	Highlight of Activities
3091	1820	70%	Citizen contacts
153	76	101%	Participation or attendance in community meetings and events
14	17	-18%	Letters of officer appreciation / commendation
44	36	22%	OPO generated complaints
61	61	0%	Referrals to other agencies / departments
0	1	-100%	Cases offered to SPD for mediation
1	3	-67%	Cases declined to certify
78	88	-11%	Cases certified
143	93	54%	Interviews of citizens with ongoing or potential complaints
101	94	7%	Oversight of IA interviews
186	158	18%	Special cases reviewed
583	415	40%	Meetings with SPD
19	13	46%	SPD review boards



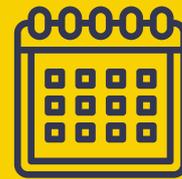
Citizen Interviews

**+54%**



Citizen Contacts

**+70%**



Community Events

**+101%**



# OUTREACH

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS & EVENTS

- OPOC meetings
- Public Safety & Community Health Committee meetings
- Leadership Spokane Board of Directors
- Public Safety Community meetings
- Mayor's quarterly meetings
- Swearing in ceremony for new officers at the Spokane Police Academy
- Outreach Connections
- Leadership Lights the Way Gala
- National Night Out
- Spokane Police Annual Employee Awards Ceremony
- Fundraiser for Camp Stix
- NAACP fundraiser

## OVERSIGHT RELATED

- NACOLE board meetings
- NACOLE winter board meetings
- WSCJTC meetings and decertification panels

## OTHER

- Police Chief selection committee
- Basic Law Enforcement Academy mock scenes
- SPD Annual Awards Ceremony



# TRAINING

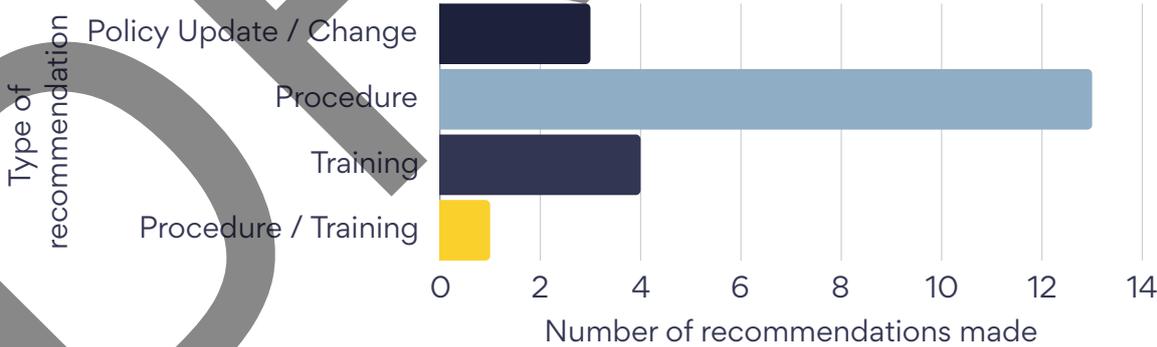
- SPD In-Service training
- SPD Active Shooter In-Service
- SPD supervisor's training
- Ride alongs
- Axon Standards training
- NACOLE webinars
- Executive leadership coach certification training
- CJIS training
- Washington State Bar Association webinars
- Know Be 4 security awareness training
- Office of Independent Investigation webinar
- Labor and Law Arbitration conference
- Daigle Law Group Technology Summit
- Public Records Act University training
- NACOLE annual conference
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) annual conference
- Use of Force Summit
- Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab's Public Safety and Police Accountability Executive Workshop
- Chicago Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) Citizen's Academy
- United States Ombudsman Association Annual Conference



# REPORTING

The OPO issued 12 monthly reports, one annual report, and five closing reports in 2024 with 21 recommendations. The reports covered a pursuit, use of a canine, uses of force, and an Internal Affairs (IA) investigation case. The common themes in the reports were force analysis, supervisory review, training on pursuits, and review board analysis. The recommendations involved issues of:

- body worn camera buffering
- canine policy
- communication prior to force being used
- de-escalation
- officer discretion in charging decisions
- duty to intervene
- exceptional techniques
- IA investigation procedures
- report writing
- supervisory review
- pursuits schemas
- review boards
- use of force

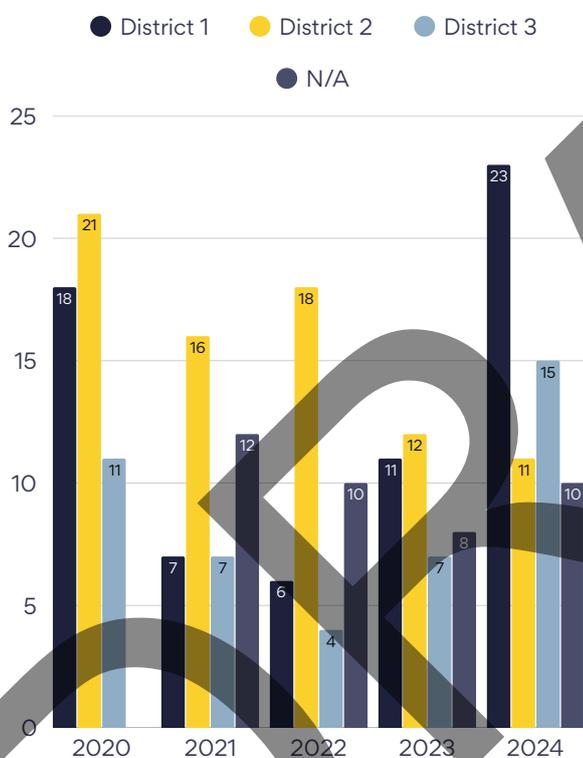


Of note, the OPO's report on C23-070 received regional and national media attention that reported the accused officer was terminated for having a political sticker on their department issued vehicle. Due to reporting restrictions, the OPO did not discuss the final disciplinary determination where the officer was terminated for being untruthful during the IA investigation process. The OPO's ability to discuss the final disciplinary determination is still not clear in the police contract.

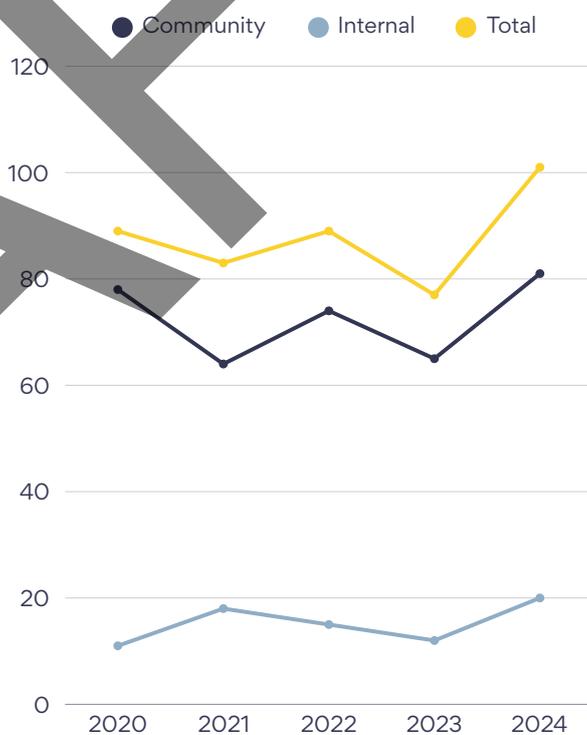
For more information on reports, visit <https://my.spokanecity.org/opo/documents>.

