



Photo by James Richman

# OFFICE OF THE POLICE OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



OFFICE OF THE  
POLICE OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION





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# COMMISSIONERS

## **Debra Conklin (September 2014 – October 2017)**

### ***Chair, May 2015 – October 2017***

Debra has a B.A. in Philosophy, Juris Doctorate, and Master of Divinity. She has lived in the Spokane area for most of the last 20 years, and is active in many community organizations. She has several decades of experience working on social justice issues.

## **Ladd Smith (August 2015 – Present)**

### ***Interim Chair, October 2017 – December 2017, Vice-Chair, August 2015 – October 2017***

Ladd has a B.A. in Elementary Education and an M.A. in School Administration. He has 30 years teaching experience in public education. He is currently a member of the Police Advisory Committee, serving as liaison between the SPD and the LGBTQ+ community in Spokane.

## **Colleen Gardner (September 2017 – Present)**

### ***Vice-Chair, September 2017 – Present***

Colleen is the Chief Garry Park Neighborhood Council co-chair, the Community Assembly representative for her neighborhood, facilitator for the District 1 Leadership group, and is a member of the North South Corridor Steering Committee, the Central City Line steering committee, facilitates the Community Conversations with local law enforcement, and is an Advisory Board member of the Community Court Northeast.

## **Elizabeth Kelley (September 2017 – Present)**

Elizabeth Kelley is a criminal defense lawyer with a nationwide practice focused on representing people with mental disabilities. Elizabeth is co-chair of The Arc's National Center for Criminal Justice and Disability and has served three terms on the board of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). She traveled to Liberia in 2009 and 2014 as part of a delegation sponsored by the U.N. Commission on Drugs and Crime and NACDL to train that country's criminal defense bar.

## **Scott Richter (September 2014 – October 2017)**

Scott has a B.A. in Sociology and Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in Public Administration. He was the first Volunteer/Intern with the Office of Police Ombudsman, beginning in 2011.

## **Jenny Rose (September 2015 – Present)**

Jenny has been in the education field for over 25 years. She has a B.A. in elementary education from WSU and a M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from EWU.

## **James Wilburn Jr. (October 2016 – Present)**

James has an M.A. in Education, Administrative Leadership with over 15 years of teaching experience. He has served as the Supervisor for Youth Initiative and Community/Parent relations with Spokane Public Schools and Adjunct Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Whitworth. He is currently a member of the Mayor's Advisory Council on Multi-Cultural Affairs and Spokane Police Advisory Committee. He has also served as President for the NAACP Spokane Branch from 2008-2010.

## OFFICE OF THE POLICE OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION

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Monthly meetings every 3rd Tuesday, 5:30PM in Council Chambers

### **Mission**

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



# LETTER FROM THE OPOC CHAIR

February 12, 2018

Mayor David Condon  
Council President Ben Stuckart  
City Council Members  
Office of Police Ombudsman  
Chief Craig Meidl

The Office of Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC) is pleased to share our accomplishments for 2017. This was another year of change and growth for the Commission. We saw a significant amount of turnover. In the summer, Commissioner Scott Richter announced his resignation from the OPOC. City Council appointed Commissioner Colleen Gardner as his replacement. Scott continues to be a part of oversight in Spokane, as he reprised his former role as an intern with the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPO). His professional background in academic research will prove invaluable to strengthening OPO's initiatives. In the fall, Commissioner Debra Conklin reached the end of her term. City Council appointed Commissioner Elizabeth Kelley as her replacement. Commissioner James Wilburn Jr., a Mayoral appointee, was selected to fill the position former Commissioner VanderPol vacated. While this vacancy prevented us from fully engaging with the community, we dedicated ourselves in continuing towards our Community Outreach goal. We increased our attendance of community meetings and trainings by 36%.

While we continued to work on revising the governing ordinance for the OPO, we began to recognize the strain the current ordinance places on Ombudsman Logue and the additional tasks this places on him and his staff. This led to the OPOC to assess how to better facilitate the OPO. First, we asked Mr. Logue to pull back on his community engagements and adjust OPO's office hours to prevent burnout. Second, we endorsed the OPO's request for additional staff. While the OPO was granted a permanent part-time Administrative Specialist position, the office is still understaffed to meet the full expectations of the ordinance and any potential future changes. In 2018, both the OPOC and the OPO are committed to gaining the support needed to transition the Administrative Specialist into a full-time position and adding a Community Outreach position. These positions are imperative support roles for both the OPOC and OPO as we continue to strengthen our presence in the community.

