



# Office of Police Ombudsman Commission Minutes

**September 24, 2024**

Meeting Minutes: 1:57

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, Bart Logue
- City Legal – Tim Szambelan

## Briefing Session

- Agenda – **Approved with minor edit**
- August Minutes – **Approved**

## Items Session

- **Public Forum:**
  - Debbie Novak – Discussed the first settlement between the WSCJTC and an officer, which involved a traffic accident with an SPD officer.
  - Anwar Peace – Discussed his concerns pertaining to SPD political involvement over the years. He stated that this has created a culture that continues to allow the behavior with the latest involving a political sticker on a patrol vehicle. He was encouraged by the termination of the officer and is hopeful that this is a new direction.
  - Police Guild President Duncan – Discussed the guild contract. He stated it is not solely the Police Guild's contract, it is a 50/50 CBA with the City of Spokane. There is also another entity that has continued to use the guild contract to impede the work of the Ombuds office. He is willing to work on moving the contract forward, but he is only half of the negotiating table.
- **Ombudsman Monthly Report:**
  - 226 contacts in month, 9 interviews, 2 complaints and 4 referrals, 11 cases certified, 10 IA Interviews, 78 SPD meetings, 12 community meetings, Annual Report presentation to City Council, BLEA graduation, Excelsior Wellness soft opening
- **Guest Speaker: Chief Hall**
  - Thanked the commission for inviting him to help build the relationship with the OPOC and the community.
  - Jenny Rose – Asked about community policing initiatives and how that will help Spokane
    - Chief Hall – He considers community policing as authentic community engagement, understanding what each community legitimately wants (more engagement or less engagement). You must show up, roll your



# Office of Police Ombudsman Commission Minutes

- sleeves up and do the work. He is seeing this in patrol, but thinks they need to do a better job of letting the public know this is happening.
- Phillip Wetzel – What did you do in Tucson to infuse the department with commitment for constitutional policing?
    - Kevin Hall – When you are hiring, you want to make sure you have constitutional policing in mind. People who want to be police officers will find us, we need to go out and find the people we want to bring in that will hopefully start to move the needle in diversity, on pro-social behavior, and empathy. We want to increase performance, always striving to be better tomorrow than you were today.
  - Amy McColm – How do you think that we can increase transparency in policing?
    - Chief Hall – It is very important to figure out the laws here in Washington state and how to work through them. He must figure out the legal structures that bind us, then work on how he can increase transparency. A lot of transparency is going to be me just coming here and talking with you.
  - Ladd Smith – How do you plan to connect with the different marginalized groups in Spokane?
    - Chief Hall – I think it comes down to respect. Respect for who they are and respect for culture, understanding that there is a lot of historical trauma with government. For them to trust, you must show up when you say that you are going to show up. It's trust building 101. My plan is to meet with these folks. There are going to be groups who need more attention and care because the trust is so broken and fractured.
  - Luc Jasmin – Who is Kevin Hall?
    - Chief Hall – Joined the Air Force. The military was a good way to grow up, understanding structure and rules. When he got out, he finished his 2 degrees (sociology and psychology), moved to Tucson and joined the Tucson PD where he rose through the ranks. His father is full blooded Coleville tribe member and so they spent a lot of time traveling through Spokane. He has a deep passion for professional policing and making policing better. He has an even deeper passion for evidence-based policing, policing that is based on science and the best available research for what works.

## Commission Business

- **Outside Legal Counsel Interview – Brennan Schreiber and Ms. Galina**
  - The commission conducted an interview for outside legal counsel
- **Executive Session**
  - Outside Legal Counsel employment discussion
  - Start: 7:00pm



# Office of Police Ombudsman Commission Minutes

- End: 7:06pm
- Commissioner Jasmin informed the candidates that they would be notified regarding their decision in the next couple of days.
- **Community Safety Proposal** – Jenny Rose attended the Neighborhood Council meeting and had questions regarding the flyer about the sales tax increase that was put out by the administration. She wanted to know why the OPOC was not asked to speak on that, and asked, “how can we be better aware of these types of things?”
- **October meeting** – Due to the OPO being out of the office for NACOLE, IACP and Harvard Kennedy Executive Forum, the OPOC discussed cancelling the October meeting.
  - Jenny Rose motioned to cancel the October OPOC meeting, Seconded by Ladd Smith
  - **Approved** – October meeting will be cancelled
- **Commissioner Speak Out**
  - **Rose** – Thank-you Tim for being here
  - **McColm** – Nothing currently
  - **Smith** – Thank-you to Tim Szambelan for serving us during this time, you have been steadfast, and it is appreciated.
  - **Wetzel** – Gobsmacked at how much work is being done by Ombuds Logue and Deputy Ombuds Omana

**Motion Passes or Fails: 3**

**Meeting Adjourned at: 7:25pm**

**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/>