# COMMENDATIONS, COMPLAINTS, & REFERRALS

The OPO submitted 7 commendations and 8 letters of appreciation to SPD. The OPO also forwarded 44 complaints to IA for investigation. District 1 generated the most complaints from the community. There were 228 total allegations made in 101 complaints combined between the SPD and OPO. The community made 81 complaints and 20 were internally generated.



Five year complaints by City Council district



Five year complaint trends

**44**

total complaints

**31%**

Increase in complaints

**Policy /  
Standard  
Violation**

Most common allegation made overall

# COMMENDATIONS

The OPO submitted seven commendations and eight letters of appreciation for ride alongs that members of the OPO and Commission attended. An OPOC Commissioner also submitted a commendation. The community submitted seven commendations to the OPO for either exceptional service by an officer or a positive interaction with an officer.

**25%**  
of commendations were for positive interactions with officers

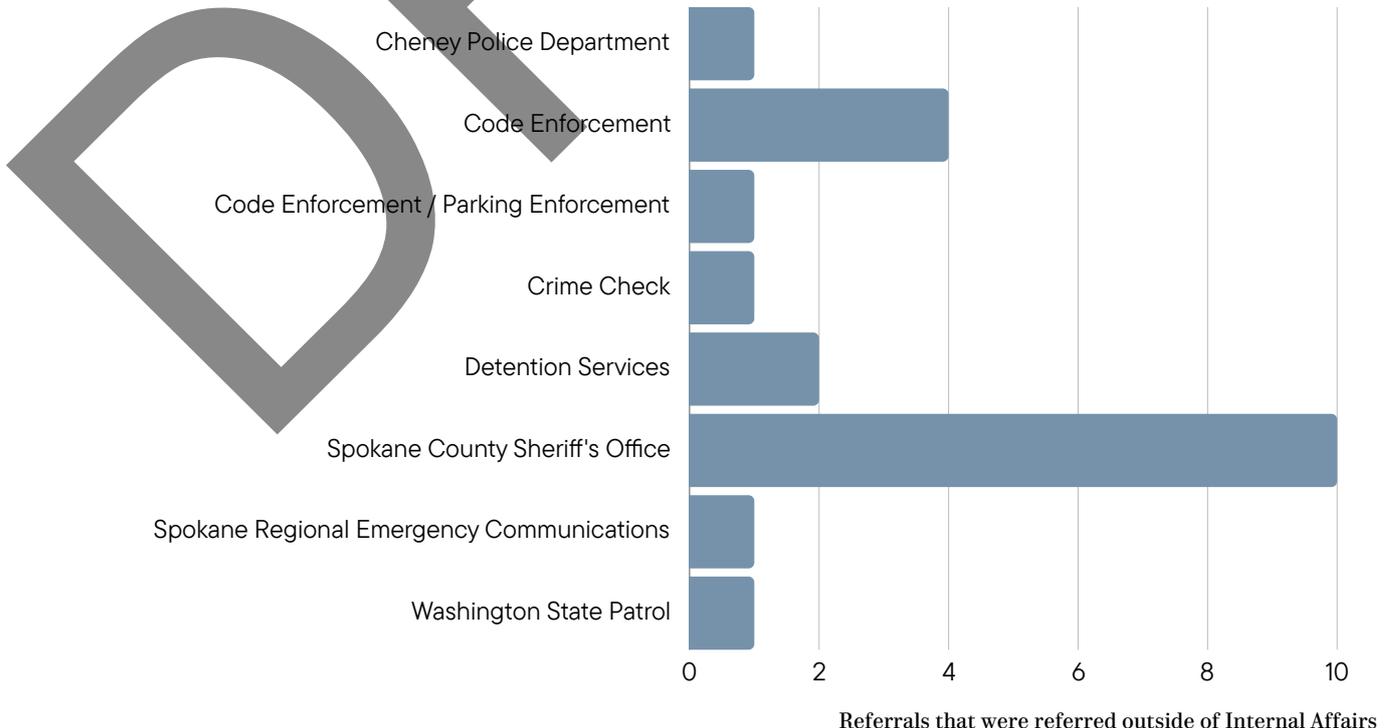
**75%**  
of commendations were for exceptional service

# REFERRALS

**66%**  
of total referrals were internal

**48%**  
of external referrals were made to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office

The OPO submitted 61 total referrals with 40 internal referrals made. All internal referrals are sent to IA who then forwards them to the appropriate internal unit or department. Referrals were the same as 2023; however, there was a 25% increase in internal referrals. Most external referrals made were to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.

