



Office of Police Ombudsman Commission Minutes

February 20, 2024

Meeting Minutes: 1:47

Meeting called to order at: 5:33PM

Attendance

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

Briefing Session

- Agenda – Approved
- January Minutes – Approved

Items Session

- **Public Forum:**
 - Anwar Peace
 - Spoke on the rash of police shootings (3 in two weeks)
 - Asked the City to bring the Department of justice to conduct a patterns and practices investigation of SPD
 - Debbie Novak
 - HB 1579 – Independent prosecuting attorney legislation
 - Passed Law and Justice Committee
 - Office of Independent Investigation and Independent Prosecuting Attorney would be separate but together out of the AG's office
- **Guest Speaker: Betsy Wilkerson – City Council President**
 - As a community we have lost the sense of urgency around police accountability
 - Legislative Committee – if the Commission or community has issues, they should bring them to Council so that they can be addressed on a State legislative level
 - Community Policing – What is this and what does it look like
 - DT Precinct – Would like to see this be more inviting to the public
 - Building a level of trust between Public Safety and the Community
- **Ombudsman January Monthly Report:**
 - 173 contacts, 10 OPO interviews, 1 Commendation, 5 complaints, 4 referrals, 5 cases certified, 158 special cases reviewed, 7 IA interviews attended
 - Focus for January has been meeting with City Council Members
 - Council Member Dillon mentioned that he would like to see us have a more active role in the PSCHC meetings
 - Staggering of OPOC commissioner appointment terms

Commission Business

- **Critical Incidents** – 17 officers out on administrative leave for approximately 2 weeks
 - 1/31/24 – 9 officers involved
 - 2/12/24 – 3 officers involved

- 2/12/24 - 2 officers involved
- What is SPD doing right now to help? Checking in with officers' morale in the department. Reinforcing the importance of giving their best to upcoming calls on the next shift
- What can we do?
- What are other Boards and Commissions doing?
 - Human Rights Commission would like to collaborate with the OPOC
- **Budget Letter**
 - Sent to the Mayor and to the City Council
- **OPOC Plan for 2024**
 - Social Media presence – Different groups, Carl Maxey Center
 - Legislators come to a meeting to be a guest speaker
 - Community Outreach at local groups, events – Spokane Alliance
 - Police Advisory Committee quarterly meetings
 - Joint Training with the Human Rights Commission out at the SPD Academy
 - Continuing to fight for ¾ of 1 percent of the SPD budget for OPO budget independence
 - Request City Council change the Ombudsman title to Ombuds to go with the Washington standard.
- **Commissioner Speak Out**
 - Nothing additional

Motion Passes or Fails: 2

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:19pm

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/>