We acknowledge that over the past year there was significant friction between some members of the OPOC and the OPO. While this friction was in trying to understand our respective roles, it is our commitment to serving the community that keeps us moving forward and working through any obstacles. We are excited to close 2017 with collaboration between the Spokane Police Department (SPD) and the OPO in updating the police department's use of force policy, with the goal of reducing officer involved shootings. In turn, this will increase safety for both officers and the citizens they encounter.

Respectfully submitted,



Ladd Smith  
Chair

# ANNUAL REPORT

## STATUTORY AUTHORITY

This OPOC Annual Report is a compilation of the work performed by the OPOC in 2017. The annual report is a requirement of §04.32.150 of the Spokane Municipal Code (SMC), and includes: a summary of the OPOC's activities, findings, and recommendations during the preceding year; a summary of the OPO's recommendations for changes to the police department's policies, procedures and training during the preceding year; and an evaluation of the work of the OPO.

The report is divided into five sections to explain the various functions of the OPOC:

- I. Summary of OPOC Actions and Developments
- II. Community Engagement
- III. Training
- IV. OPO Recommendations
- V. Evaluation of the OPO

## I. SUMMARY OF OPOC ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

2017 was a year of change and growth molded by achievements, set-backs, multiple Commissioner changes, and multiple attempts to significantly change the governing ordinance. There was consistent Commissioner absence or turnover which lasted throughout the year. Commissioner VanderPol's position, a Mayoral appointee, remained vacant over an extended period; Commissioner Richter resigned; and Commissioner Conklin came to the end of her service term. Additionally, legal counsel Ryan Poole resigned. Tim Nault succeeded Ryan Poole in this role from September through December, with City Legal filling in during the interim.

Commissioners remained active in the City and in the community attending over eighty events and trainings throughout the year. Commissioners held five regular meetings and five special meetings. During the year, Commissioners held meetings with the Ombudsman, Mayor Condon, City Council President Stuckart, and Council Member Breean Beggs.

### ACTION #1: CITY COUNCIL ADOPT AMENDMENT TO SMC §04.32.06(i)

**Summary:** When the OPOC was in the process of hiring for the permanent Police Ombudsman, it was brought to the City Councils' attention that the Interim Ombudsman would be the candidate chosen to be hired as the OPO but that he did not currently live in the City of Spokane, owning a home just outside of the city limits. During the hiring process, the OPOC was assured by several Council members that this would not be an issue, should Mr. Logue prove to be the best candidate. The six month residency requirement passed without an action taken by the Council, and the OPO and the OPOC were unintentionally out of compliance with SMC 04.32.06(i). The OPOC voted unanimously to send a letter to City Council urging them to take quick action on this issue. This letter was sent on April 10, 2017.

**Outcome:** City Council adopted the amendment on May 18, 2017. The ordinance now states that the OPO must be a resident of Spokane County or become a resident of Spokane County within six months from the beginning of the appointment term and maintain such residency during the remainder of the term.

### ACTION #2: CONCERNS REGARDING CHANGES TO SMC §04.32

**Summary:** In 2017, the OPOC continued the laborious efforts of working through a proposed amendment to SMC 04.32. There were numerous drafts of the ordinance presented and countless hours were spent these proposals. This was more pronounced in the OPO, where the staff labored diligently to find all of the nuanced changes between each version. In efforts to include public input in the ordinance drafting process, the OPOC hosted a meeting where the public could speak to the potential changes to the Ordinance. Furthermore, Commissioners contacted City Council members individually to relay their specific concerns with the ordinance, as consensus was not achieved between Commissioners on the direction the ordinance drafts were taking. The Commission did, however, unanimously agree that we believed it is imperative that we not lose the ground that was gained in the last round of bargaining. In particular, we believed that it is critical that we retain the ability for the OPO to be present in Internal Affairs interviews and have the ability to ask questions and forwarded an email to City Council on April 10, 2017 stating such.