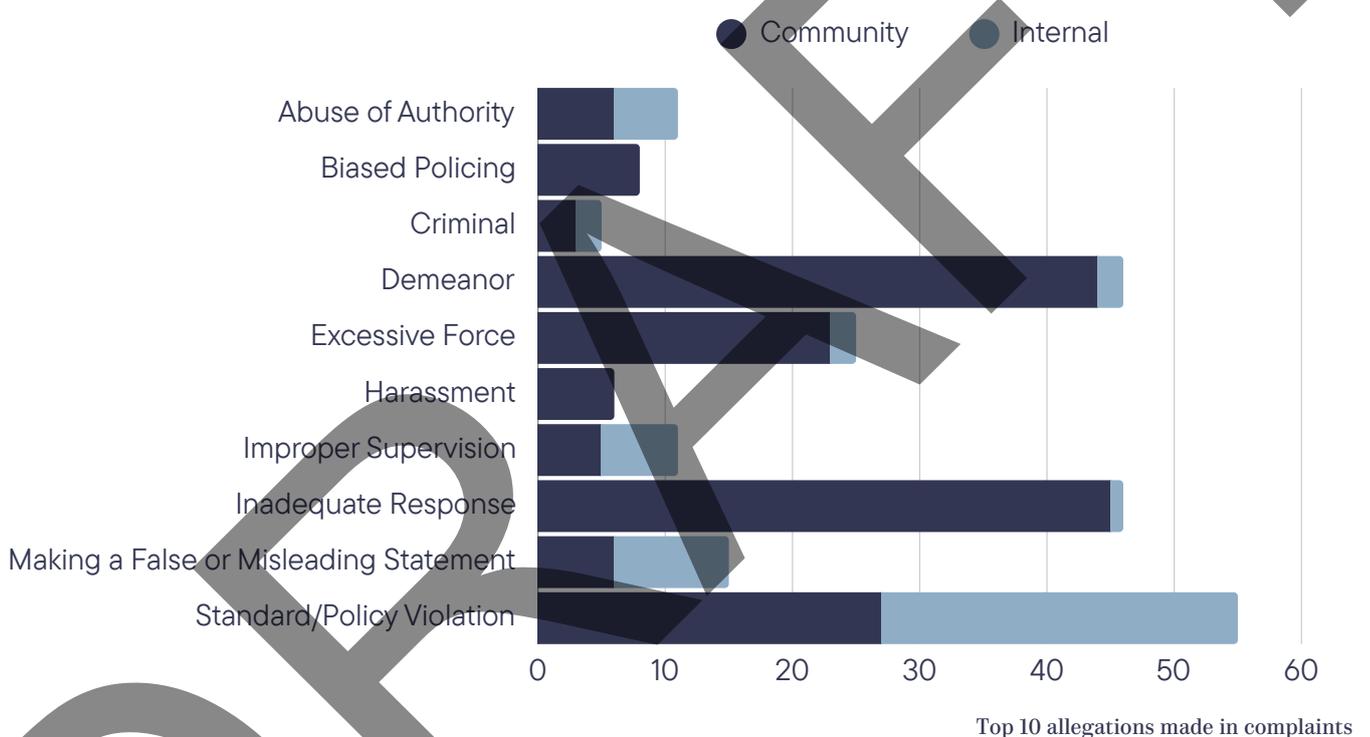


# COMPLAINTS ANALYSIS

The most common type of allegation overall was Standard/Policy Violation. This was also the most common internally generated allegation. The most common types of allegations received from the community were Demeanor and Inadequate Response.

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

**Standard / Policy Violation**  
was the most common allegation overall

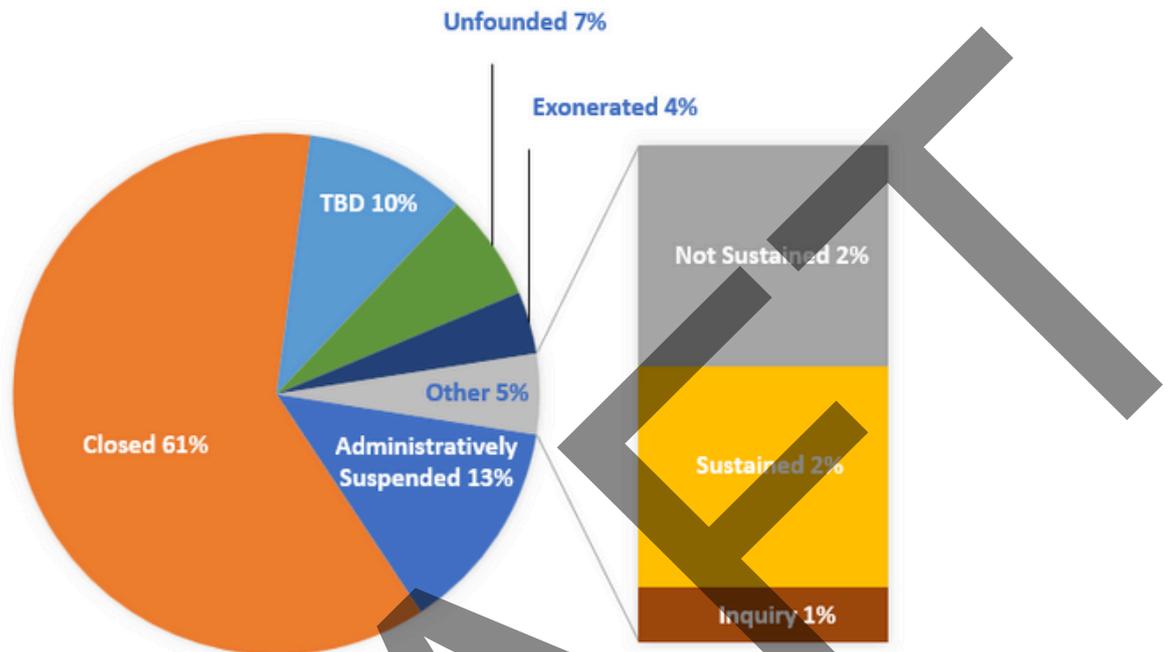


Examples of Standard/Policy Violation include but are not limited to:

- when requested, officers will provide name and personnel number
- report preparation
- body worn camera violation
- improper tactics
- confidentiality of personnel files
- refraining from developing or maintaining personal relationships with victims, witnesses, or suspects
- failure to report
- engaging in on-duty sexual relations
- release of information
- failure to take reasonable action
- dereliction of duty
- computer misuse
- delayed report writing
- misuse of cooperating individuals

# OUTCOMES OF ALLEGATIONS

## Community complaints



Community complaint outcomes

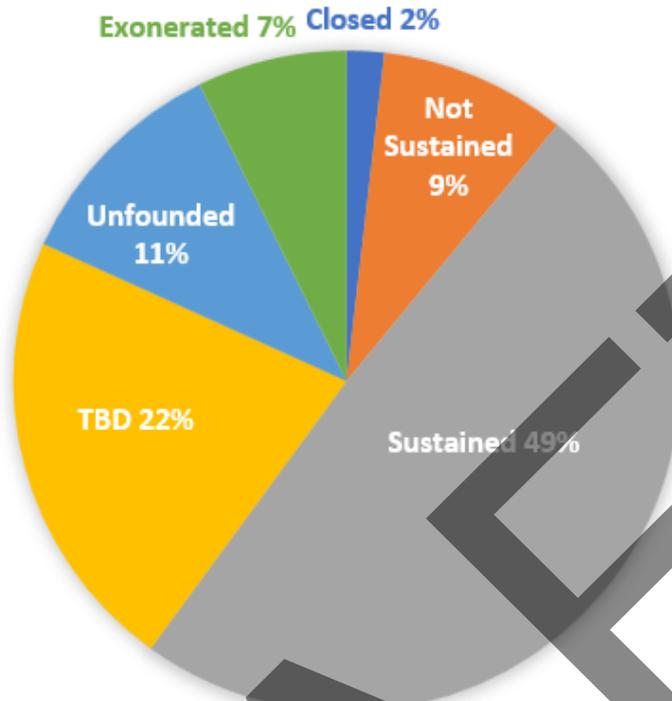
In 2023, the use of the Closed category increased as part of IA and the OPO's expeditious review of complaints that do not rise to the level of a chain of command complaint. In 2024, the Closed category was expanded from two subsections: (A) an allegation of misconduct that is disproven upon initial review and (B) the complaining party refuses to cooperate to six subsections with findings. The additional subsections include:

- (C) The complaining party becomes unavailable and further contact is necessary to proceed.
- (D) A minor allegation sent to the employee's supervisor for informal follow-up
- (E) All reasonable investigative leads were exhausted and no evidence of wrongdoing was uncovered.
- (F) The accused officer leaves employment and/or the officer resigned in anticipation of discipline, and if carried forward, would more likely than not have led to discharge where SPD shall conduct and complete the investigation and provide the information to the WSCJTC.



Of the closed community complaints, the most common outcomes were: 45 allegations were unfounded, 31 allegations were exonerated, and 14 allegations were found to be a minor allegation sent to a supervisor for follow-up. If a complaint has wrongdoing or a policy violation outside of a minor nature referred to a supervisor, they are never closed.

