



MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, November 18, 2025
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

City Council Chambers:
808 W Spokane Falls Blvd
Spokane, WA 99201

Commissioners:

Jenny Rose
Luc Jasmin III
Amy McColm
Phillip Wetzel

OPOC Legal

Brennan Schreibman

OPO Staff:

Bart Logue
Lissa Mascio
Christina Coty

Introduction - Commissioner Rose

- Welcome to OPOC Meeting
- Agenda and September Minutes Approval
- Public Forum

OPO Reports - Bart Logue & Lissa Mascio

- Closing Report: F25-006
- OPO September & October Monthly Reports
- MOU Update

OPOC Business

- Closing Report Recommendation Vote
- OPOC Chair / Vice Chair Election
- NACOLE Annual Conference Briefing
- Commissioner Speak Out
- December OPOC Meeting
- Executive Session

The next scheduled OPOC meeting will be held on December 16, 2025

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. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Human Resources at 509.625.6373, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or ddecorde@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Human Resources through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.



Office of Police Ombuds Commission Minutes

September 16th, 2025

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting called to order at: 530pm

Attendance

- OPOC Commissioners present: Jenny Rose (online) Luc Jasmin, Ladd Smith, Amy McColm, Phillip Wetzel
- OPO staff members present: Bart Logue, Lissa Mascio and Christina Coty
- OPOC Legal – Brennan Schreiber

Introduction

- Agenda and minutes – Commissioner Wetzel Motioned to add an executive session to the agenda to discuss legal matters. Commissioner McColm seconded, **Approved - Unanimous** Commissioner McColm moved to approve the August minutes; Commissioner Smith: seconded, **Approved - Unanimous**
- Public Forum – No one signed up to speak

OPO Reports

- August Monthly Report – 689 Contacts (many of these were at National Night Out and Unity in the Community), OPO submitted 1 complaint, 17 Cases were certified, attended 8 IA Interviews, attended 2 review boards where 4 UOF & 4 K9 cases were reviewed, 57 meetings with SPD, 30 community meetings, and 5 training events
- MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) Update – This needs to be in place prior to beginning the June 11th protest review. This has not moved very far past the last OPOC meeting we had for the MOU progress
 - Commissioner McColm – Asked if there is any action that the OPOC can take to help get the MOU going in the right direction.

OPOC Business

- NACOLE Annual Conference
 - Christina briefed that 3 commissioners would be attending the conference, and that late registration is fast approaching, If you would like to please let her know asap.
- October OPOC Meeting
 - Propose that with the lack of OPO staff, the OPOC cancel the October meeting
 - Commissioner Wetzel motioned to cancel the October OPOC meeting, Commissioner McColm seconded, Commissioner Smith abstained (due to this being his final OPOC meeting) **Approved - Unanimous**
- Commissioner Appointment / Reappointment Update
 - Commissioner McColm has been reappointed and confirmed by City Council
 - The Mayoral Appointment has not been chosen yet.
 - Commissioner Smith has decided not stay on until his replacement can be chosen, the OPOC should put some heat on the Mayors office to pick someone.
- Thank-you Commissioner Smith for your service and commitment to Civilian Oversight in Spokane. You will be missed greatly

- Commissioner Wetzel motioned to add Commissioner Speak Out to the Agenda, Commissioner McColm Seconded, **Approved - Unanimous**
- Commissioner Speak Out
 - Commissioner Rose: Unity in the Community was very fun even with the rainy weather. Always enjoy attending National Night Out where she attended 2 NNO parties
 - Commissioner McColm: attended 2 NNO parties. Wanted to thank Chief Hall for giving his time to discuss various items with her, including the fact that the SPD allowed her to go on more ride alongs than were required by ordinance. Thank-you to the officers and teams who took me out who didn't necessarily need to. Spoke with Chief Hall about the benefits of doing so many ride alongs.
 - Commissioner Wetzel: Attended Unity in the Community and helped man the booth. It was very gratifying to help explain to the community who we are and what we do. Also attended National Night Out.
- Executive Session -

Executive Session Start time 6:13 – 6:23, extended to 6:30, extended to 6:37

Motion Passes or Fails: 4

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:38

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 / SEPTEMBER

Public Safety & Community Health Committee

MONTHLY REPORT



OFFICE OF THE
POLICE OMBUDS
INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

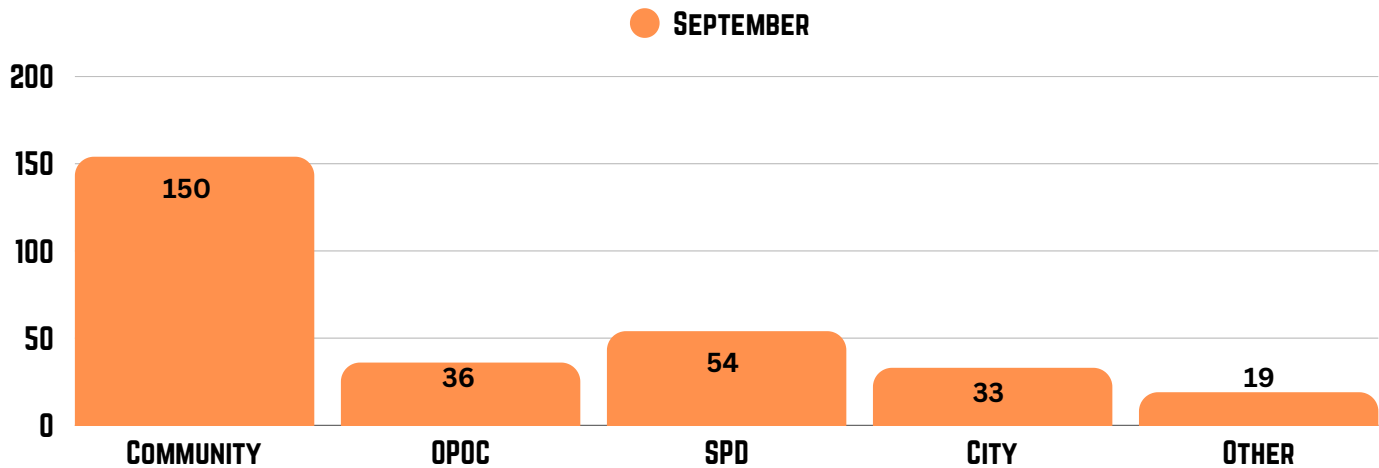
Current	YTD	Contacts, Complaints, and Referrals
292	2446	Contacts
17	152	OPO interviews
0	9	Letters of officer appreciation / commendations
6	42	OPO generated complaints
3	39	Referrals to other agencies / departments
0	1	Cases offered to SPD for mediation
0	1	Mediation completed

Current	YTD	IA Investigation Oversight
3	78	Cases certified
1	4	Cases returned for further investigation
0	1	Cases declined to certify
0	0	Web cases reviewed
15	96	Oversight of IA interviews

Current	YTD	Other Oversight Activities
21	116	Special cases reviewed*
3	16	SPD review boards / D-ARPs
54	498	Meetings with SPD
5	63	Oversight meetings
8	157	Community meetings
12	41	Training
0	2	Critical incidents

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

CONTACTS



Community Meetings

- OPOC Monthly Meeting
- BLEA 918 Graduation
- Community Assembly
- Neighborhood Safety Committee Meeting

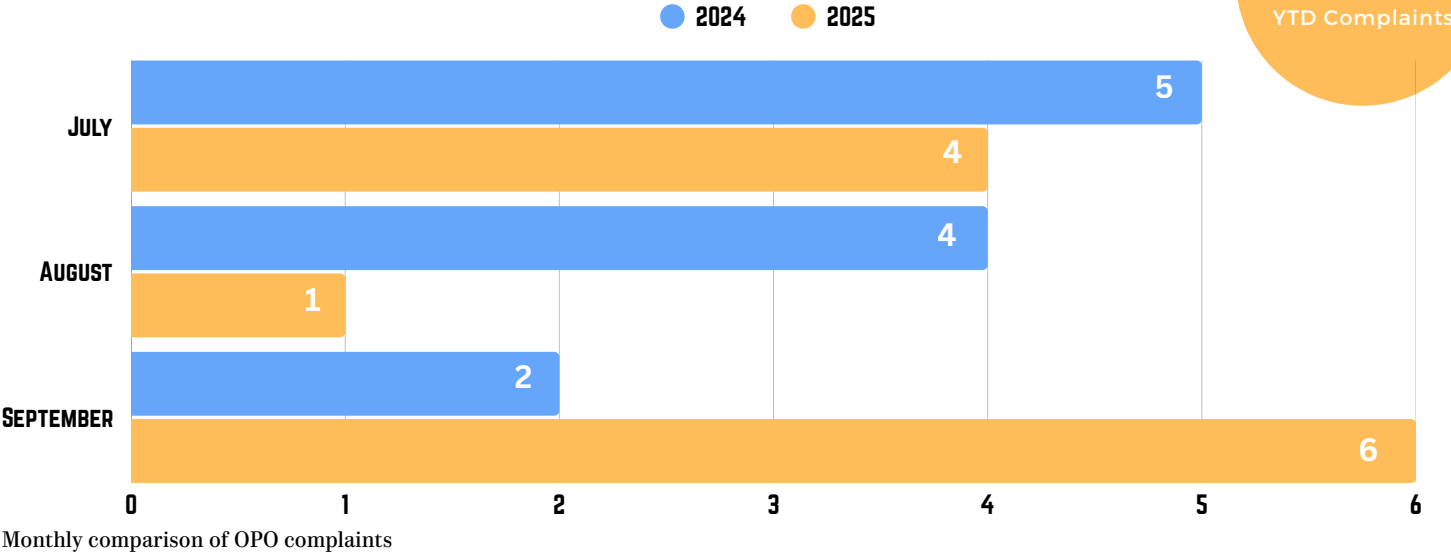
OPOC Activites

- OPOC Monthly Meeting
- NAACP
- HUB Sports Center Annual All-Star Breakfast
- Leadership Spokane Retreat
- Community Assembly
- Neighborhood Safety Committee Meeting
- Together Spokane Presentation @ North Central High School

Oversight / Outreach

- NACOLE Executive Board / Committee meetings (2)
- SPD Deadly Force Review Board
- SPD Use of Force Review Board
- Meeting with Chief Hall
- WSCJTC Decertification Panel (2)

COMPLAINTS



C25-066 / OPO 25-31
25 total- Complainants related to June 11th protest response.
Filed with SPD on 6/30/2025

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS

OPO 25-37	A community member complained that officers did not read them they their Miranda rights when they were arrested.
OPO 25-38	A community member complained that an officer who had been trying to get past them, pulled up next to them and used the intercom to yell at them for blocking traffic.
OPO 25-39	A community member complained that SPD will not respond to their multiple calls for service.
OPO 25-40	A community member complained that SPD officers hit their friend's vehicle causing their child to hit their head on the dashboard and did not check on the child at that time.
OPO 25-41	An SPD employee complained on the historic and current examples of bullying allegedly displayed by an employee.
OPO 25-42	A community member complained of the unprofessional interactions and harassing behavior towards their employees by an officer.