**Outcome:** TBD. The draft proposals were not voted on by City Council.

### ACTION #3: SUPPORT FOR THE OPO BUDGET WHITE PAPER

**Summary:** In a letter signed by all Commission members that was sent to City Council on June 6, 2017 the Commission expressed their support for the Police Ombudsman's budget request and requested that City Council fully fund the staffing, training, administrative, and professional services costs for the Office of the Police Ombudsman. We fully supported the request to permanently establish the OPOC Coordinator position in part-time Civil Service status as well as establish a full time Clerk II position in the OPO, which would greatly reduce the after-hours tasks placed upon the Ombudsman and the OPO staff.

**Outcome:** The City Council passed Special Budget Ordinance C35512 on June 26, 2017 establishing the funding stream for the Administrative Specialist position. The OPO also received a training budget increase, and a partial funding of their administrative resources request. The Clerk II position went unfunded, and the Professional Services funding request was postponed pending the outcome of the ordinance drafts and bargaining cycle.

#### **ACTION #4: SUPPORT FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST POSITION**

**Summary:** In a letter, signed by all Commission members, sent to City Council on December 5, 2017 the Commission requested continued City Council support of the Police Ombudsman’s efforts establishing the Administrative Specialist. Recently, the position had been challenged by some suggesting there was a lack of work in the OPO. The Commission reiterated the workload of the OPO and reminded the City Council that the Ombudsman had also requested to establish a Clerk II position that had gone unfunded. The Commission strongly supported that the Administrative Specialist position continue to be funded, and also requested that the City Council should consider converting it from a part-time employee (.6) to a full-time position.

**Outcome:** The City Council funded the Administrative Specialist position but did not convert the position from part-time to full-time.

## **II. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Commissioners are consistently looking for ways to become more engaged with the community. This year, Commissioners attended, participated, and presented at over seventy-six meetings and functions. This was a 36% increase over the previous year. The Commission is looking to show a stronger presence in the community in the upcoming year.

Some of the events the OPOC attended include:

- The Police Advisory Committee
- Spokane Homeless Coalition
- Spokane Police Accountability and Reform Coalition
- Center for Justice Lunchbox
- West Central Coalition
- East Central Neighborhood Council
- COPS Volunteer Dinner
- NAACP meetings
- League of Women Voters
- Bridging the Gap
- Community Conversation with Chief Meidl
- City Council Public Safety Committee meetings

## **III. TRAINING**

With a majority of Commissioners being new in their roles, training was crucial to developing and reinforcing their new positions in civilian oversight. Spokane hosted the 2017 National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Annual Conference. The OPOC was able to gain a tremendous amount of knowledge from this conference. Since it was held locally, three Commissioners were able to attend the entire conference, with one Commissioner attending a portion of the conference. In November, two Commissioners attended the Regional NACOLE Conference in Denver. Commissioners also identified the SPD Citizens Academy and Crisis Intervention (CI) as important training opportunities, as well as ride-alongs with SPD.

## **IV. OPO RECOMMENDATIONS AND STATUS**

### **2017 OPO RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Ombudsman provided nine recommendations to SPD related to policy and/or training. The subject matter of recommendations made included:

#### **RECOMMENDATION #1: UTILIZING THE POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Summary:** SPD utilizes the Police Advisory Committee (PAC) for feedback prior to releasing information and BWC footage in cases of Officer Involved Shootings. The Ombudsman recommended that SPD further utilize the PAC in community impact cases. This can be done by providing examples from the Use of Force Review Board, the Collision Review Board, and the Pursuit Review Board. This will highlight the amount of scrutiny and due care that SPD shows to specific cases. This will also enhance communication and relationships between the public and the police department.

**Status:** Action may be considered. Chief Meidl is not opposed to this; however, it is not something that was implemented in 2017. This will be considered for implementation in 2018.

## RECOMMENDATION #2: CHANGE TO BODY-WORN CAMERA FOOTAGE RELEASED

**Summary:** SPD's current Body Camera policy restricts review of video by supervisors, IA investigators, and the Police Ombudsman to the specific complaint(s), and it cannot be used as the basis to randomly search for other possible violations. The Ombudsman recommended that the SPD policy be modeled after the best practice for this policy; access to the entire video for review, in order to audit officer actions, improve transparency between SPD and supervising officers, improve training, and increase early intervention of potential problems. While the Ombudsman concurs that randomly searching for policy violations which could lead to discipline should be discouraged, the Ombudsman fully supports random audits by supervisors which could lead to mentorship opportunities.