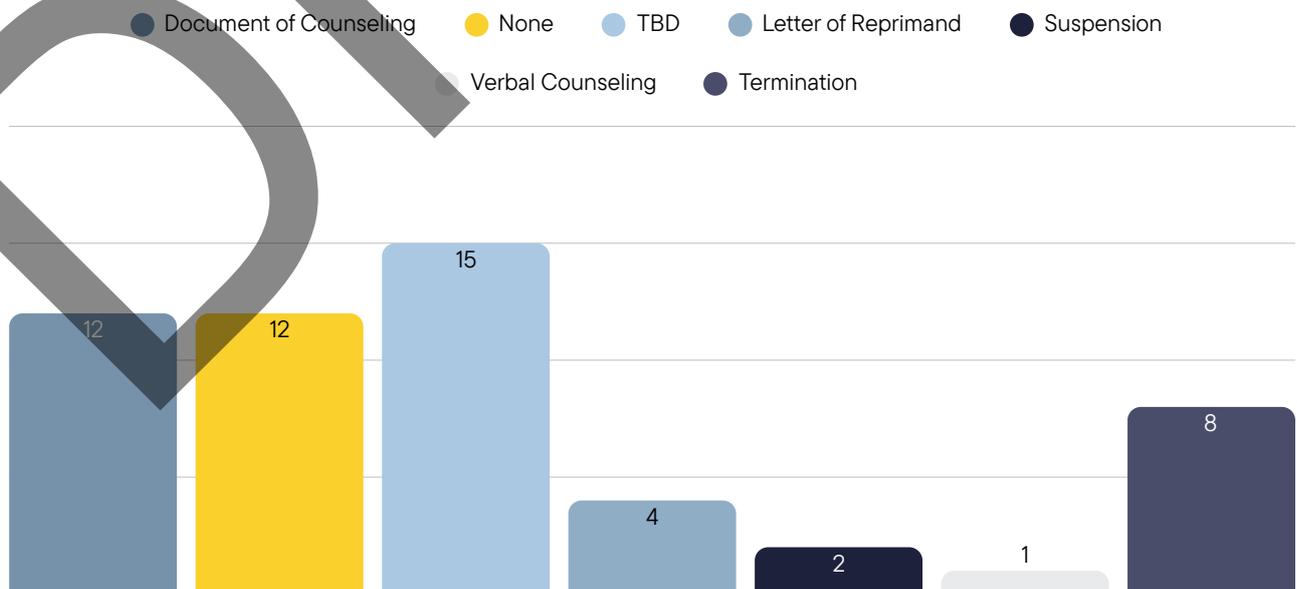
## Internal complaints



Internal complaint outcomes

The most common outcome for internal complaints was Sustained at 49% of all internally made allegations. This is consistent with the number of allegations that were sustained in 2023. 22% of allegations are still TBD, 2% were closed, and 27% received a chain of command review.

## Allegations leading to discipline



Disciplinary findings of allegations by the chain of command

# STATISTICS OF INTEREST

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change from Previous Year
<b>Non-Deadly Uses of Force</b>	66	80	85	<b>98</b>	+15%
<b>Critical Incidents</b>	2	5	2	<b>6</b>	High
<b>Pursuits</b>	13	11	12	<b>16</b>	+33%
<b>Preventable Collisions</b>	31	29	35	<b>40</b>	+14%
<b>Officer Response to Calls for Service</b>	94,300	99,751	107,567	<b>99,401</b>	-8%

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 of interest that may be of interest.

- \* The statistics of interest increased across all data points tracked, except for calls for service.
- \* Pursuits have also gradually increased in the last four years. Pursuits are viewed as a low frequency/high liability area that officers receive little training on. SPD has begun to look for ways to increase training.
- \* 2024 saw the most number of officer involved shootings since 2017. Five subjects were White males with one mixed race White-Hispanic male. Five of the six subjects are deceased.
- \* Non-deadly uses of force have continued to increase every year. SPD has begun reviewing cases more critically and has emphasized creating time, distance, and cover in training.

# CRITICAL INCIDENTS

## CLIFF & STEVENS

January 31, 2024

Race: White

Status: Deceased

### Critical Incident #1

Officers responded to a report of an armed suicidal male who threatened the complainant in a suicide note. Officers arrived on scene, located the suspect who was still armed, and gave him several commands to drop the weapon. The suspect raised his handgun in the direction of the officers who reacted by firing their weapons.

### Critical Incident #2

SPD received multiple calls that a woman had been shot. Officers responded and facilitated another male's escape but believed the female's life was in danger. Officers entered the home to rescue the female, encountered the suspect, and exchanged gunfire.

## 1123 E. WELLESLEY AVE

February 12, 2024

Race: White

Status: Deceased

## HOWARD/ RIVERSIDE

February 12, 2024

Race: White-Hispanic

Status: Deceased

### Critical Incident #3

SPD received multiple calls about a suicidal male with a knife threatening to stab passersby in the downtown area. The male also spoke about forcing law enforcement to shoot him. The suspect was seen holding a knife to a man's throat and displayed the knife inside a restaurant. Officers used TASERS but they were ineffective. Two SPD officers then fired their weapons.

# CRITICAL INCIDENTS (CONT.)

## 1820 W. DEAN

March 31, 2024

Race: White

Status: Deceased

### Critical Incident #4

Officers responded to assist the Spokane Fire Department with a structure fire. Officers learned this was a possible arson case and the person of interest was unaccounted for. Officers interviewed occupants of the home when the suspect became uncooperative, refused to be detained, walked away, and discharged a concealed firearm. Officers responded by returning fire.

### Critical Incident #5

SPD received a 911 call of a shooting. The victim was attempting to tow the suspect's vehicle as part of a repossession. The suspect tried to stop the tow by threatening the tow truck driver and then stabbing and shooting a tire of the tow truck before fleeing. Officers identified the suspect and developed probable cause for arrest. Officers later located the suspect running on foot in Shadle Park in the direction of a high school baseball game. Officers pursued the suspect, three officers fired their firearms.

## 2000 W. LONGFELLOW AVE

April 18, 2024

Race: White

Status: Survived

## 840 W. CORA

December 29, 2024

Race: White

Status: Deceased

### Critical Incident #6

Officers responded to a report of a male firing a rifle from his apartment. Officers identified the suspect and four officers fired their weapons, striking, and killing the suspect.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

The OPO wrote five closing reports and issued 21 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/2024/>.