REFERRALS

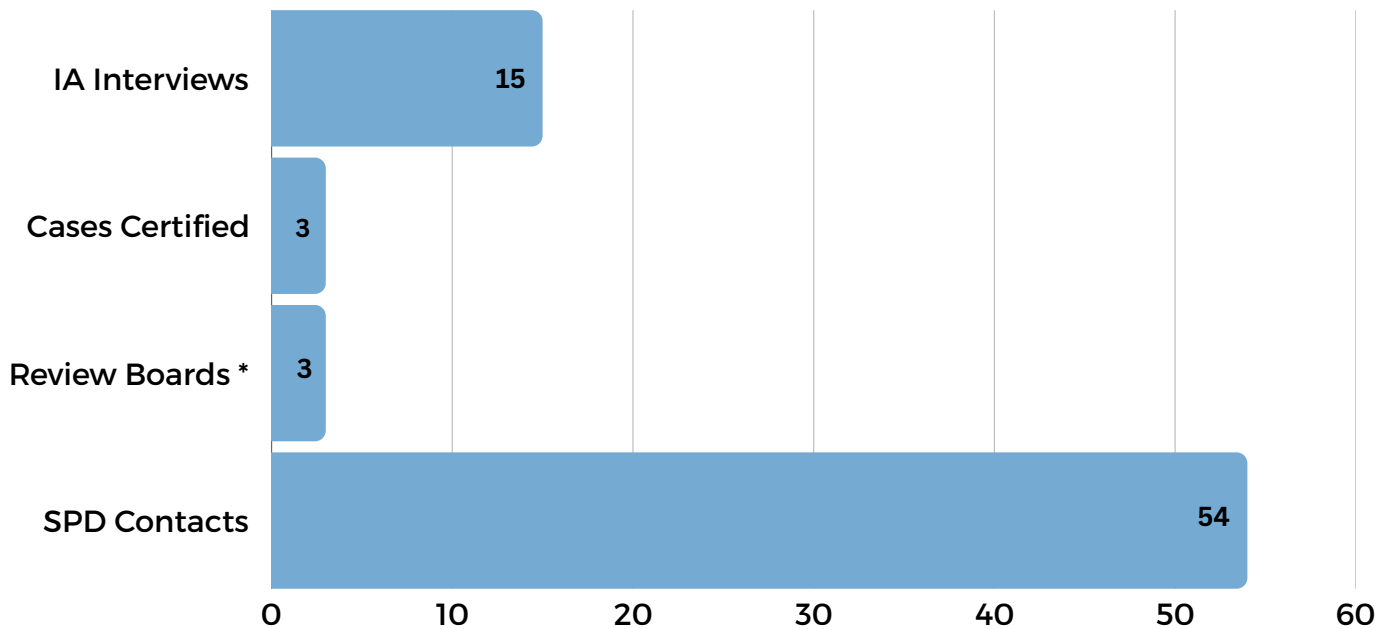


Type of Referral	#
Internal	1
External	2

SUMMARY OF REFERRALS

IR 25-37	A community member is frustrated that their neighbor is allowed to submit multiple false reports against them which has caused them to lose their job. They asked for a supervisor to contact them; SPD / IA
ER 25-38	A community member is frustrated with the unwillingness of the SCSO to recover their child’s vehicle which was allegedly stolen by their significant other; SCSO
ER 25-39	A community member was frustrated that their vehicle was towed without prior notification; SCSO

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES



Training

- SPD In-Service Training
- Daigle Law Group Internal Affairs Class (6)
- Basic Law Enforcement Training Mock Scenes (4)
- CJIS Certification Training

Upcoming

- SPD In-Service Training
- Police Dialogue Course
- United States Ombudsman Association (USOA) Pre-Conference and Annual Conference
- National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Annual Conference
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Annual Conference

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

2025 / OCTOBER

Public Safety & Community Health Committee

MONTHLY REPORT



OFFICE OF THE
POLICE OMBUDS
INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

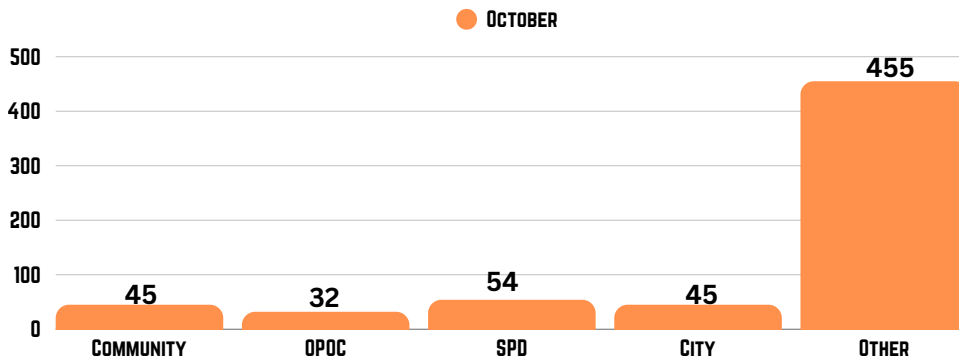
Current	YTD	Contacts, Complaints, and Referrals
633	3079	Contacts
10	162	OPO interviews
1	10	Letters of officer appreciation / commendations
3	45	OPO generated complaints
1	40	Referrals to other agencies / departments
0	1	Cases offered to SPD for mediation
0	1	Mediation completed

Current	YTD	IA Investigation Oversight
10	88	Cases certified
1	5	Cases returned for further investigation
3	4	Cases declined to certify
4	4	Web cases reviewed
9	105	Oversight of IA interviews

Current	YTD	Other Oversight Activities
6	122	Special cases reviewed*
2	18	SPD review boards / D-ARPs
56	554	Meetings with SPD
9	72	Oversight meetings
10	167	Community meetings
6	47	Training
0	2	Critical incidents

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

CONTACTS



A majority of these oversight contacts were from the USOA and NACOLE Conferences with multiple members of the OPO and OPOC in attendance.

Community Meetings

- Leadership Spokane Regional Economy Day
- Revive Center for Returning Citizens Gala
- People Who Care Luncheon
- Celebration of Service for Ladd Smith

OPOC Activities

- Human Rights Champions Banquet
- Leadership Spokane Regional Economy Day
- SPD In Service Training
- Revive Center for Returning Citizens Gala
- NAACP
- NACOLE Annual Conference

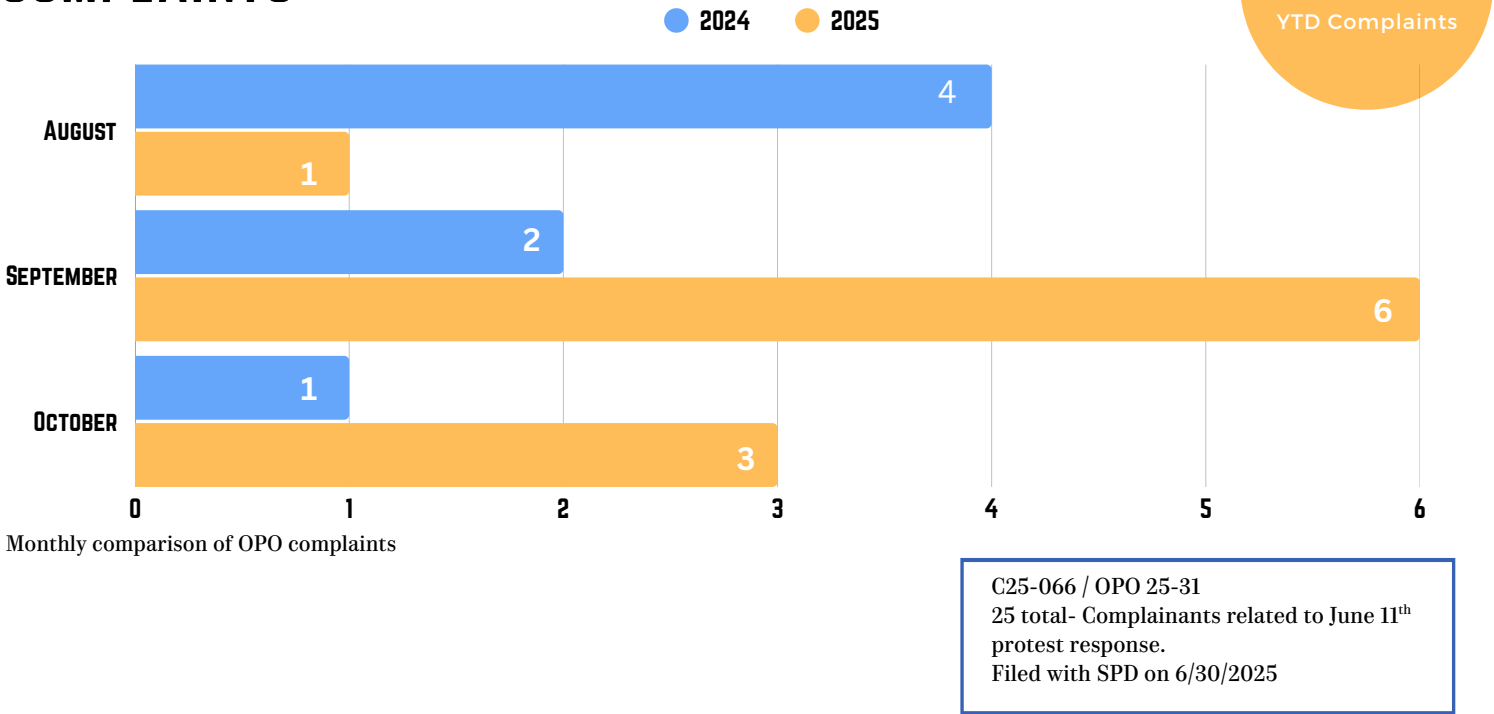


Oversight / Outreach

- NACOLE Executive Board / Committee meetings (3)
- SPD D-ARP
- SPD Use of Force Review Board
- Presented on 4 NACOLE Annual Conference Panels / Forums
 - Ombuds Logue and Chief Hall jointly presented on the Strengthening Oversight through Collaboration: Insights from Spokane and Boulder Session
 - Ombuds Logue was a panelist on the Use of Force Principles: Twenty - Three Core Elements to Ensuring an Effective Policy Session
 - Ombuds Logue presented at the Coffee with the Candidates Forum
 - Ombuds Logue presented at the NACOLE Annual Meeting
- Presented at USOA Annual Conference Panel
 - Deputy Ombuds Mascio presented on the Climbing Your Mountain: Navigating Challenging Logistics Across Ombuds Models Session
- Ombuds Logue was re-elected for a second term to the NACOLE Board of Directors



COMPLAINTS



SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS

OPO 25-43	A community member complained that officers continue to harass them and arrested them and charged them with disorderly conduct for jaywalking.
OPO 25-44	A community member complained that an officer retaliated against them to their employer after the complainant voiced their concerns to the officer.
OPO 25-45	A community member complained that SPD officers threatened to arrest staff members during a Harm Distribution event.