**Status:** No action currently being considered. The ongoing bargaining cycle is prohibiting further action on this topic. It may be considered in 2018, when the department meets to review their body camera program.

## RECOMMENDATION #3: CRITICAL GAP IN ARSON INVESTIGATION

**Summary:** In the course of an IA investigation, the Ombudsman discovered a critical gap, a lack of arson investigation, in SPD's services that citizens would reasonably expect. A citizen made a complaint against SPD for failing to remove squatters from the citizen's home. During the investigation, the citizen's home was severely damaged by fire, due to suspected arson. It was discovered that neither SPD nor the Spokane Fire Department (SFD) conduct criminal investigations of arson cases. SFD only investigates the cause and origin of fires and are unable to conduct a criminal investigation. In order to criminally investigate arson, a SPD detective would need to be assigned. However, SPD does not have any trained arson investigators. In order to meet community expectations and provide efficient services to the citizens of Spokane, the Ombudsman recommended that SPD address this gap in available police services.

**Status:** Action completed. SPD is now responsible for handling arson investigations, aside from cause and origin, pursuant to an agreement that the City signed with the Fire Department. SPD has been working with the Fire Department for a seamless transition of these duties. SPD has identified the detective positions that will be assuming these responsibilities and they are currently in the process of being trained. SPD is committed to providing victims of arson with a high level of service and investigating these crimes to the best of their ability and capacity.

## RECOMMENDATION #4: ADDING TRAINING REFERRAL TO COMPLAINT CLASSIFICATION

**Summary:** The Ombudsman came across a complaint that could not be tied to a specific officer. Typically this would be closed as an 'Inquiry' or 'Administratively Suspended.' In this particular complaint, department roll call training was recommended to supervisors and the speeding concern was addressed through the Spring in-Service training. The department went beyond what policy required and took proactive measures to address an officer/citizen safety concern from the community. Closing this case with the current classifications does not adequately reflect the positive initiative the department took. The Ombudsman recommended that training referral be added as a formal category in the classification and disposition of complaints. Classifying complaints as "Inquiry, Training Referral," will aid in tracking the number of instances the department took such action for reporting functions.

**Status:** Completed, effective January 1, 2018. The Director of Strategic Initiatives acknowledges that the fact that closing certain cases as an "Inquiry" or "Administratively suspended" not adequately capturing the positive initiative taken by the department is a concern. Therefore, effective in 2018, IA will work with the OPO to establish a "Closed" category for complaints. This category will be used only in consultation with your office and will hopefully address some of your concerns in this recommendation.

## RECOMMENDATION #5: DEPARTMENT POLICY FOR TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS

**Summary:** Law and policy regarding transgender individuals are still unclear. SPD should address this in its policy as it applies to equal protection for employees as well as how officers interact with transgender individuals. The Ombudsman recommended that SPD review and amend its Discrimination Policy. In keeping with Community Policing principles, consulting with the LGBT-Q community can help diffuse a potential volatile situation and it may provide feedback on policy development. The Department should conduct a review process that involves the LGBT-Q community as well as opponent groups to yield a mutually agreeable policy. Thus, the Department can reduce future potential liability by amending its Discrimination Policy prior to an actionable cause.

**Status:** Action may be considered. Although SPD has not yet updated policy 340.3.3, they have updated policy 1000, Employee Selection and Hiring Standards, with the following language after consulting with Human Resources for the preferred language: "The employment policy of the Spokane Police Department shall provide equal opportunities for both department employees and applicants regardless of race, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), age (40 or older), religion, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, familial status, genetic information, veteran or military status and shall not show partiality or grant special favors to any applicant, employee or group of employees."



## RECOMMENDATION #6: UNIFORM POLICY FOR RELEASE OF COMMUNITY IMPACT CASES TO THE PUBLIC

**Summary:** In the past year, the Ombudsman review of citizen complaints has yielded examples of cases that should be considered for release to the public. While cases of officer misconduct are of particular interest to the community when the alleged misconduct is directed at community members, the details of the cases and related body worn camera footage were only released after the public made a public records request. The first case was filed with Internal Affairs in January 2016 but was released to the public in February 2017. The second case was filed within the OPO in January 2017 and released to the public in May 2017. To the average citizen, who may only pay attention to news headlines, it would appear that SPD had two newsworthy cases of misconduct only three months apart which could easily be averted should SPD release community impact cases to the public in a timely manner. This will foster trust between the public and SPD and signal to the community that SPD's leadership will act accordingly when these instances arise. The Ombudsman recommended SPD create a uniform policy that provides guidance to SPD on when and how to publicly release community impact cases.