## POLICE CHIEF'S RESPONSES

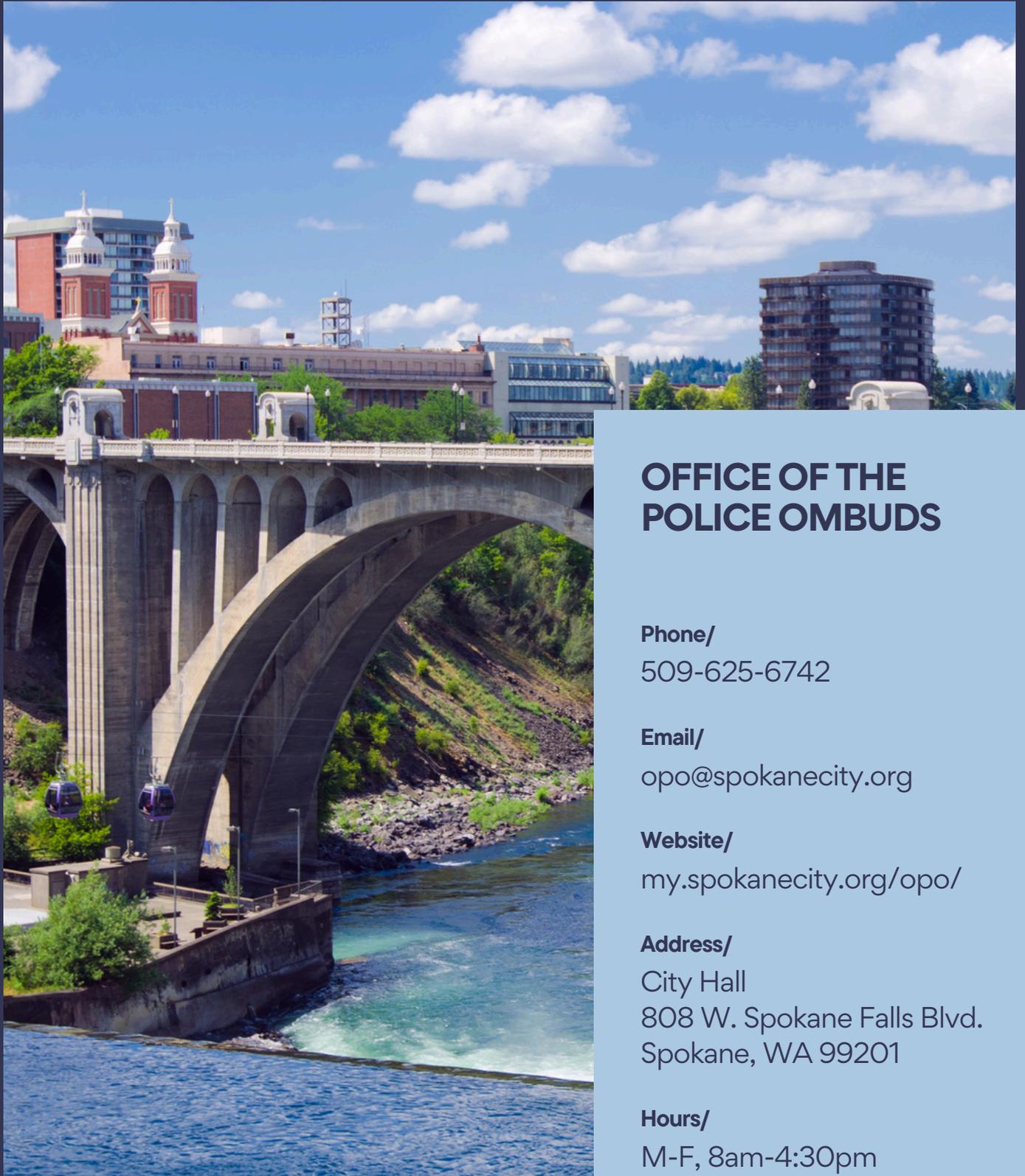


Number	Recommendations	SPD Responses
R24-01	SPD should move the duty to intervene out of the use of force policy to remove confusion on its application and make it a standalone policy	Implemented
R24-02	The OPO recommends IA investigators include the IA Checklist in every case and require other members of IA to fill out a conflict-of-interest form if they participate in any interviews.	Implemented
R24-03	The OPO recommends IA update its Standard Operating Procedures and Conflict of Interest Form to include whether an assigned investigator has knowledge or material information that would cause a conflict of interest.	Implemented
R24-04	There appears to be a discrepancy between the ARP's interpretation of what it means to keep personnel investigations confidential due to what item 8 in the R&R form says. IA should update the form to remove the conflicting statements so that the form complies with SPD Policy 1020.8.1's confidentiality requirements.	Implemented

Number	Recommendations	SPD Responses
R24-05	SPD should adopt a critical decision-making model or something similar regarding pursuits. The use of decision-making model can assist officers and supervisors in deciding whether to initiate a pursuit, gathering and evaluating information during the pursuit, and deciding when to discontinue. SPD should also develop specialized training for other personnel (e.g., supervisors, communications personnel, incident commanders) who may play a role in a pursuit review.	Implemented
R24-06	In-service training on the vehicle pursuit policy should occur at least once per year and could include both in-service and roll call components	Implemented
R24-07	SPD should consider purchasing, sharing, or leasing a driver simulator that can incorporate scenario-based and decision-making training to provide practical refresher training.	Not Implemented
R24-08	SPD should use this incident to provide departmentwide scenario-based training in pursuits, specifically reminding officers to maintain hyperawareness of their surroundings and in radio discipline during pursuits.	Implemented
R24-09	SPD should ensure all supervisors who authorize pursuits write a report detailing their justification for the pursuit pursuant to SPD Policy 314.2.2.	Implemented
R24-10	SPD should update its canine policy to require all reasonable efforts to avoid unnecessary and unnecessarily injurious bites. When the location of the subject in hiding has been determined, handlers should not direct a direct apprehension if alternative tactics are available, safe, and feasible.	No Response
R24-11	Supervisors should conduct separate tactical analysis for each function in which a canine is deployed. The factors that justify the use of a canine to search for an individual may differ from the factors in apprehending an individual. This would ensure that officers are exercising reasonable care and using the least amount of force necessary in apprehending subjects.	No Response
R24-12	Uninvolved supervisors should respond to every incident of force involving a canine to conduct an administrative investigation. A standardized list of questions should be used including: the factors requiring the canine use, determination of force options available, de-escalation tactics employed, and interviewing the subject.	No Response
R24-13	SPD should turn on audio during buffer mode of body worn camera recordings.	No Response

Number	Recommendations	SPD Responses
R24-14	SPD should train officers to determine whether to charge an individual purely based on whether the elements of the law are met. The victim's wishes should not be a determining factor.	No Response
R24-15	SPD should include aggravation of pre-existing injuries as a type of reviewable force to have such as much documentation of the incident in the event the subject decides to pursue litigation.	No Response
R24-16	Review board members should receive specific guidance on force analysis and review board expectations. Greater emphasis should be placed on alternatives to force and de-escalation. The review boards should also provide an analysis of the supervisory review; and provide recommendations when supervisory reviews fall short.	No Response
R24-17	The OPO recommends SPD safeguard the reputation of the Use of Force Review Board by only placing individuals who have a working knowledge of SPD policies and procedures on boards. Additionally, members of the review board should be individuals who are willing to critically analyze the different factors listed in SPD Policy 302.4.	No Response
R24-18	The OPO recommends supervisors should clearly indicate in their reviews when a use of force is outside of policy should be considered exceptional. Exceptional techniques should be carefully reviewed to determine their necessity and appropriateness. Special care should be given to alternative and appropriate force options that were available at the time, if any.	No Response
R24-19	SPD should amend its policy to evaluate the types of communication strategies that are more likely emphasize that the subject hears the order, understands it, and has enough time to respond prior to force being used.	No Response
R24-20	SPD should consider a comprehensive de-escalation training program that is evidence-based with measurable outcomes to determine the effectiveness of the tactics and training taught.	No Response
R24-21	Questions regarding uses of force should be investigated rather than reviewed. This is especially true in uses of force where an officer and the subject have conflicting recollections of the incident that create disputed facts that go to the heart of whether force was justified.	No Response

# CONTACT US



## OFFICE OF THE POLICE OMBUDS

**Phone/**

509-625-6742

**Email/**

[opo@spokanecity.org](mailto:opo@spokanecity.org)

**Website/**

[my.spokanecity.org/opo/](http://my.spokanecity.org/opo/)

**Address/**

City Hall  
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201

**Hours/**

M-F, 8am-4:30pm

# Annual Report

2024



**OFFICE OF THE  
POLICE OMBUDS  
COMMISSION**



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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 Ombuds Commission exists to promote public confidence in the professionalism and accountability of the members of the Spokane Police Department by providing, through the Ombuds, 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](mailto:opocommission@spokanecity.org)

[my.spokanecity.org/bcc/commissions/ombuds-commission](https://my.spokanecity.org/bcc/commissions/ombuds-commission)

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

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



**Luc Jasmin III**

The OPOC remains steadfast in its mission to support and advocate for true independent civilian oversight of the Spokane Police Department (SPD).