COMMENDATION

L 25-10	A community member wanted to thank SPD for their partnership with BHU and for the help they have provided them.
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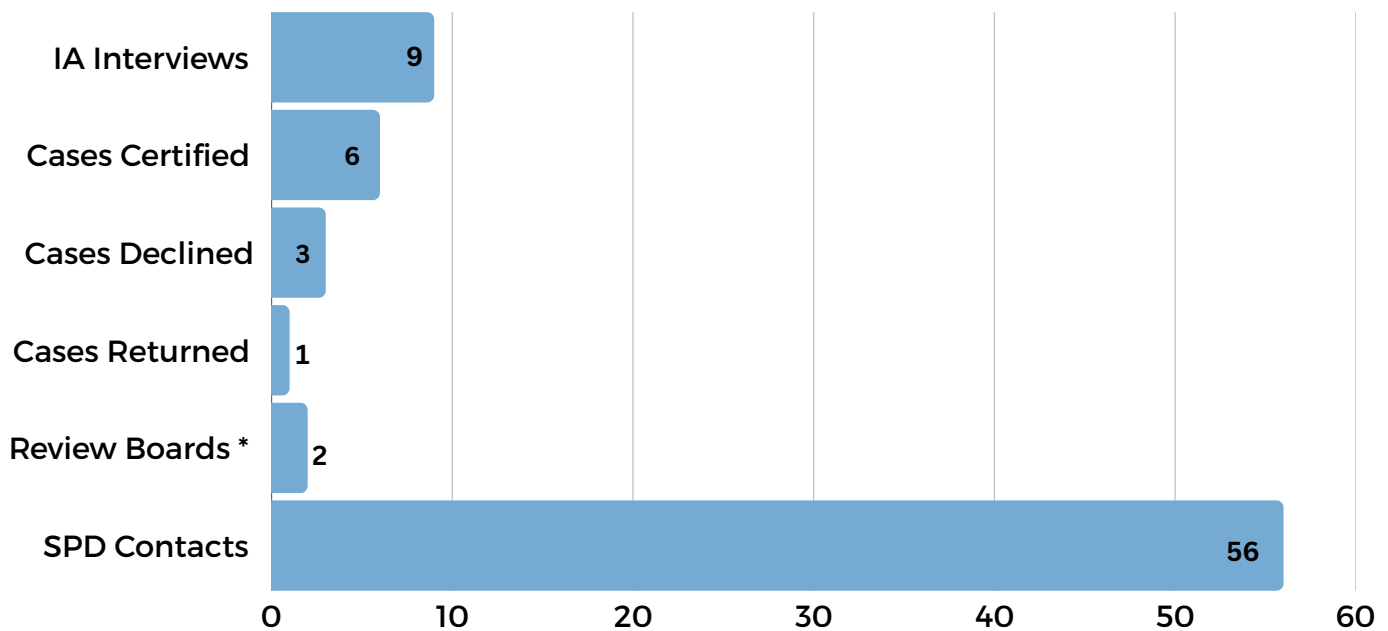
REFERRALS

Type of Referral	#
Internal	1

SUMMARY OF REFERRALS

IR 25-40	A community member is frustrated that they have not received a phone call back from a detective after leaving a voicemail for assistance three days prior; SPD / IA
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OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES



TRAINING

- SPD In-Service Training
- Police Dialogue Training
- Know Be 4 Training
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Annual Conference
- United States Ombudsman Association (USOA) Annual Conference
- National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Annual Conference

Upcoming

- MOU
- OPO & OPOC Annual Report

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

F25-006

OMBUDS CLOSING REPORT

POLICY AND PROCEDURES REPORT
AND RECOMMENDATIONS



OFFICE OF THE
POLICE OMBUDS
INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT

This report was co-authored by Bart Logue, Police Ombuds, and Lissa Mascio, Deputy Police Ombuds. The Office of the Police Ombuds (OPO) presented this report to the Office of the Police Ombuds Commission on November 18, 2025.

CONTACT US:

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Spokane, WA 99201

Hours:

M-F, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

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Staff Information

Bart Logue, Police Ombuds

Bart Logue began serving in this capacity in September 2016, after serving as the Interim Police Ombuds. Bart also serves as a Commissioner on the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. Bart is a Certified Practitioner of Oversight through the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE). Bart has a Master of Forensic Sciences from National University and a Master of National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School. Bart is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Session 239, and is also a certified Advanced Force Science Specialist.

Lissa Mascio, Deputy Police Ombuds

Lissa joined the Office of the Police Ombuds in July 2025. She has a bachelor's Degree in Journalism and English from the University of New Hampshire and a Juris Doctorate from Hofstra University School of Law. Lissa is licensed to practice law in New Hampshire, and her admission to the Washington State Bar is pending approval.

Christina Coty, Executive Assistant

Christina began working for the City of Spokane in 2015 for the ITSD department in contract procurement and joined the Office of the Police Ombuds in 2018. Christina is a Certified Practitioner of Oversight through NACOLE. Prior to her work at the City of Spokane she worked for Sony Electronics as a Regional Sales Manager managing the retail store.

Tim Szambelan, OPO Attorney

Tim works in the Civil Division of the City Attorney's Office and currently represents the Office of the Police Ombuds and other departments within the City of Spokane. Tim is licensed to practice law in Washington and Arizona.

This document was reviewed by the City Attorney's Office as to form prior to publishing and also reviewed by the Spokane Police Guild pursuant to the requirements provided in Article 27 of the Agreement between the City of Spokane and the Spokane Police Guild (2023-2026).

DRAFT

Mission, Authority, and Purpose

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

The OPO does so through providing independent and thorough oversight of matters that impact the community and the department. We desire to help bridge the gap between the community and the SPD by writing closing reports on cases that are of public concern to increase accountability and transparency into the matter as well as closing reports that may lead to recommendations for improving police policies or practices. By insisting on transparency, our goal is to help eliminate similar incidents in the future and ensure that the practices contained herein are limited and/or never happen again. It is also our intent to highlight effective police practices to give the community a better understanding as to why those practices were utilized, although this is limited by provisions within the 2023-2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) §04.32.030 and the CBA provide authority for the OPO to publish closing reports on a case once it has been certified by the Police Ombuds and the Chief of Police has made a final determination in the matter. The OPO can also publish policy and procedure reports regarding cases the OPO reviews during a review board process. The OPO's recommendations will not concern discipline in specific cases or with regards to specific officers, and shall not be used in disciplinary proceedings of bargaining unit employees. Reports are solely meant to further discussion on aspects of incidents that may be improved upon.

Reports also provide opportunities for policy and procedure recommendations that can result in improved police performance through their eventual implementation. Writing a report allows the OPO to provide a more thorough review of what occurred in an incident to offer recommendations for improving the quality of police investigations and practices, including the Internal Affairs (IA) investigative process, policies, and training or any other related matter.

The OPO may also recommend mediation to the Chief of Police at any time prior to certifying a case. Should all parties agree and the officer(s) participate in good faith, the OPO may publish a report following a mediation including any agreements reached between parties. Mediations are governed by the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 7.07.070 and are considered confidential. The content of the mediation may not be used by the City or any other party in any criminal or disciplinary process.

Required Disclosures

Under Article 27 of the current CBA between the City of Spokane and the Spokane Police Guild, this report must provide the following disclosures:

1. Any closing report from an IA investigation shall clearly state the information expressed within the report is the perspective of the OPO, that the OPO does not speak for the City on the matter, and the report is not an official determination of what occurred.
2. The report will include the current policy practice, policy, and/or training as applicable and shall expressly state the policy recommendations that follow reflects the OPO's opinion on modifications that may assist the department in reducing the likelihood of harm in the future. They do not reflect an opinion on individual job performance under the current policy, practice, or training.
3. A report shall not comment on discipline of an officer(s). This prohibition includes a prohibition on writing in a report whether the OPO or OPOC agrees with or differs from the Chief's findings, whether the officer acted properly, whether the officer's actions were acceptable, or whether the officer's actions were in compliance with training or policy. Additionally, no report will criticize an officer or witness or include a statement on the OPO or OPOC's opinion on the veracity or credibility of an officer or witness.
4. The OPO's closing report shall not be used by the City as a basis to open or re-open complaints against any bargaining unit employees, or to reconsider any decision(s) previously made concerning discipline.
5. The report may not be used in disciplinary proceedings or other tangible adverse employment actions against bargaining unit employees, but not limited to decisions regarding defense and indemnification of an officer.
6. The names of officers or witnesses may not be disclosed.¹

Additional information and records regarding this matter are available through the City Clerk's Office by [Public Records Requests](#).

¹ In addition to not mentioning officer or witness names, every effort was made to remove identifying pronouns throughout this report. The same standard was used for the complainant and involved persons.

Summary

Procedural History

This incident occurred on February 15, 2025. The incident was reviewed by SPD as a use of force because an injury was sustained. Supervisor D was the final reviewer and made their final determination on June 30, 2025. The case was reviewed by the Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB) on September 18, 2025.²

In summary, Officers A and B initiated an arrest of Community member A for an Order of Protection Violation (OPV). During the interaction, Community member A was taken to the ground by Officers A and B, and arrested by Officers A, B, and C, who arrived after the initial takedown. Community Member A complained of injury to their wrist throughout the interaction, including the entirety of the 15-minute ride to jail, but it was not until they arrived at the County Jail that a Corrections Officer noted significant swelling to their left wrist.

The OPO's summary of facts are based upon a careful review of reports, BWC footage, the chain of command review, and participation in the UOFRB. This closing report provides an analysis of issues identified through the chain of command review and review board processes, which allow for a policy and procedures report.

OPO Summary of Facts

Incident

On February 15, 2025, Community member B contacted the Spokane Police Department alleging that Community member A, a former romantic partner, had texted Community member B's minor child the prior day, in violation of a no contact order.³ Prior to responding, Officer C received a copy of the protection order, which had only recently been served on Community member A, on February 6, 2025.

Officer C contacted Community member B, and gathered information about the parties' relationship history, the protective order, and violation(s). The violations of the current protective order being reported on February 15th had occurred on February 8 and February 14, 2025, and involved one missed phone call and two text messages to Community member B's minor child. A prior incident, in early January 2025, involved an allegation that Community member A had shot a firearm into Community member B's home while the minor child was present, which was reported to the police at the time.

Officer C specifically asked about Community member A's current access to weapons, and learned that, although Community member's A's own firearms had been forfeited due to the

² Under the agreement between the City and the Police Guild in the current CBA, the OPO is prohibited from mentioning whether the officer(s) acted properly, whether the officer's actions were acceptable, or whether or not the officer's actions were in compliance with training or policy. As such, the final determination by the chain of command cannot be mentioned.

³ SPD CAD Calls by Incident, 2/15/2025; Officer C's Field Case Report, 2/15/2025.

protection order, they may have access to firearms via other relatives.⁴ Based on that conversation, Officer C developed probable cause to arrest Community member A for two counts of Protection Order Violation Domestic Violence (RCW 7.105.450.1).⁵ Officer C reviewed Community member A's criminal history, which showed two prior arrests for violations of protection order, disposed as "not received," making them gross misdemeanors. Community member B also informed Officer C of Community member A's employer and work hours, indicating that Community member A should be at work at that time.