**Status:** No action being considered. Chief Meidl has shown resolve in reaching out to impacted communities following community impact cases. While the intention is to be transparent in regards to these matters, there are many interests that need to be considered regarding the timing of any release. Release to the public will occur on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the myriad of interests involved.

## RECOMMENDATION #7: UNIFORM POLICY FOR COMPLAINTS GENERATED THROUGH A PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

**Summary:** The OPO is beginning to see citizen complaints generated after a citizen receives documents or BWC footage through a Public Records Request (PRR). In one case, IA considered concerns over the officer's demeanor to be de minimis due to the second-hand nature of the concern. A review of SPD's Policy §1020 does not specifically provide how SPD shall address these second hand complaints. However, §1020.2.2(d) does provide, "anonymous and third party complaints should be accepted and investigated to the extent that sufficient information is provided." Historically, "third party" has been interpreted to mean a person who witnessed the incident first-hand but is neither the complainant nor the aggrieved party. Under the current practice, it is unclear whether SPD should accept complaints based on BWC footage viewed through a PRR. At that point, the complainant is no longer a first-hand witness but a second-hand witness making a third party complaint. The Ombudsman recommended SPD consider amending its Personnel Complaints Policy to include a provision for how to respond to second-hand complaints received from materials from a PRR.

**Status:** Action will be taken. Although SPD has not updated their policy in regards to public records requests generated through someone viewing body worn camera, it has been a topic of discussion. SPD is not opposed to updating our policy to match their current protocol. Director MacConnell will work to update policy 1020, Personnel Complaints.

## RECOMMENDATION #8: REESTABLISH PRACTICE FOR POSTING IA CASES ONLINE

**Summary:** The Ombudsman has received feedback from several community members in addition to comments made in public meetings for additional information on case summaries posted on the Internal Affairs' webpage. Based on community expectations, the Ombudsman recommended that SPD reinstate the practice requiring entire IA cases that are properly redacted and posted on its web page again, once the case has been closed. Furthermore, the Ombudsman recommended posting any accompanying BWC footage as part of the file. Two points of emphasis are included as a follow up to the recommendation. First, the posted complaints are not up to date. Internal Affairs cases from C16-060, completed on August 22, 2016 and later do not have associated case summaries on the SPD web page. There are zero cases posted prior to 2016 either by full case or in summary format. Second, most of the summaries are generic and do not adequately communicate the complaint to the public.

**Status:** Discussion is on-going. Chief Meidl is committed to public transparency and SPD is working with City Legal to receive guidance on what SPD can post. SPD will continue to post summaries of complaints on their website and will work to bring them up to date.

## RECOMMENDATION #9: UPDATE USE OF FORCE POLICY

**Summary:** Several of the officer involved shooting cases have generated conversations on how to improve safety and distinction between when force is permitted and when it is necessary. The Ombudsman recommended SPD's Use of Force policy be updated to reflect progressive policing that promotes safety of both officers and the community they serve. Various law enforcement agencies across the country have begun to adopt more progressive policies that have resulted in less uses of force and positive feedback from the community. Catalysts for policy change should not hinge on whether the prosecutor decides to bring charges on an officer. Policy directs training, which in turn affects culture. Police departments that question the legitimacy of its policies and the impact on the community it serves are positively received by the community. The Ombudsman recommended OPO and SPD collaborate efforts to update SPD's use of force policy to reflect the most progressive techniques in de-escalation and tactical considerations available to increase officer safety in the course of performing their duties as well as the safety of the community members they interact with.

**Status:** Action is ongoing. Chief Meidl has established a Use of Force Policy Review Committee and they are currently collaborating with the OPO to update the policy.

## V. EVALUATION OF THE OFFICE OF POLICE OMBUDSMAN

Overall the OPOC is pleased with the ongoing performance of the OPO. Noteworthy in 2017, the Police Ombudsman, Bart Logue, became a Certified Practitioner of Oversight through NACOLE as required by SMC §04.32.070. He began working on this requirement while serving as the Interim Ombudsman and we recognize that this accomplishment was completed well within the term of his first appointment. In order to be a successful Ombudsman, one must have the utmost personal integrity, commitment, truthfulness, and fortitude; Mr. Logue possesses all of these traits.