## **Policy and Budget Advocacy**

In response to ongoing budgetary constraints, the OPOC has actively advocated for financial independence for the Office of the Police Ombuds (OPO). The reduction of funds in 2023 significantly impacted the office's ability to function effectively, highlighting the urgent need for a stable and predictable budget. The OPOC and OPO collaborated with the City Council and the Administration to pursue a shared objective of achieving budgetary independence. The OPOC fully supports tying the OPO's funding to a fixed percentage of the SPD budget,

ensuring its capacity to conduct comprehensive and independent oversight without external pressures.

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote inclusivity and align with Washington State, the OPOC prioritized updating the OPO's name to the term Ombuds. The OPOC collaborated with the City Council's Legal Advisor to amend the OPO's ordinance accordingly. This change ensures greater flexibility in personnel transitions and reflects a commitment to gender-neutral language in official titles.

Additionally, we approved 21 recommendations for SPD policies and training, addressing critical issues such as duty to intervene, Internal Affairs (IA) procedures, pursuit policies, and use of force review processes. While SPD has implemented some of these recommendations, others remain unaddressed, and we will continue to advocate for their adoption.

## **Community Engagement and Training**

In 2024, the OPOC strengthened its engagement with the Spokane community. We invited key

stakeholders—including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) President Lisa Gardner, City Council President Betsy Wilkerson, and SPD leadership—to participate in our meetings, fostering open dialogue and collaboration. Additionally, commissioners attended major community events, including the Martin Luther King Jr. March and National Night Out, reinforcing our commitment to community-centered oversight.

The OPOC actively encouraged and supported the OPO's collaboration with a local marketing firm to update outreach materials. This initiative aimed to incorporate the new name and enhance the logo's design, ensuring it is more engaging and accessible to the community.

Commissioners attended the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Annual Conference, which centered on the theme of progress, preservation, and perseverance in civilian oversight. Additionally, they participated in the SPD's Fall In-Service training, which focused on active shooter response. With the addition of two new commissioners to the OPOC, we have recognized the need for a structured onboarding and training program for new commissioners to ensure continuity and effectiveness in our work.

## Looking Ahead

As we move into 2025, the OPOC remains committed to ensuring true independent oversight of the SPD. We will continue advocating for:

- **Financial independence** to safeguard effective oversight
- **Expanded community partnerships** to strengthen public trust
- **Adequate staffing** to support the OPO's growing workload

Thank you to the Spokane community for your continued support and engagement. Your voices are essential in shaping a policing system that is fair, transparent, and accountable.

*Summary of*

# OPOC ACTIONS & DEVELOPMENTS

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

**8***OPOC meetings***21 OF 21***OPO  
recommendations  
approved*

## Approved OPO recommendations to SPD

1. In August, the OPOC approved nine recommendations based on two closing reports. One report was on an IA complaint, C23-070, and the other report was from an accident review, A23-047.
2. In December, the OPOC approved 12 recommendations based on three closing reports. One report was on a canine use review, K24-007, the second report was from a use of force review, F23-054, the third report was from a use of force review.

## OPOC hired legal representation

Since 2022, the OPOC has operated under the guidance of the Legal Department. However, effective civilian oversight requires independent legal counsel. In November 2024, the OPOC retained outside counsel from Riverside NW Law Group PLLC.

*Summary of*

# OPOC ACTIONS & DEVELOPMENTS

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## **OPOC worked towards OPO budget independence**

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In 2024, the OPO/OPOC faced budget constraints following a significant reduction from an already limited budget.

This cut raised concerns about the organization's ability to effectively perform oversight functions, including staffing, equipment, training, and essential resources previously removed under past administrations.

To ensure stability amid administrative changes and maintain operational legislation, the OPOC concurred with the Ombuds initiative to link the OPO budget to the SPD budget, recommending a percentage allocation of the SPD annual budget moving forward; effectively establishing budgetary independence.

## **OPOC invited guest speakers to the OPOC meetings**

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The OPOC invited the following community leaders to speak at its 2024 meetings:

- Lisa Gardner, NAACP President
- Betsy Wilkerson, City Council President
- Detective Dave Dunkin, SPD Guild President
- Sergeant Trevor Winters, SPD Police Guild Vice President
- Maggie Yates, Deputy City Administrator
- Kevin Hall, Police Chief

These guest speakers provided valuable insights into their roles and helped foster community engagement. The OPOC aims to strengthen relationships and build meaningful partnerships across Spokane. The OPOC appreciates the willingness of these leaders to participate, as their thought provoking discussions continue to have a lasting impact on both the organization and the community.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Commissioner Jasmin at the NAACP Freedom Fund Gala

In 2024, commissioners prioritized community engagement, attending key events such as:

- Martin Luther King Jr. march
- National Night Out
- Unity in the Community
- NAACP Freedom Fund Gala
- Spokane Alliance meetings
- Spokane Public Schools Equity Forum
- Neighborhood Council meetings
- NAACP meetings
- Quarterly Police Advisory Committee meetings
- City Council roundtable on homelessness
- Office of Independent Investigations meeting
- NAACP candidate forum
- Northeast Youth Family Services' Harvest on the Block

# TRAINING

This year the OPOC saw two new commissioners join which put an emphasis not only on external training but also on how to effectively onboard future new commissioners to ensure that they understand the important role of a commissioner. During 2024, commissioners attended:

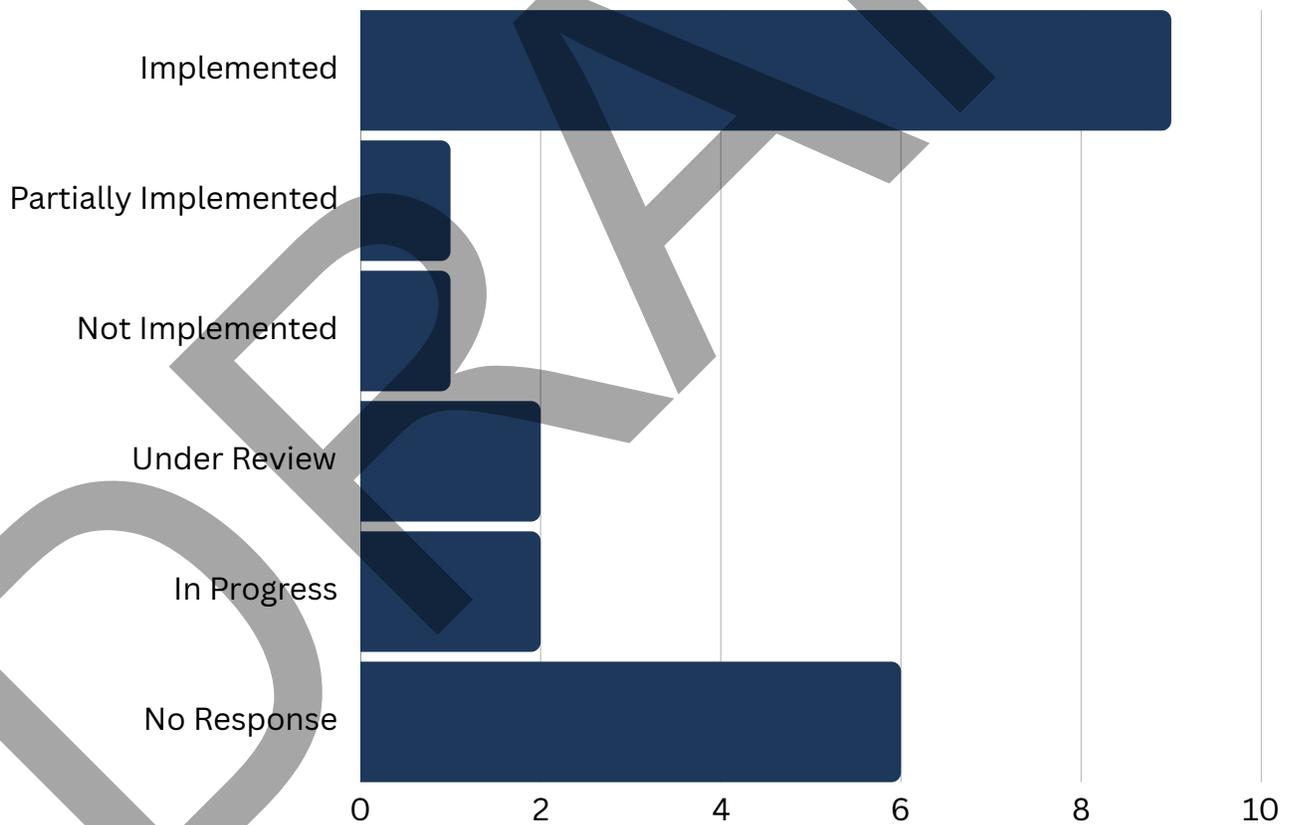
- NACOLE Annual Conference
- Daigle Law Group's Use of Force Summit
- SPD In-Service trainings
- 4 ride alongs with SPD officers in every district of Spokane

The OPOC also had access to numerous training webinars through NACOLE on topics such as: Building Community Engagement for Effective Community Relations, Constitutional Police-Community Encounters, The Importance of a Discipline Matrix in Policing and Civilian Oversight and Using Policing and Social Justice to Strengthen Stakeholder Relationships.

# OPO RECOMMENDATIONS

The OPO wrote five closing reports and issued 21 recommendations. Closing reports are based on complaints, uses of force, collisions, and canine use. To view full recommendations and SPD’s responses, please visit <https://my.spokanecity.org/opo/recommendations/2024/>.

## Police Chief’s Responses



# Recommendations

Number	Recommendations	SPD Responses
R24-01	SPD should move the duty to intervene out of the use of force policy to remove confusion on its application and make it a standalone policy	Implemented
R24-02	The OPO recommends IA investigators include the IA Checklist in every case and require other members of IA to fill out a conflict-of-interest form if they participate in any interviews.	Implemented
R24-03	The OPO recommends IA update its Standard Operating Procedures and Conflict of Interest Form to include whether an assigned investigator has knowledge or material information that would cause a conflict of interest.	Implemented
R24-04	There appears to be a discrepancy between the ARP's interpretation of what it means to keep personnel investigations confidential due to what item 8 in the R&R form says. IA should update the form to remove the conflicting statements so that the form complies with SPD Policy 1020.8.1's confidentiality requirements.	Implemented
R24-05	SPD should adopt a critical decision-making model or something similar regarding pursuits. The use of decision-making model can assist officers and supervisors in deciding whether to initiate a pursuit, gathering and evaluating information during the pursuit, and deciding when to discontinue. SPD should also develop specialized training for other personnel (e.g., supervisors, communications personnel, incident commanders) who may play a role in a pursuit review.	Implemented
R24-06	In-service training on the vehicle pursuit policy should occur at least once per year and could include both in-service and roll call components	Implemented

Number	Recommendations	SPD Responses
R24-07	SPD should consider purchasing, sharing, or leasing a driver simulator that can incorporate scenario-based and decision-making training to provide practical refresher training.	Not Implemented
R24-08	SPD should use this incident to provide departmentwide scenario-based training in pursuits, specifically reminding officers to maintain hyperawareness of their surroundings and in radio discipline during pursuits.	Implemented
R24-09	SPD should ensure all supervisors who authorize pursuits write a report detailing their justification for the pursuit pursuant to SPD Policy 314.2.2.	Implemented
R24-10	SPD should update its canine policy to require all reasonable efforts to avoid unnecessary and unnecessarily injurious bites. When the location of the subject in hiding has been determined, handlers should not direct a direct apprehension if alternative tactics are available, safe, and feasible.	In Progress
R24-11	Supervisors should conduct separate tactical analysis for each function in which a canine is deployed. The factors that justify the use of a canine to search for an individual may differ from the factors in apprehending an individual. This would ensure that officers are exercising reasonable care and using the least amount of force necessary in apprehending subjects.	No Response
R24-12	Uninvolved supervisors should respond to every incident of force involving a canine to conduct an administrative investigation. A standardized list of questions should be used including: the factors requiring the canine use, determination of force options available, de-escalation tactics employed, and interviewing the subject.	No Response
R24-13	SPD should turn on audio during buffer mode of body worn camera recordings.	No Response
R24-14	SPD should train officers to determine whether to charge an individual purely based on whether the elements of the law are met. The victim's wishes should not be a determining factor.	In Progress

Number	Recommendations	SPD Responses
R24-15	SPD should include aggravation of pre-existing injuries as a type of reviewable force to have such as much documentation of the incident in the event the subject decides to pursue litigation.	No Response
R24-16	Review board members should receive specific guidance on force analysis and review board expectations. Greater emphasis should be placed on alternatives to force and de-escalation. The review boards should also provide an analysis of the supervisory review; and provide recommendations when supervisory reviews fall short.	Under Review
R24-17	The OPO recommends SPD safeguard the reputation of the Use of Force Review Board by only placing individuals who have a working knowledge of SPD policies and procedures on boards. Additionally, members of the review board should be individuals who are willing to critically analyze the different factors listed in SPD Policy 302.4.	Under Review
R24-18	The OPO recommends supervisors should clearly indicate in their reviews when a use of force is outside of policy should be considered exceptional. Exceptional techniques should be carefully reviewed to determine their necessity and appropriateness. Special care should be given to alternative and appropriate force options that were available at the time, if any.	Implemented
R24-19	SPD should amend its policy to evaluate the types of communication strategies that are more likely emphasize that the subject hears the order, understands it, and has enough time to respond prior to force being used.	No Response
R24-20	SPD should consider a comprehensive de-escalation training program that is evidence-based with measurable outcomes to determine the effectiveness of the tactics and training taught.	Partially Implemented
R24-21	Questions regarding uses of force should be investigated rather than reviewed. This is especially true in uses of force where an officer and the subject have conflicting recollections of the incident that create disputed facts that go to the heart of whether force was justified.	No Response

# OPO EVALUATION

The OPO's engagement with community members continued to increase in 2024. The OPO responded to 3091 contacts and conducted 143 interviews with community members with ongoing or potential complaints. The Ombuds and the Deputy Ombuds attended and participated in 101 officer and complainant interviews in IA; attended 583 meetings in SPD; and attended 19 SPD review boards. The OPO oversaw 44 complaints against SPD brought through the OPO with oversight of 102 total complaints, and 61 complaint referrals to other agencies. The OPO has continued to stay engaged with oversight efforts on a statewide and national level.