Officer C's report states: "Due to [Community member B's] statements regarding [Community member A's] escalating behavior and the potential that [they were] armed with a deadly weapon, I contacted [Officer B and Officer A]. They advised that they would meet me at [Community member A's employer] to contact [Community member A] if [they were] working at the time."

It is unclear from the other officers' reports what exact information was relayed by Officer C, but Officer A's original Field Case Supplement of 2/15/25 stated: "I was notified by Officer [C] that there was probable cause for order violation and that [they] had an outstanding warrant for such."⁶ Officer B's report stated: "I was dispatched to [name and location of Community member A's employer] to assist [Officer A] in the arrest of [Community member A]. I was advised that [Community member A] has a warrant for DVOPV and had a new charge of DVOPV."⁷ Neither Officer A's nor Officer B's original Field Case Supplements, dated February 15, 2025, indicated knowledge of a history of violence or potential possession of a firearm or other deadly weapon by Community member A.

Officer Reports

Officer A's report describes the interactions with Community member A leading up to the arrest as follows:⁸

I looked up a recent booking photograph of [Community member A] prior to my arrival...On this date I was wearing the uniform of the day, a jumpsuit with City patches, badge and regular gear.

When we arrived at the address, a car dealership, I saw a [person] that looked like [Community member A] walking away from a pickup which [they] left running and the door open. I called out "[Community member A's name]" and [they] turned and looked at me and confirmed [they were Community member A].

[They] had [their] hands in [their] pockets and declined by initial requests to remove them. I asked [them] to hold [their] arm out to the sides, and began to attempt to take arm control of [their] left arm. As I was reaching for it, I was about to tell [them they

⁴ Officer C's Field Case Report, 2/15/25, p. 3 of 7, reviewed by Supervisor G on 2/15/25.

⁵ Id, at 1 and 5; <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=7.105.450.1>: "a violation of any of the following provisions of the order is a gross misdemeanor..."

⁶ Officer A's original Field Case Supplement, dated 2/15/25, p. 2 of 3, reviewed by Supervisor F on 2/20/25.

⁷ Officer B's original Field Case Supplement, dated 2/15/25, p. 2 of 3, reviewed by Supervisor E on 2/15/25.

⁸ Officer A's original Field Case Supplement, dated 2/15/25, p. 2 of 3.

were] not free to go when [they] pulled [their] arms away from myself and Officer [B].

During our attempts to maintain arm control and bring [their] arms back behind [their] back, [Community member A] was told to stop and put [their] arms behind [their] back multiple times. The ground was somewhat snowy and slick and while we were struggling to maintain arm control of [Community member A]’s arms, [them], myself and Officer [B] fell to the ground. Initially upon us falling to the ground, [Community member A] ended up partially on top of me. Shortly after we fell to the ground, I took arm control of [Community member A]’s left arm and was able to bring [their] right arm behind [their] back in a prone handcuffing position. I held it here until [sic] handcuffs were applied (DL).

[Community member A] had been advised [they were] under arrest. After securing in [them] [sic] handcuffs [they were] searched...

Officer B’s report describes the interactions with Community member A leading up to the arrest as follows:⁹

I reviewed previous booking photos of [Community member A] and become familiar with [their] physical characteristics.

I arrived on scene with [Officer A] and [Officer C]. [Officer C] entered inside the location and I went to the back of the location with [Officer A]. While walking towards the back, I observed a [person] walking away from me. The [person] turned around and I immediately recognized [them] as [Community member A].

[Community member A] had [their] hands in [their] pocket when [Officer A] contacted [them]. [Officer A] instructed [them] to remove [their] hands from [their] pockets. [Community member A] complied and I observed [Officer A] reach to take control of [Community member A]’s left arm to take [them] into custody. [Community member A] immediately pulled [their] arm away, stepped away, and verbalized “No.”

At this time, it was apparent [Community member A] was not going to comply with Law Enforcement and resist. This interaction with [Community member A] was a quickly evolving situation. [Community member A] proceeded to actively resist arrest. I grabbed ahold of [Community member A]’s waist and guided [them] to the ground. [Community member A] actively resisted by holding [their] arms in front of [their] chest. [Community member A] was commanded multiple times to put [their] hands behind [their] back, and [they] did not comply. I had to physically move [Community member A]’s left arm to [their] back and applied handcuffs. [Officer A] was able to place [Community member A]’s right arm behind [their] back. I was able to apply handcuffs to both hands. [Community member A] continued to actively resist and tried to pull [their] arms away up until the handcuffs were successfully applied.

Officer C’s report describes the interactions with Community member A leading up to the arrest

⁹ Officer B’s original Field Case Supplement, dated 2/15/25, p. 2 of 3.

as follows:¹⁰

At approximately 1710 hours, I arrived at [Community member A]’s employer and parked to the north. While I was exiting my patrol vehicle, I observed a [person] matching [Community member A]’s description open the driver’s door of a dark colored pickup truck parked near the door of the business. The [person] appeared to look towards me. The [person] then started walking to the west, towards the back of the business lot and left the vehicle door open. I walked past the vehicle and it was unoccupied. [Officer A] and [Officer B] walked towards the west side of the business lot to see if they could find [Community member A]. I contacted a[n] employee and asked if [Community member A] was currently working. [The employee] advised that [Community member A] was, but [the employee] was unsure of where they were. I heard [Officer A] advise via radio that they were with [Community member A] in the rear of the business lot.

I exited the building and observed [Officer A] and [Officer B] standing near the [person] I had observed earlier. This [person] was identified as [Community member A]. As I was approaching the three of them, I observed [Officer A] attempt to grab [Community member A]’s arm. I could see [Community member A] immediately pull [their] arms away from [Officer A]. While I was running to assist [Officer A] and [Officer B], [Community member A] was guided to the ground. Due to the quickly evolving situation and my distance away, I was unable to discern who or how [Community member A] was guided to the ground.

It should be noted that I later conferred with [Officer A], who advised that when [they] initially contacted [Community member A], [Officer A] advised [Community member A] that they were not free to leave.¹¹

[Community member A] was laying on his stomach and his left arm was tucked towards the front of his body. I could see [Community member A]’s head moving and he was shifting from side to side. It appeared that [Community member A] was attempting to escape the grip of the officers. I kneeled down on the left side of [Community member A] and placed a knee on the ground. Due to [Community member A] moving his head erratically [sic], I placed my hand on [Community member A]’s head to hold it towards the

¹⁰ Officer C’s original Field Case Supplement, dated 2/15/25, p. 5-6 of 7, signed by Supervisor G 2/15/25.

¹¹ SPD De-Escalation Tactics Policy requires law enforcement officers to accomplish their public safety mission with “a minimal reliance on the use of force by using rapport-building communication, crisis intervention, and de-escalation tactics before resorting to force” and “to carry out their duties with courtesy, respect, professionalism, and avoid the application of unnecessary force” SPD Policy 300.1 Purpose and Scope, Spokane Police Department Policy Manual. Further, “De-Escalation Tactics” are described in Policy 300.3, to include:

B, 5. Communication from a safe position intended to gain the subject’s compliance using:

- (a) Verbal persuasion
- (b) Advisements
- (c) Warnings

SPD training indicates that those advisements and warning include informing a community member prior to being detained/arrested that “you are not free to leave” and/or “you are under arrest” in order to gain compliance with handcuffing, or to stop a community member from attempting to leave or flee.

ground. I used my other hand to grab [Community member A]’s left arm. I could immediately feel that [Community member A]’s left arm was tense and I could feel his left arm pull towards the front of his body and away from his back.

It should be noted that [Community member A] was wearing a jacket and had not been frisked for weapons prior to this contact. Based on this and [Community member B]’s earlier statements regarding [Community member A] possibly being in possession of a firearm, I believe it was very important to get [Community member A] into custody as soon as possible.

I continued to pull on [Community member A]’s left arm and was eventually able to place it behind his back. [Community member A] resisted throughout this encounter. I advised [Community member A] he was under arrest.

Video Footage

Officer A arrives Community member A’s place of employment 5:11pm on February 15, 2025,¹² where he meets up with Officer C. They encounter a dark pickup truck with an open door in front of what looks like an office, and proceed to a back lot of the building, the direction in which they believe the occupant of the pickup truck, believed to be Community member A, has gone. The ground is snow-covered, with areas of bare but wet-looking pavement, and although it is dusk, the environment and surroundings are plainly visible on the video.¹³

Officer A intersects with Officer B as they proceed to the back lot. A person first comes into view of Officer A at 5:12pm, coming out between parked cars and walking away from the officers, towards the back of the lot, at a normal pace.¹⁴ Officer’s A and B continue to approach the person and close the distance by about half, but still appear to be 3-4 car lengths away from the person, when Officer A asks, in a normal tone and volume “Are you [Community member A]?”¹⁵ The person appears to turn towards the Officers after one of them says “sir,” again in a relatively normal tone and volume.¹⁶ One Officer then says “How are you?,” and then “You’re [Community member A] right?” although they remain a couple of car-lengths away from the person.

No response can be heard from the person, although they remain standing still as the officers approach. Once the officers are within about a car-length of the person, Officer A says “How are you?” again, in a normal tone and volume, and the person can be heard to say “I’m alright.”¹⁷ The person, later confirmed to be Community member A, continues to face the officers, and appears to be wearing dark sneakers, dark pants, a lighter hooded long sleeve shirt with a darker vest over it, and a baseball cap. Community member A is standing still, feet roughly shoulder-width apart,

¹² Officer A’s BWC at 0:05.

¹³ Sunset in Spokane was at 5:13pm on February 15, 2025, according to timeanddate.com. <https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/usa/spokane?month=2>, viewed 10/2/25.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 0:49.

¹⁵ *Id.* at :054.

¹⁶ *Id.* at :057.

¹⁷ *Id.* at 1:06.

with their hands in their pants pockets and a cigarette dangling from their mouth, in a relaxed-looking position.

At about 8 feet away from Community member A, Officer A says “Can you get your hands out of your pockets for me?” in a conversational tone.¹⁸ The person asks “what’s going on?”, still standing still, in a relaxed position, hands still in pants pockets, twice – Officer A and the person are somewhat speaking over each other. Within seconds, Officer A makes a second request for the person to take their hands out of their pockets¹⁹, and Community member A begins to comply while Officer A is still making the request. Within five (5) seconds of first being requested, and while Officers are still several feet away, Community member A has their hands fully out of their pockets and hanging by their side, standing still, in a relaxed position, facing Officer B.²⁰

Officer A reaches for Community member A, stating, “keep your hands by your sides please,” and Community member arm pulls their arms back and away from Officer A, stating “No”²¹ and starts to turn away, their arms still raised, bent against their chest, stating “Well, hold on.” Officer B has their hands on Community member A’s upper arms as Community member A turns away, so Community member A is not able to take a step away. Within 7 seconds, Officer A, Officer B and Community member A are all on the ground, which appears to be snow or ice-covered, and Community member A appears to be on all fours [hands and knees], apparently supporting their weight on their hands.²²

Officer A can be seen trying to force Community member A’s right hand behind his back, while Community member A remains on all fours, supporting their weight on their hands. Officers can be heard commanding Community member A to “put your hands behind your back” a least twice, at an elevated volume, before an Officer says “you need to stop or force is gonna be used on you.”²³ At 5:13 Community member A can be heard to be making exclamations of pain, while Officers tell them “well you need to relax” and “relax your arm.”²⁴ It is unclear from Officer A’s video if Community member A is still supporting their weight on their hands or at what point during the incident they are brought fully prone, face-down on the ground.