In 2017, the OPOC witnessed an increase in Chain of Command reviews regarding community allegations of nearly 38% since 2015. We contribute this to Mr. Logue aggressively pursuing proper complaint classification and Chain of Command reviews of completed IA investigations. Due to the change in follow-up, we noticed that the reviews resulted in Chain of Command findings and disciplinary decisions, where previously there had been none in 2015. This significant change shows the public that SPD is taking their concerns seriously. Further, it demonstrates effectiveness in working towards a common goal to promote public confidence in professionalism and accountability.

Mr. Logue's dedication to his initiatives has directly impacted and enhanced potential legislation on oversight in Spokane. He has spent countless hours researching and learning about the historical context, and the expectations of the community and other stakeholders, and becoming familiar applicable state and labor laws that would impact his ability to provide oversight. This informs the positions he takes when meeting with the OPOC, Council Members, the Guild and the City when discussing revisions the OPO's ordinance is facing. Mr. Logue has been able to safeguard the aspects of the OPO ordinance that are working the best, while working towards fulfilling Proposition 1, overwhelmingly passed by the voters.

From the time Mr. Logue was Interim, he has achieved public trust, admiration, and endorsements from prominent activist coalitions. He has done this by being transparent and honest in his remarks with the community as well as making sure his expectations of the police department are straightforward. Mr. Logue has endured tremendous pressure from the police department, City Hall, activist groups, and citizens; all of whom have different ideas as to how the Ombudsman should approach his duties. Mr. Logue continues to maintain his independence in thought and in action as he addresses areas in which he believes improvements are possible.

It is commendatory that Mr. Logue formed a collaborative relationship with Chief Meidl in examining critical incidents involving the SPD. Their efforts to initiate a review of policy, tactics and procedures in a strategy focused on reducing officer involved shootings in Spokane are exemplary.



# FAQ Office of Police Ombudsman Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What do I do if I'm stopped by the police?

The ACLU of Washington State has created a publication with tips on how to handle a police encounter. The handy wallet-sized "What to do if You're Stopped by the Police" card can be printed and carried with you or you can view the information in a larger format. This can be found on our website or at our office.

## 2. How do I file a complaint?

You can file a complaint in writing, via fax, online or by visiting our office in person.

## 3. Is there a time limit?

The Office of Police Ombudsman has adopted a one-year statute of limitations and must receive complaints within twelve months of the alleged misconduct.

## 4. Is there a cost involved?

There is no charge for using the services of the Office of Police Ombudsman.

## 5. Can I compliment an officer?

Yes, you can file a commendation in writing, via fax, online or by visiting our office in person.

## 6. How is the investigation handled?

When you contact our office, details of your complaint will be received by the Ombudsman and forwarded within 3 days to the Internal Affairs Unit of Spokane Police Department for investigation. After a timely, thorough and objective investigation by the police department, the investigation will be returned to the Ombudsman to certify within 5 days of receipt that the report is thorough and objective. Once certified, the report is returned to the Office of the Chief of Police for disposition.

This process is outlined in the Office of Police Ombudsman Complaint Flow Chart, which can be found online.

## 7. Will I know the results?

Yes. You will be contacted in writing by the Ombudsman or the Chief of Police once the investigation is completed.

## 8. What problems does the Ombudsman deal with?

If you feel an employee of the Spokane Police Department did not treat you properly or violated a policy, you may contact our office with your concerns.

## 9. Are there matters that cannot be investigated?

The Ombudsman has jurisdiction regarding the City of Spokane Police Department and cannot investigate complaints outside this jurisdiction.

## 10. Can the Ombudsman get my charges dropped?

The Ombudsman's office cannot give legal advice or assist with a person's criminal defense.

## 11. What if I have a concern or want to ask a question?

The OPO is ready to answer any question a person might have about Spokane Police Department activities.

## 12. What if I have already filed a complaint with the Spokane Police Department?

If you filed a complaint with the Spokane Police Department before contacting the Office of Police Ombudsman, we ask that you wait until the Police Department has completed their investigation into your complaint. Once you receive notice that the Police Department has closed your case and if you are not satisfied with the outcome of their investigation, you may contact the Office of Police Ombudsman to discuss your concerns.



### City of Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman

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