The OPO continued writing closing reports in 2024. The OPO issued four closing reports, and a policy and procedure report with a total of 21 recommendations. The OPO issued closing reports on cases with opportunities to improve policy and training. The OPO's reports focused on creating uniform procedures for when a case should be sent to IA for investigation, the review the case would receive, and then communicating the department's feedback to supervisors.

This Commission is unanimous that Mr. Logue, Ms. Omana, and Ms. Coty are providing outstanding service to the citizens of Spokane.

They are working every day to ensure that independent civilian oversight is real and effective. The commission has participated in serious public meetings throughout the year in which we have heard the gritty details of IA investigations, official reviews of uses of force, and official reviews of police pursuits. These have all been thoroughly discussed and questioned by the Ombuds, his staff, the Commission, and the public. Improper political behavior by an on-duty police officer has been publicly reported and discussed. It has been publicly reported that the officer is no longer employed by the City of Spokane. It has been publicly reported and discussed that a use of force review board made up of senior officers minimized and effectively excused an SPD officer who threw a citizen to the ground injuring them.

The review board process has been changed and one of the reviewing officers is no longer assigned to the Use of Force Review Board. It is notable that Deputy Police Ombuds Omana was present at the meeting of this review board and challenged the statements and opinions of the reviewing officers. A higher level of review changed the process and the personnel of the board.

## OPO EVALUATION (CONT.)

The statistics tell part of the story of the OPO's work, but effective independent civilian review begins in the daily drudgery of reviewing police reports, comparing statements of witnesses, reviewing audio and video recordings, the regular courageous assertion of civilian views at investigative interviews and review boards, the forthright reporting of disagreements on factual matters and judgments on compliance with policy. We emphasize that the Police Ombuds has authored five reports on investigations, uses of force, as well as pursuits and has publicly made 21 specific recommendations to improve the interaction of the SPD and the citizenry it protects and serves. Most recommendations have been approved by the Chief of Police and are in the process of being implemented.

Mr. Logue, Police Ombuds has forged a solid, trusting relationship with the City of Spokane Administration, the Spokane Police Department, and the Police Guild. He does not shy away from difficult issues or confrontation but always maintains his lodestar- timely, thorough and objectively independent investigation reporting to provide visible oversight and improvements to police policy training, and recruitment. Mr. Logue has achieved national leadership roles in civilian oversight. He was invited to attend a workshop at Harvard University on civilian oversight and also presented at the

NACOLE annual conference on police decertification. Mr. Logue is a member of the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission and regularly sits on hearing panels which decide the continued licensure of Washington State police officers accused of misconduct. He currently serves on the Board for the NACOLE board. Commissioners have attended meetings between Mr. Logue, members of the Police Guild, and command members of the Police Department. We have always observed effective communication and mutual respect. Mr. Logue has performed admirably and is a credit to the City of Spokane.

Ms. Luvimae Omana, Deputy Police Ombuds, has taken several opportunities for advanced training, including SPD In-Service training, SPD ride alongs, 2 Roads Leadership Coaching, Labor Law and Arbitration conference, National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement annual conference, Use of Force Summit, International Associations of Chiefs of Police annual conference, United States Ombudsman Association annual conference and numerous webinars. She has demonstrated sophistication and incisiveness in penetrating police reports and understanding the relevance and

## OPO EVALUATION (CONT.)

meaning of subtle pieces of evidence, recordings and witness statements and spends countless hours closely examining these materials. Ms. Omana has demonstrated the ability to assert independent civilian viewpoints in meetings where law enforcement opinions have been unanimously arrayed against her. She has not hesitated to fact check law enforcement statements and to persuasively report her findings. Ms. Omana has identified specific facts and entrenched procedures that have contributed to citizen complaints, and she has formulated and articulated specific recommendations for improvement, many of which have been accepted by the Chief of Police. She is a tireless, conscientious, talented member of the Ombuds' staff.

Ms. Christina Coty is the main public contact for the Office of the Police Ombuds. She is readily available in person, by phone or via email. Ms. Coty diligently and expertly fulfills all needs of this busy office and most importantly she engenders trust in citizen complaints and inspires confidence that their complaints are being heard and taken seriously. She is the OPO's complaint intake manager, receiving praise from IA investigators regarding the depth and quality of her intakes.

This Commission proudly and confidently reports that the Office of the Police Ombuds is performing admirably and is fulfilling its mission in every respect.

# RESOURCES

**Crime Check / 911:**

509-456-2233

**City of Spokane 311:**

311 or 509-755-2489

**SPD Tipline:**

509-242-8477

SPDtipline@spokanepolice.org

**Internal Affairs:**

509-835-4588

spdinternalaffairs@spokanepolice.org

**Police Headquarters:**

1100 W Mallon Avenue

509-625-4100

**North East Precinct:**

5124 N Market Street

509-363-8281

**Downtown Precinct**

111 N Wall Street

509-622-5823

**South Precinct:**

524 S. Stone Street

509-625-3310

**Northwest Precinct:**

1100 W Mallon Avenue

**Neighborhood Resource Officer Locations****C.O.P.S East Central**

524 S. Stone St.

509-625-3330

**C.O.P.S Southwest**

1403 W. 3rd. Avenue #B

509-755-2677

**C.O.P.S Nevawood:**

4705 N. Addison Street

509-625-3353

**C.O.P.S North Central:**

806 W. Knox Avenue

509-625-3348

**C.O.P.S Northeast:**

5124 N. Market Street

509-625-3343

**C.O.P.S Northwest:**

2215 W. Wellesley Avenue Suite D.

509-625-3336

**C.O.P.S Southeast:**

2727 S. Mount Vernon St. Suite 3C

509-622-3326

**C.O.P.S West:**

1901 W. Boone Avenue

509-625-3340

DRAFT



**Online:**  
[my.spokanecity.org/opo/forms/online](https://my.spokanecity.org/opo/forms/online)



**In writing:**  
**Mail:**  
Office of the Police  
Ombuds  
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201

**Email:**  
[opo@spokanecity.org](mailto:opo@spokanecity.org)

**Fax:**  
509-625-6748



**At our office:**  
**Office:**  
1st Floor, City Hall  
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Spokane, WA 99201

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