Officer B appears to be applying cuffs, starting with the left arm, while Officer A continues to attempt to control Community member A’s right arm before the handcuffs are fully applied.²⁵ Either Officer B or Officer C can be heard to say “it’s not a takedown, I went down too.”²⁶ After Community member A is fully handcuffed and still lying prone on the ground, Officer A states “you don’t listen, and do exactly what we say, force is going to be used you, you understand? You’re under arrest, you’re going to jail.”²⁷

¹⁸ Id at 1:09.

¹⁹ Id at 1:12.

²⁰ Id at 1:14.

²¹ Id at 1:15.

²² Id at 1:23.

²³ Id at 1:36.

²⁴ Id at 1:44.

²⁵ Id at 2:14.

²⁶ Id at 2:21.

²⁷ Id at 2:21.

Community member A asks “for what” and Officer A responds “violating a no contact order, and now it sounds like resisting arrest.”²⁸ After searching Community member A on the ground and then standing them up, an officer says “stop being stupid” while the same or another officers says “or you’re going to go to the ground, okay, and force is going to be used.”²⁹ Community member A is handcuffed with their hands behind their back at this point.

After Community member A is secured in the back of Officer A’s patrol vehicle, Officer C states “[They were] really chill last time we arrested [them].”³⁰

Officer B’s BWC corroborates this timeline, capturing Officer A’s verbal request regarding the subject’s hands and the ensuing physical contact. Although the initial exchange is partially obscured by ambient noise, Officer B’s footage confirms that Community member A’s hands were fully visible and at their sides immediately before physical contact.³¹ The fall to the ground occurs almost simultaneously with Officer A’s reach, and the subsequent struggle is partially obstructed as Officer B’s camera is displaced during the takedown. Audio continues to record commands for Community member A to place their hands behind their back, followed by audible cries of pain and repeated instructions to “relax your arms.”³² Both Officer A and another officer can be heard warning that “force is going to be used” if Community member A does not comply.³³

Officer C’s BWC captures the latter portion of the encounter as they approach from a distance after seeing the struggle begin. When Officer C arrives, Community member A is already on hands and knees, with Officer B on the ground to one side and Officer A leaning over the individual attempting to control their right arm.³⁴ Officer C assists by taking control of the left arm while commands to place hands behind the back continue.³⁵ Once handcuffing is complete, the officers assist Community member A to their feet. Subsequent footage records additional verbal warnings from Officer C reiterating that “force is going to be used” if the subject does not comply, even after full restraint.³⁶ Finally, an officer remarked that Community member A “was really chill the last time we arrested them” after the subject is placed in the patrol car.³⁷

Together, the BWC recordings provide valuable clarity about the sequence of events, officer communication, and timing of physical contact. The footage demonstrates that Community member A’s compliance with the initial verbal request occurred within seconds of the encounter starting, and before physical engagement; that the takedown occurred almost

²⁸ Id at 2:28. The time from when Officer A first calls out to Community member A until the officers make physical, hands-on contact with Community member A is approximately 11 seconds. Handcuffing is completed 1:19 after first verbally addressing Community member A.

²⁹ Id at 4:10.

³⁰ Id at 7:16.

³¹ Officer B’s BWC at 1:02

³² Id at 1:46.

³³ Id at 2:16 – 2:22.

³⁴ Officer C’s BWC at 2:11.

³⁵ Id at 2:14.

³⁶ Id at 4:58.

³⁷ Id at 8:03.

immediately thereafter; and that commands to comply were issued during and after the restraint.

Complaint of Injury

Officer A's report describes the interactions with Community member A after the arrest as follows:³⁸

I walked [them] to my patrol vehicle. [They] complained that [their] left handcuff was too tight and I removed [their] wristwatch and another Officer checked the fit prior to me transporting [them] to jail.

During the approximate 15-minute ride to jail, [Community member A] told me the left handcuff was still too tight. Once off the roadway when I got to jail, I checked the handcuff. I was able to get my finger between [their] wrist and handcuff and it did not appear too tight, however, it appeared that a portion of [their] left wrist, and the back of [their hand on the left had had begun to swell, which the handcuff was sitting on. I loosened the handcuff even more prior to attempting to book [them].

Officer B's report does not describe anything beyond the initial scuffle and handcuffing.

Officer C's report describes the interactions with Community member A after the arrest as follows:³⁹

Prior to being placed in the back seat of [Officer A]'s patrol vehicle, [Community member A] continued to resist against officers and [they] yelled that [their] wrists hurt due to the handcuffs. I attempted to check the handcuffs for fit, however, [Community member A] continued to attempt to push away from the patrol vehicle. I was able to press my shoulder against [Community member A]'s back and push [them] towards the patrol vehicle. I checked the handcuffs for fit and I was able to touch two fingers between each handcuff and each wrist, ensuring they were fit correctly. I observed [Officer A] remove [Community member A]'s watch in an attempt to make the handcuffs more comfortable for him.

Video footage post-arrest, and relating to injury

After the initial and ongoing exclamations during the arrest described above, Community member A can be heard to cry out "Ow, ow, ow!" when the officers roll them to conduct a body search on the ground at 5:14pm.⁴⁰ An officer asks what is wrong with Community member A's "right bicep" and Community member A responds that it's dislocated, "the tendon or whatever."⁴¹ Community member A continues to exclaim in pain while the officers roll them and

³⁸ Officer A's original Field Case Supplement, dated 2/15/25, p. 2 of 3.

³⁹ Officer C's original Field Case Supplement, dated 2/15/25, p. 6-7 of 7.

⁴⁰ Officer A's BWC at 3:13; Officer B's BWC at 3:08; Officer C's BWC at 2:30.

⁴¹ Officer B at 3:10.

bring them to their feet, specifically complaining about their arm.⁴²

Officer C escorts Community member A to Officer A's cruiser along with Officer A. Once at the car, Community member A says "it didn't have to be that way," to which at least one officer responded that it was Community member A's "choice."⁴³ Community member A then asks Officer C to loosen the cuffs, as they are hurting his arm.⁴⁴ Community member A then seems to pull away when Officers A and C try to maneuver them by the arms, crying out in pain and stating "it's my fucking bicep, dude, you just fucking pinched it."⁴⁵ Officer C appears to be manipulating the cuffs in some way that is not visible on the BWC, as Community member A continues to cry out in pain, and one officer says "the next step is we wrap you all the way up," while another officer can be heard saying "... I'm going to crank it and its not gonna feel good... Knock it off!" to which Community member A responds, "then stop fucking yanking on it."⁴⁶ Officers can then be heard saying "[Community member A], act like an adult and this will go a lot easier, k?" and "You are a grown man."⁴⁷ Officer C states that the handcuffs are "good with fit."⁴⁸ An officer says "you're gonna get in the car," and Community member A responds, "yes I am," but not before Officer A stops them and removes Community member A's watch from their left wrist.⁴⁹ When Community member A says again "fucking cuffs hurt, guys," an officer responds "they're not meant to be comfortable."⁵⁰ As they are pushed into the back seat of the police car, Community member A continues to cry out in pain and says "Seriously, guys, just let go of me, I'll go in."⁵¹

Several minutes later, while Officers are finishing up inventory of the belongings, Community member A can again be heard asking officers to loosen the cuffs.⁵² Officer C responds "I already checked them for fit and I'm not doing it again, and you have not been very kind so I'm not getting you outta the car until you get to jail, and you can be unkind to them." Community member A can be heard in the background saying "please, it hurts..." before Officer C shuts the front passenger door of Officer A's patrol car and walks away.⁵³

Moments later, Officer A gets in their vehicle at 5:21pm,⁵⁴ and you can immediately hear Community member A say "please..." to which Officer A responds "well you know they're a little hard to put on perfectly when somebody's fighting, so..." To which Community member A says "Well you know, you guys didn't have to fucking be that aggressive with me. I would've done what you asked."⁵⁵ Community member A then went on to say something to the effect that

⁴² Officer B at 3:38; Officer C at 4:55.

⁴³ Officer C at 6:36; Officer A at 5:48.

⁴⁴ Officer C at 6:48.

⁴⁵ Officer C at 7:00; A at 6:05.

⁴⁶ C at 7:08; A at 6:15.

⁴⁷ C at 7:13.

⁴⁸ C at 7:23.

⁴⁹ A at 6:37.

⁵⁰ C at 7:32.

⁵¹ C at 7:44.

⁵² C at 10:42.

⁵³ A at 9:57.

⁵⁴ A at 10:15.

⁵⁵ A at 10:21. Notably, Officer C had indicated surprise shortly before, when they stated that Community member A had been "chill" the last time they arrested them.

Officer A wouldn't like getting grabbed like that.⁵⁶ Over the course of the 16 minute ride to the jail, Community member A complained about the pain, groaning and at times begging, at least a dozen times, although it is difficult to hear because the radio is playing music. Officer A responded at times, including "It's a short ride, we'll be alright,"⁵⁷ and "he checked them for fit, I think you're alright."⁵⁸ At one point, Community member A even said, "Please, come on man, they are fucking cutting into me, I swear to God."⁵⁹

Officer A arrives at the Jail at 5:37 with Community member A.⁶⁰ As soon as they arrive, Officer A offers to double check the handcuffs.⁶¹ Community member A's left wrist and hand are visibly swollen, but while Officer A notes that Community member A's knuckles are bleeding, they state that the cuffs don't look tight.⁶² When Officer A shifts Community member A, the cuffs are visibly digging into the swollen left wrist.⁶³ A corrections officer gently handles Community member A's left hand and immediately says "What happened here?" to which Community member A says "it's from the cuffs" and the corrections officer replies "quite the bulge there."⁶⁴ Officer A and the corrections officer move to remove the cuffs, and he immediately reacts in pain.⁶⁵ Officer A then asks Community member A "do you have something else going on with your hand there?" while the corrections officer asks "Did you break your wrist or something? Your wrist is swelling."⁶⁶

Officer A continues to state "I can put my finger in there. It's not super tight. I think there's something else going on in there."⁶⁷ Officer A states that the cuffs "are not even that tight, but a little snug," while the video shows a deep groove in Community member A's swollen left wrist as the handcuffs are loosened.⁶⁸ Ultimately, Community member A is brought to the hospital for X-rays of the wrist, prior to being admitted to the jail. An officer was dispatched to the hospital to take photographs and Supervisor A went to the hospital to conduct an interview with Community member A.

Supervisor review

Supervisor A recommended that both Officers A and B be found "in compliance with policy" in their "Use of Force Supervisor Review," on or around February 15, 2025,⁶⁹ based on the following:

- Officer A and Officer B contacted Community member A at their place of employment

⁵⁶ Id at 10:35.

⁵⁷ Id at 10:42.

⁵⁸ Id at 12:34.

⁵⁹ Id at 18:47.

⁶⁰ Id at 25:40.

