



Office of Police Ombudsman Commission Minutes

August 27, 2024

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting called to order at: 5:30pm

Attendance

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

Briefing Session

- Agenda – **Approved**
- May Minutes – **Approved**

Items Session

- **Public Forum:** No public speakers
- **Ombudsman May, June and July Monthly Reports:**
 - 603 contacts, 42 OPO interviews, 14 complaints, 14 referrals, 24 cases certified, 28 IA interviews attended, 7 review boards, 63 special cases reviewed, and 145 meetings / contacts with SPD
- **OPO Closing Report: A23-047**
 - **Recommendation 24-5** SPD should adopt a critical decision-making model or something similar regarding pursuits. The use of a decision-making model can assist officers and supervisors in deciding whether to initiate a pursuit, gathering and evaluating information during the pursuit, and deciding when to discontinue. SPD should also develop specialized training for other personnel (e.g., supervisors, communications personnel, incident commanders) who may play a role in a pursuit or pursuit review.
 - **Recommendation 24-6:** In-service training on the vehicle pursuit policy should occur at least once per year and could include both in-service and roll call components.
 - **Recommendation 24-7:** SPD should consider purchasing, sharing, or leasing a driver simulator that can incorporate scenario-based and decision-making training to provide practical refresher training.
 - **Recommendation 24-8:** SPD should use this incident to provide departmentwide scenario-based training in pursuits, specifically reminding officers to maintain hyperawareness of their surroundings and in radio discipline during pursuits.
 - **Recommendation 24-9:** SPD should ensure all supervisors who authorize pursuits write a report detailing their justification for the pursuit pursuant to SPD Policy 314.2.2.



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- **OPO Closing Report: C23-070**
 - **Recommendation 24-1:** SPD should move the duty to intervene out of the use of force policy to remove confusion on its application and make it a standalone policy.
 - **Recommendation 24-2:** The OPO recommends IA investigators include the IA Checklist in every case and require other members of IA to fill out a conflict-of-interest form if they participate in any interviews.
 - **Recommendation 24-3:** The OPO recommends IA update its Standard Operating Procedures and Conflict of Interest Form to include whether an assigned investigator has knowledge or material information that would cause a conflict of interest.
 - **Recommendation 24-4:** There appears to be a discrepancy between the ARP's interpretation of what it means to keep personnel investigations confidential due to what item 8 in the R&R form says. IA should update the form to remove the conflicting statements so that the form complies with SPD Policy 1020.8.1's confidentiality requirements.

Commission Business

- **OPOC Recommendations**
 - OPOC approve of all 7 recommendations associated with Closing Reports A23-047 and C23-070.
- **Outside Legal Counsel Subcommittee**
 - Commissioner Wetzel and Commissioner Rose have volunteered to take on the subcommittee.
 - OPOC approve Commissioner Wetzel and Commissioner Rose to serve as the outside legal counsel subcommittee.
- **Commissioner Speak Out**
 - **Rose** – Loves attending National Night Out and unfortunately wrote it down for the wrong date. She happily welcomes the new commissioners! It has been far too long since there has been a full OPOC.
 - **McColm** – 3 ride a longs, Commissioner McColm firmly believes that for her to have a strong grasp on how the SPD police operate with the public, doing consistent ride a longs is very important.
 - **Smith** – Shout out to Christina for unity in the community coverage, and the OPO for the new logo and materials. The new look is great and really makes a difference.



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- Executive Session
 - Employee Performance Appraisal Review
 - Start: 6:36
 - End: 6:48

Motion Passes or Fails: 3

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:48pm

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

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