⁶¹ Id at 26:38.

⁶² Id at 26:53.

⁶³ Id at 27:06

⁶⁴ Id at 27:15

⁶⁵ Id at 27:47

⁶⁶ Id at 28:07

⁶⁷ Id at 28:15

⁶⁸ Id at 28:21

⁶⁹ 2/15/25 is the date on the header of the document.

intending to arrest them for Protection Order Violation (RCW 7.105.450.1).

- Community member A “started walking away from Officers and refused to remove [their] hands from [their] coat pockets.”
- Officers A & B “took control of” Community member A and “assisted [them] to the ground where [they were] handcuffed.”
- “Handcuffs were checked and DL however when [Officer A] arrived at jail [they] noticed there was a swollen area on [Community member A]’s L. wrist/back of his hand.”
- Supervisor A spoke with Community member A at the hospital, and Community member A “was unable to describe how [they] sustained the swollen wrist and [they] said [they were] very cooperative with Officers during the arrest.”

With regards to Supervisor A’s review of the BWC footage

- They did not see anything unprofessional or out of policy that was done by Officer B or any other Officers.
- Both Officer A and B “maintained a calm demeanor while giving clear commands for [Community member A] to comply.”
- “Officers gave clear commands and no use of force was observed other than prone cuffing.”
- “Officer A was calm and readjusted the handcuffs as soon as an opportunity presented itself.”
- It is unclear how Community member A sustained the swollen area of his wrist.

Supervisor B completed an “IA Additional” Report dated April 4, 2025, relating to F25-006, relating to [Officer A], [Officer B] and [Officer C], noting the following.

- Officers developed PC to arrest [Community member A] for 2 counts of DVOPV.
- [Officers A and B] contacted [Community member A] outside their workplace and attempted to take them into custody.
- [Community member A] “resisted the officers’ attempts.”
- “During a struggle, [Community member A] was taken to the ground for prone cuffing,” which is when Officer C joined in to assist.
- “[Community member A]’s hands were eventually placed behind [their] back with manual force from the officers.”
- Upon arrival at the jail, it was noticed that [Community member A]’s left wrist was swollen, and they were transported to a hospital for evaluation.
- X-rays of [Community member A]’s showed no damage.

- “The force used to take [Community member A] into custody was de minimis in nature, and would not qualify as a reviewable use of force absent the swollen wrist.”
- With regards to [Officer A]’s actions, Supervisor B noted in their report:
- “With PC for DVOPV, [Officer A] approached [Community member A] and after a quick pleasantry told [them] to take [their] hands out of [their] pockets.”
- “At first, [Community member A] did not comply. [Officer A] told [them] a second time to remove [their] hands from [their] pockets, after which, [they] complied.”
- “Immediately afterwards, [Officer A] started to move in on [Community member A], telling [them] to put [their] hands out to [their] side.”
- At this point, [Community member A] started to pull away and resisted being taken into custody. [Community member A] was taken to the ground and [their] hands were forcibly placed behind [their] back only using manual force tactics.”

With regards to [Officer B]’s actions, Supervisor B noted in their report:

- [Officer B] was still approaching when [Officer A] made the initial contact with [Community member A].
- [Community member A] “started resisting being placed into custody” at about the time [Officer B] arrived.
- As [Community member A] “was resisting being placed into custody, [Officer B] assisted with taking [Community member A] to the ground and helped physically force [Community member A]’s hands behind [their] back.

With regards to [Officer C]’s actions, Supervisor B noted in their report:

- [Officer C] arrived after [Community member A] had already “been taken to the ground.”
- [Officer C] “helped by grabbing [Community member A] by the left hand/wrist area and applied manual force to get [their] hands behind [their] back.”

Supervisor B noted the following regarding “De-escalation” techniques used during the event, along with those that were not used but could have or should have been:

- [Officer A] “communicated to [Community member A] to take [their] hands out of [their] pockets”
- [Officer A] “did not advise [Community member A they were] under arrest or being detained/not free to leave before moving in to physically arrest [them].”
- “A de-escalatory tactic that would have been feasible in this case would be to advise of the intent to arrest and give the subject a reasonable opportunity to submit to arrest before force is used.”

Supervisor B made the following recommended findings in his April 4, 2025 “IA Additional”

Report, based on the above:

"[Officer A] – In compliance with Policy (UOF); [Officer A] should be reminded to utilize communication and de-escalation techniques when making arrests such as this.

[Officer B] – In compliance with Policy (UOF); In this case, [Officer B] responded to [Officer A]'s lead and was compelled to act, but an advisement of arrest would be prudent here.

[Officer C] – In compliance with Policy (UOF)."

Chain of Command Review

On March 30, 2025, Supervisor B wrote:

"Need to add [Officer C] as an involved. During the arrest process, [Officer C] is seen pulling on the suspect's left wrist/hand as the officers have to force [their] hands behind [their] back. The left hand was the swollen hand requiring this review. As [Officer C] utilized manual force to that area [they] need to be included as involved."

On April 9, 2025, after receiving Supervisor B's recommendations regarding the Use of Force, Supervisor C requested of Supervisor A in the chain of command routing software:

"Please have the involved officers complete a short additional utilizing UOF report writing. (Graham statement). Once completed please resubmit through [Supervisor B].

Please have officers complete Graham statements and re-submit through COC."

On June 5, 2025, Supervisor A added Officer C's "Graham statement" to the chain of command review. That document was another "Field Case Supplement" by Officer C, with the date 2/15/25 next to their name, "reviewed by" Supervisor A on 6/4/2025. Nothing in the report indicates that it was requested to be drafted on or after April 4, 2025, nor what date it was actually written.

Officer C's "Graham Statement"

At approximately 1710 hours, I arrived at [Community member A's employer] and parked to the north. While I was exiting my patrol vehicle, I observed a [person] matching [Community member A]'s description open the driver's door of a dark colored pickup truck parked near the door of the business. The [person] appeared to look towards me. The [person] then started walking to the west, towards the back of the business lot and left the vehicle door open. I walked past the vehicle and it was unoccupied. [Officer A] and [Officer B] walked towards the west side of the business lot to see if they could find [Community member A]. I contacted a[n] ...employee and asked if [Community member A] was currently working. [The employee] advised that [Community member A] was, but [the employee] was unsure of where [they were]. I heard [Officer A] advise via radio that [they were] with [Community member A] in the rear of the business lot.

I exited the building and observed [Officer A] and [Officer B] standing near the [person] I had observed earlier. This [person] was identified as [Community member A]. As I was approaching the three of them, I observed [Officer A] attempt to grab [Community member A]'s arm. I could see [Community member A] immediately pull [their] arms away from [Officer A]. While I was running to assist [Officer A] and [Officer B], [Community member A] was guided to the ground. Due to the quickly evolving situation and my distance away, I was unable to discern who or how [Community member A] was guided to the ground.

It should be noted that I later conferred with [Officer A], who advised that when [they] initially contact [Community member A], [Officer A] advised [Community member A] that [they were] not free to leave.⁷⁰

CRIME

Probable cause was established to arrest [Community member A] for two counts of Protection Order Violation Domestic Violence.

THREAT

During my interview earlier in the day with [Community member B], [they] advised that [Community member A] had become assaultive with [them] in the past. [They] also advised that in early January of 2025, [Community member A] allegedly shot a firearm through [their] living room window while [their minor child] was sleeping in the couch. [Community member B] stated that [they] believed although [Community member A] was prohibited from possessing firearms, [they were] able to acquire them easily from [their child].

[Community member A] was wearing a long sleeved shirt with a jacket/vest. [They] had not been frisked for weapons when this encounter took place and it was unknown if [they] was in possession of a potentially deadly weapon that could be used to harm officers.

It should be noted that [Community member A] is listed on [their] WA state DOL return as being 6'1" and 200 pounds. Upon seeing [them] during this contact, [they] appeared to be in relatively good physical condition.

RESISTANCE

[Community member A] was advised by [Officer A], working as a uniformed police officer, that [they were] not free to leave prior to resisting officers' attempt to place [them] in handcuffs. Once taken to the ground, I grabbed [Community member A]'s left

⁷⁰ These first 3 paragraphs of Officer C's second "Field Case Supplement" exactly match the 3 paragraphs describing their arrival and the takedown in the originally submitted report on 2/15/25, on page 5 of 7.

arm. [Community member A] was verbally commanded by officers to place [their] hands behind [their] back. After being given this command, I could feel [their] left arm become tense and pull towards the front of [their] body, away from [their] back. [Community member A] yelled profanities, such as "Get the fuck off of me" and "Fuck you" while I was attempting to move [their] left hand to [their] back.

DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES

Once getting to where [Community member A] was located with Officers [A and B], [Community member A] was verbally advised to place [their] hands behind [their] back. As [they were] actively resisting my attempt to place [their] left hand behind [their] back, I told [Community member A] to relax and place [their] hands behind [their] back.

Due to the quickly evolving nature of this encounter and me arriving after Officers [A and B] had contacted [Community member A], I was unable to speak to [Community member A] prior to attempting to get [their] left hand behind [their] back.

Due to [Community member B]'s statements regarding [Community member A] allegedly shooting a firearm into [their] living room and [Community member A] possibly being armed with a deadly weapon, I requested Officers [A and B] to assist in [Community member A]'s apprehension.

LEAST AMOUNT OF FORCE USED

I was eventually able to pull [Community member A]'s left arm behind [their] back and [they were] placed in handcuffs. I did not strike [Community member A] to gain compliance or use any less lethal equipment.

TERMINATION OF FORCE

Once [Community member A] was placed in handcuffs, I terminated my pulling of [their] left arm. While [they were] being walked to a patrol vehicle, [Community member A] repeatedly pulled away from me, requiring me to tense my grip around [their] arm to control [their] movement. When [they] stopped pulling away, I loosened my grip on [their] arm.

[Community member A] was later booked into the Spokane County Jail for the aforementioned crimes.

See other officer's reports for further information

On June 18, 2025, Supervisor A noted in the chain of command review: "Supplemental

reports with Graham statements by both [Officer C] and [Officer B] attached. Delay due to [Officer B] being [off] for 2 weeks.” That document was another “Field Case Supplement” by Officer B, with the date 2/15/25 next to their name, “reviewed by” Supervisor A on 6/16/2025. The report states “Additional Graham Statement to my original supplemental report written on 02/15/2025,” but nothing in the report indicates that it was requested to be drafted *on or after April 4, 2025*, and again *on or after June 5, 2025*, nor what date it was actually written.

Additional Graham Statement to my original supplemental report written on 02/15/2025.

Crime:

[Officer A] advised me that [they established probable cause to arrest [Community member A] for two counts of Domestic Violence Order Protection Violation (DVOPV). In addition, [Community member A] had a confirmed local arrest warrant for DVOPV,

Threat:

When [Community member A] was contacted on 02/15/2025, the ground was covered with snow and ice. [Community member A] was contacted standing on snow and ice. [Community member A] is a large in stature [person] ...

[Community member A] was wearing multiple layers of clothing to include a vest and [they were] unable to be frisked to ensue [sic] [they weren't] armed with a weapon.

Resistance:

In the span of mere moments, I observed [Officer A] reach to take control of [Community member A]'s left arm to take [them] into custody. [Community member A] immediately pulled [their] arm away from [Officer A], stepped away from [Officer A], and verbalized “No” to being placed into police custody. When [Community member A] took a step away from [Officer A], [they] back stepped towards me. [Community member A] had [their] back to me and was within arm's reach. At this point it was obvious that [Community member A] was going to resist and put up a fight with Law Enforcement.

This incident with [Community member A] was a quickly evolving situation. To prevent a physical fight from occurring, I decided to grab ahold of [Community member A] and guide [them] to the ground. To accomplish this in the most controlled manner, I grabbed ahold of [Community member A]'s waste [sic] from behind. Once I had a good grip around [Community member A], I dropped by body weight. This caused [Community member A] to lose [their] balance, and we both rolled to the ground.

Once on the ground [Community member A] immediately pulled [their] arms close to [their] chest to try and prevent being placed in handcuffs. [Officer A], [Officer C] and I were able to restrain [Community member A] onto the ground. [Community member A] was commanded multiple times to put [their] hands behind [their] back. [Community member A] did not comply and continued to scream “Fuck you.”

After a few minutes [Officer A], [Officer C] and I were able to successfully force [Community member A]'s arms behind [their] back by pulling them out from under [them]. [Community member A] was placed in handcuffs.

During this altercation, my BWC was detached from my chest and flew a couple feet away.

Termination of Force

Once [Community member A] was placed into handcuffs, all officers separated themselves from [Community member A] and force was terminated. [Community member A] was picked up off the floor and escorted to the back of a patrol car.

On June 19, 2025, Supervisor B again requested that Supervisor A get Officer A's Graham Statement and add it to the file. On June 29, 2025, Supervisor A indicated that Officer A's Graham statement was attached. That document was another "Field Case Supplement" by Officer A, with the date 2/15/25 next to their name, "reviewed by" Supervisor A on 6/25/2025.

The following factors were present at the time I made contact with [Community member A] on 2/15/2025

Crimes: DV Protection order violation and Obstruction

Threat: [Community member A] had been reluctant to remove [their] hands from [their] pockets upon my request. This time of year was cold, snow and ice were on the ground and [Community member A] had not been patted down for weapons. [They were] wearing a hooded sweatshirt, black vest and jeans.

I had been notified [Community member A] could possibly be in possession of firearms per the victim's statement.⁷¹

DOL physicals have [Community member A] in excess of my own height and weight.

Resistance: My attempts to take arm control of [Community member A]'s left arm were met with [them] pulling [their] arm away, turning and resisting our attempts and commands to bring [their] hands behind [their] back. During mine and [Officer B]'s attempts to bring [Community member A]'s arms behind [their] back we fell on the ice.

After a protracted period where [they were] told multiple times to put [their]

⁷¹ This information was not in Officer A's original report of 2/15/25, written over 4 months prior.

hands behind [their] back, and [them] resisting my effort to do so by actively pulling [their] arm to the front of [their] body away from the direction I was trying to bring [their] arm, I was able to bring [their] right arm behind [their] back while [they were] prone with control techniques in prone handcuffing position, where handcuffs were eventually applied.

De-escalation techniques: I had made simple commands to [Community member A] to remove [their] hands from [their] pockets. Throughout the encounter, multiple commands were given to [Community member A] to move [their] arms behind their] back, to relax [their] arm, and notifications that attempts to resist our arrest could result in force being used upon [them].

Least amount of force used: Throughout the encounter, I utilized verbal commands and control techniques to take control of [Community member A]'s arm, and to bring it behind [their] back to assist in overcoming [Community member A]'s active resistance.

Termination of force: Once handcuffs were applied and the scene was made safe, I no longer needed to hold [Community member A]'s hand behind [their] back and ceased to do so. I assisted in safely rolling out of a prone position and onto [their] feet and assisted in escorting [them] to my vehicle.

This concludes the graham factors present in our taking [Community member A] into custody. The events that followed and further details are documented in my original supplemental report.

After submission of the final supplemental Graham statement, Supervisor B submitted their findings, based on the April 4, 2025 IA Additional Report, into the chain of command, and forwarded it to Supervisor C:

- The use of force was de minimus and would not have qualified as a reviewable use of force absent the swollen wrist sustained by the arrestee. In this case, the arrestee was forcibly taken into custody with no verbal admonition that [they were] under arrest or being detained.

Supervisor B provided the following recommended findings:

[Officer A] – In compliance with policy; [Officer A] should be reminded to utilize communication and de-escalation techniques when making arrests such as this.

[Officer B] – In compliance with policy; in this case [Officer B] responded to [Officer A]'s

lead and was compelled to act, but an advisement of arrest would be prudent here.

[Officer C] – In compliance with policy.

On June 30, Supervisor C concurred with the recommended findings of Supervisor B without addition or amendment, stating:

- “After a review of the attached document and digital evidence, I concur ...that these three officers’ utilization control tactics was within policy and law. The prompting of this review was due to the swelling of the subject’s wrist not the chosen force tactics. I also concur with ...arrest advisement and de-escalation emphasis.”

On that same day, Supervisor C routed the UOF to Supervisor D, for their review. Supervisor D, on that same day, concurred with Supervisor C’s findings, making a final determination that all officers were “within policy,” and no sanctions should be imposed, stating in full:

- “I have reviewed the pertinent reports, BWC video, and administrative documents. I concur with the chain of command that the arrest tactics used to take [Community member A] into custody were within policy. I also agree that it is better to advise someone they are under arrest and use the verbal de-escalation tactics prior to attempting arm control. The force used would not have triggered a use of force report other than some swelling noticed later. I did speak with [Supervisor A] who had written in [their] administrative report that the suspect would not initially remove [their] hands from [their] coat pocket. [Supervisor A] stated [they] meant to put pocket and not add in the ‘coat’ part.”

Findings:

[Officer A] – Within policy

[Officer B] – Within policy

[Officer C] – Within policy

- “I concur a reminder to [Officer A] and [Officer B] from their [supervisor] would be prudent regarding good verbal de-escalation and communication during arrest situations. This could be considered shift-level discussion and not a sanction.”

Supervisor D’s directive was conveyed to the relevant supervisors. On July 1, 2025, Supervisor F relayed via email: “I have completed the task discussion with [Officer A] In regards to de-escalation and communication.” Supervisor E noted in the Chain of Command notes on July 4, 2025: “I have completed a discussion with [Officer B] regarding verbal de-escalation and communication during arrest incidents.”

Use of Force Review Board Deliberation

The Use of Force Report packet for the September 18, 2025 UOFRB included the following Incident Summary:

[Officers A, C, and B] arrested [Community member A] for OPV. During the course of the arrest [Community member A] struggled. Once [Community member A] was taken to jail [Officer A] noted a swollen area on [Community member A]’s wrist/back of [their] hand where the handcuffs were. Nobody was able to say what caused [Community member A]’s hand to swell. An X-ray at [the hospital] did not show any reason for the swelling. [Community member A] was [treated] and cleared to go to jail where [they were] booked. In compliance with policy per [Supervisor D] 06/30/2025.

The member of the board who was assigned to present the case was unexpectedly not present, so a very short overview was presented, with the Chain of Command issues identified as:

- Report writing: Officers completed a Graham statement.
- Communication: Officer B should have given an advisement of arrest and Officer A’s communication and de-escalation could be improved. Both of those issues were addressed through informal restorative supervision.

No member of the review board took issue with the use of force. One member of the review board viewed the situation differently and told the board that they found this incident concerning. They raised various issues including:

- A concern about the report writing as there appeared to be some notable discrepancies both between the various officers’ reports, and between what the report said and what the BWC showed. Using terms like “guided to the ground” seemed disingenuous, especially given the chaotic scene depicted on BWC. One of the members of the Board indicated that officers were instructed at a Spring 2025 in-service to discontinue the use of canned language such as “guided to the ground.” That member of the board agreed that plain language describing what occurred would have been better.
- A concern about the pace of the incident and the almost complete lack of communication, advisements, warnings, or de-escalation tactics used prior to going hands on with Community member A, which had been raised throughout the chain of command review and resulted in restorative supervision, although not an “out of policy” finding or any sanctions. This lack of warnings fall short of the tenets of the recent ICAT training, which several members of the board had attended, and had said that the agency “was already doing.” After the issue was raised, one member of the board agreed that “slowing it down” would have been a good idea, and they would have liked to see more de-escalation. Another member of the board agreed that officers

should have established legal authority clearly.

- The fact that the three officers' Graham statements, which are intended to describe an officer's perception of events that justify a use of force pursuant to *Graham v. O'Connor*, were drafted in early to late June, although each supplemental report was dated 02/15/2025 (the date of the original event). Of concern was the lack of clarity about what officers actually had knowledge of in the moment, especially with regards to the threat assessment, based on the lack of information in the original reports and the extensive delay before the drafting of the Graham statements. It was clear from BWC that at least one officer had knowledge of prior compliance by Community member A during an arrest.

Recommendations

Recommendations to Policy and/or Training

Reasonable Care

1. **SPD Policy 301.4(II) REQUIREMENT TO USE REASONABLE CARE.** Officers should be aware that "reasonable care" is a legal requirement when using physical force under Chapter 10.120 RCW. Officers are required to use reasonable care when determining whether to use physical force or deadly force and when any physical force or deadly force against another person. (RCW 10.120.020(3)).

To that end, a peace officer shall when using physical force, officers shall use the least amount of physical force necessary to overcome resistance under the circumstances. (RCW 10.12.020(3)(b)). This includes a consideration of the characteristics and conditions of a person for the purposes of determining whether to use force against that person and, if force is necessary, determining the appropriate and least amount of force possible to effect a lawful purpose.

De-escalation

1. **SPD Policy 300.2. De-escalation defined – "De-escalation tactics"** refer to actions used by a peace officer that are intended to minimize the likelihood of the need to use force during an incident. Depending on the circumstances, "de-escalation tactics" may include, but are not limited to: Using clear instructions and verbal persuasion; attempting to slow down or stabilize the situation so that more time, options, and resources are available to resolve the incident; creating physical distance by employing tactical repositioning to maintain the benefit of time, distance, and cover; when there are multiple officers, designating one officer to communicate in order to avoid competing commands; requesting and using available support and resources, such as a crisis intervention team, a designated crisis responder or other behavioral health professional, or back-up officers. (RCW 10.120.010.)

2. **SPD Policy 300.3 DE-ESCALATION.** Officers shall, when possible, use all de-escalation tactics that are available and appropriate under the circumstances before using any physical force. De-escalation tactics are used in an effort to reduce the need for, or degree of, force necessary to safely resolve a situation. It is recognized that every situation is unique and fact-specific; not all tactics are appropriate in every circumstance. It is not required that officers use every technique below during every incident. The over-arching objective of de-escalation is to make a situation less dangerous for the public, the officers, and the subject involved. The subject's actions, type of weapon(s), presence of hostages, and overall risk to the general public and the involved officers will be important considerations in determining which tactics are appropriate in a particular scenario.
3. **SPD Policy 300.3(B)(1)-(3)** The following are considered de-escalation tactics:
 - i. Allow subjects the opportunity to submit to arrest before force is used.
 - ii. Attempt to isolate and contain the subject. When it is safe and reasonable to do so, officers should make advantageous use of:
 1. Positioning, distance, concealment, and cover by isolating and containing a subject.
 2. Continuously evaluating the officer's positioning, subject's actions, and available force options.
 3. Placing barriers between an uncooperative subject and an officer.
 - iii. Create time and distance from the subject by creating a buffer zone (reactionary gap) and utilize cover.
 1. In order to use time as a tactic, a zone of safety should be established for the security of responding members and the public.
 2. Using time as a tactic may:
 - a. Permit the de-escalation of the subject's behavior and create a window of opportunity to use a lower level of force to resolve the situation.
 - b. Allow for continued communication with the subject and adjustment of the verbal control techniques employed by members.
- b. **SPD Policy 300.3(B)(6)** – Avoidance of physical confrontation, unless necessary.
- c. **SPD Policy 300.3(B)(8)** – Any other tactics and approaches that attempt to achieve law enforcement objectives by gaining the compliance of the subject.

Every reviewable use of force should be evaluated not only against the Use of Force Policy but also through the lens of the De-escalation Policy, as these two frameworks are inherently interdependent. The Use of Force Policy establishes the legal and procedural boundaries for applying force, while the De-escalation Policy articulates the expectation that officers will exhaust all reasonable alternatives before resorting to force. Evaluating incidents solely under the Use of Force Policy risks narrowing the analysis to the justification for physical control, rather than examining whether that force might have been avoidable. A dual-policy

evaluation ensures that the department's reviews uphold not only the legality of force but also the professionalism, restraint, and judgment expected of its officers. This approach reinforces the department's commitment to public trust, accountability, and best practices in modern policing.

Supervisory evaluations of officer actions following a reviewable use of force should incorporate a structured analysis under both the Use of Force Policy and the De-escalation Policy. Evaluating only under one policy risks missing key insights into whether the officer's decision-making was both lawful and consistent with department expectations to minimize harm. A comprehensive review ensures that supervisory findings consider the full spectrum of officer conduct, from the initial assessment and communication strategies through the actual application of force, allowing for more consistent, objective, and transparent accountability across incidents.

Additionally, supervisors should evaluate officer tactics and provide instructive guidance in non-reviewable uses of force whenever feasible. The majority of force used by officers does not rise to a level requiring formal review; however, these incidents still present valuable opportunities for reinforcing expectations and improving performance. Supervisory feedback, even when the use of force is minimal or within policy, serves an important training and coaching function. When supervisors take time to evaluate both tactical decisions and de-escalation efforts in these encounters, they promote early intervention, consistency in understanding departmental standards, and a culture of continual professional development.

Consistent application of both policies, clarifies expectations for officers and supervisors alike. It reinforces that each decision to use or withhold force must be grounded in the principles of necessity, proportionality, and reasonable care as required by state law. This dual evaluation framework will improve the quality of supervisory reviews, ensure alignment with policy intent, and enhance both officer performance and community confidence in the department's accountability systems.

Recommendation 25-11. The OPO recommends that SPD supervisors evaluate and provide findings for officer actions using both the Use of Force policy and the De-escalation policy every time that there is a reviewable use of force. Additionally, supervisors should also evaluate officer tactics and provide instructive guidance in non-reviewable uses of force when possible, using both policies to clarify expectations and reinforce training.

Use of Force

SPD Policy 301 is the policy governing Use of Force. The entire policy is not cut and pasted here for brevity.

301.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use of force. Police officers have been delegated the responsibility to protect life and property and to apprehend criminal offenders. The Department is committed to accomplishing this mission with respect and a minimal reliance on the use of force, and by using, whenever possible, rapport-building communication, crisis intervention, and de-escalation tactics before resorting to force.

It is recognized, however, that in certain situations, the use of force may be unavoidable. While there is no way to specify the exact amount or type of force to be applied in every situation, every member of this department is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions in a professional, impartial and reasonable manner. All physical force used will be reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances.

Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT)

The Spokane Police Department presented ICAT training in a “Train the Trainer” program on August 19-20, 2025. The ICAT program, developed by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), is a nationally recognized training model that provides officers with communication, assessment, and tactical decision-making tools to safely and effectively manage encounters, particularly those involving individuals in crisis or unarmed persons. The following principles outline the core tenets of ICAT as applied in modern policing practice.

1. “Don’t Be the Reason Force is Used”

ICAT is not a 'no-force' model but a decision-making framework that emphasizes preventing unnecessary escalation. The philosophy encourages officers to recognize how their own actions, tone, and decisions can influence the need for force.

2. The Critical Decision-Making Model (CDM)

ICAT’s foundation is the CDM, which guides officers through a structured process: 1) Collect information; 2) Assess situation, threats, and risks; 3) Consider authority, policy, and law; 4) Identify options and determine the best course of action; and 5) Act, review, and reassess.

3. Time, Distance, and Cover

Officers are encouraged to slow down encounters, create physical and emotional distance, and use cover to provide more time to assess situations and employ communication before resorting to force.

4. Communication and Empathy

Effective communication is a two-way process of active listening and clear, calm engagement.

Officers are encouraged to listen to understand, not just to respond, and to show empathy to defuse tense encounters.

5. Tactical Decision-Making and Role Clarity

ICAT applies structured team tactics to field situations. Officers should have defined roles: one communicator, one less-lethal option handler, and one lethal cover officer. This approach promotes coordination and reduces confusion.

6. Proportionality

The level of force used should be directly proportional to the actual threat presented. Officers are reminded that verbal hostility or noncompliance alone does not justify escalation.

7. After-Action Review and Learning

ICAT emphasizes continual improvement through post-incident analysis. Reviews should focus on learning and performance growth, not blame, by asking not just whether an action was 'within policy,' but whether it was necessary and effective.

8. Professionalism and Emotional Control

Officers must maintain professionalism and emotional discipline in every encounter. ICAT teaches that 'Contempt of Cop' is not a crime and that every officer has a duty to intervene when a colleague loses composure.

9. Integration with Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)

ICAT complements Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training by adding structured tactical and communication strategies, expanding the tools available to officers handling complex situations.

10. Leadership and Culture of Safety

ICAT promotes a leadership culture where slowing down, assessing, and planning are seen as strengths. Leadership is both positional and behavioral; officers at every level are expected to model calm and deliberate decision-making.

Integrating ICAT principles into Policy 301 would continue to reinforce departmental practice with Washington's statutory requirement for officers to exercise reasonable care (RCW 10.120.020) before using force. ICAT's focus on *"Don't be the reason force is used"* emphasizes that officer behavior, tone, and tactical choices can either escalate or de-escalate a situation. The program's modules train officers to slow down, communicate effectively, and create time and distance when possible, all while maintaining tactical awareness. Embedding these tenets into policy would provide officers clear expectations for implementing the state's mandate that force be used only when necessary and in proportion to the threat faced.

Further, ICAT's emphasis on threat assessment and proportionality would modernize SPD's policy language by bridging the current gap between policy and training. ICAT teaches that "threat" differs from "threatening," and that noncompliance or verbal hostility do not

automatically justify force. This nuance—absent in many force policies—encourages officers to distinguish between perceived disrespect and genuine danger. Explicitly codifying these concepts in Policy 301 would promote more objective decision-making, enhance accountability, and reduce both officer and civilian risk.

Finally, integrating ICAT into Policy 301 would reinforce SPD's commitment to continuous improvement through structured after-action reviews. ICAT's post-incident analysis model emphasizes "brutal honesty" in evaluating decisions, not simply whether force was permissible, but whether it was necessary and whether alternative outcomes were appropriate and achievable. By adopting this model into policy, SPD can foster a culture of reflection and learning, where each use of force becomes an opportunity for growth rather than blame. This change would institutionalize lessons learned, promote transparency, and strengthen public trust in the department's use of force oversight systems.

Recommendation 25-12. The OPO recommends that the Spokane Police Department update Policy 300 – De-escalation and Policy 301 – Use of Force to explicitly integrate the principles of the Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics program.

"Canned Language"

1. Defensive Tactics Manual⁷²

- a. Introduction**
- b. All techniques, whether in this manual or not, should be described in detail in the officer's report to allow for objective evaluation, to document the incident and to educate. Referring to any technique solely by name can lead to misunderstandings as all techniques are applied differently due to environmental factors and suspect actions, despite having the basic movements in common. Officers will use the Graham factors format within their departmental reports, individualizing each section as it pertains to the particular incident of which they are writing. Officers will not use boilerplate language.**

Use of force reports and supervisory reviews that rely on generic or "canned" phrasing, such as "the subject was guided to the ground," fail to provide sufficient detail about what actually occurred during an encounter. The phrase has become a catchall descriptor that can obscure a wide range of physical actions, from a controlled takedown to a forceful push or tackle. Without proper articulation, this language minimizes the perception and potential impact of force used, undermines the integrity of documentation, and prevents both internal and external reviewers

⁷² The OPO relied on the version updated December 2023. It was the version applicable at the time of the incident.

from determining whether the force applied was consistent with policy, training, and Washington's reasonable care standard (RCW 10.120.020).

When officers or supervisors use imprecise or recycled language, it conveys the impression that reports are written to fit a template rather than to reflect a genuine, individualized analysis of the event. This not only diminishes public confidence in SPD's review processes but also limits the department's ability to identify training needs or systemic issues. In contrast, clear articulation describing the officer's physical positioning, specific control techniques, and the subject's level of resistance provides valuable context for evaluating proportionality, necessity, and compliance with the Use of Force and De-escalation Policies.

Accurate, detailed reporting also serves as a training and accountability tool. Supervisors and trainers rely on precise descriptions to evaluate whether techniques were performed safely and effectively. When "guided to the ground" is used to describe multiple forms of physical contact, it eliminates opportunities for learning and improvement. Requiring officers to describe what they did, why they did it, and how it aligns with policy ensures consistency, supports coaching, and strengthens the overall quality of force review documentation.

Recommendation 25-13. The OPO recommends that SPD review and revise its reporting practices to remove the use of "canned language" or template phrasing in officer reports, supervisory reviews, and Use of Force Review Board summaries and instead use a chronological narrative format with plain language and descriptors that are consistent with the officer's perceptions and actions in the moment.

Summary of Recommendations

1. **Recommendation 25-11.** The OPO recommends that SPD supervisors evaluate and provide findings for officer actions using both the Use of Force policy and the De-escalation policy every time that there is a reviewable use of force. Additionally, supervisors should also evaluate officer tactics and provide instructive guidance in non-reviewable uses of force when possible, using both policies to clarify expectations and reinforce training.
2. **Recommendation 25-12.** The OPO recommends that the Spokane Police Department update Policy 300 – De-escalation and Policy 301 – Use of Force to explicitly integrate the principles of the Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics program.
3. **Recommendation 25-13.** The OPO recommends that SPD review and revise its reporting practices to remove the use of “canned language” or template phrasing in officer reports, supervisory reviews, and Use of Force Review Board summaries and instead use a chronological narrative format with plain language and descriptors that are consistent with the officer’s perceptions and actions in the moment.