



Office of Police Ombudsman Commission

Meeting Agenda
February 20, 2024
5:30PM – 7:30PM
City Council Chambers

TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Commission Briefing Session:

5:30 – 5:35pm	1) Welcome to the public	Commissioner Jasmin
	2) Agenda approval	Commissioner Jasmin
	3) Approve January meeting minutes	Commissioner Jasmin

Items:

5:36 – 6:15pm	1) Public forum	Citizens signed up to speak
	2) Guest Speaker	Betsy Wilkerson
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council President 	
	3) OPO report from January	Bart Logue

Commission Business:

6:16 – 7:30pm	1) Critical Incidents	Commissioners
	2) Budget Letter	Commissioner Jasmin
	3) OPOC Plan for 2024	Commissioners
	4) Commissioner Speak Out	Commissioners

Adjournment:

The next Ombudsman Commission meeting will be held on March 19, 2024.

Virtual Meeting Option

Meeting Link:

<https://spokanecity.webex.com/spokanecity/j.php?MTID=mebbf90377c5a605fb33ae5e0b1fb586>

Meeting Number

2481 721 5255

Password

eCnGtsBG473

Join by phone: 408-418-9388

Access Code: 2481 721 5255

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. The Spokane City Council Chamber in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., is wheelchair accessible and is equipped with an infrared assistive listening system for persons with hearing loss. Headsets may be checked out (upon presentation of picture I.D.) at the City Cable 5 Production Booth located on the First Floor of the Municipal Building, directly above the Chase Gallery or through the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Risk Management at 509.625.6221, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or mlowmaster@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Risk Management through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.



Office of Police Ombudsman Commission Minutes

January 16, 2024

Meeting Minutes: 1:47

Meeting called to order at: 5:35

Attendance

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

Briefing Session

- Agenda – Approved
- November Minutes – Approved

Items Session

- **Public Forum:**
 - There were no community members signed up to speak
- **Guest Speaker: Lisa Gardner – NAACP President**

Highlights:

- Address the miscommunication between the Public Safety, Police and Black and Brown communities. Bridging the gap between these groups is crucial
- Voter registration and voter education will be a huge focus going into this election year.
- Spokane has been hesitant to discuss race relations and now these conversations are happening but more action needs to happen
- We want to partner with people to fight for Civil Rights
- NAACP Meeting 3rd Wednesday of the month subject to change
- 2nd Annual NAACP Meet and greet Memorial Day weekend
- **Ombudsman November and December Monthly Reports:**
 - 1820 contacts, 93 OPO interviews, 17 Commendations, 34 complaint, 61 referrals, 5 cases returned for further investigation, 8 Web Case summaries, 158 special cases reviewed, 94 IA interviews attended
 - Raised the idea of budget independence when meeting with the City Council Members
 - Discussed the officer involved shooting in December. Ombudsman Logue explained the lack of knowledge the OPO is privy to due to legislation I-940. Restrictions on available information.

Commission Business

- **OPO / OPOC Budget Concerns**
 - Motion to send a letter from the Chair concerning budget: Approved
- **OPOC Plan for 2024**
 - Motion to defer this agenda item to the February Meeting: Approved
- **NACOLE Annual Report Subcommittee**
 - Ladd Smith and Luc Jasmin have volunteered to serve on the subcommittee

- **Commissioner Speak Out**
 - Ladd Smith – During a recent meeting that Commissioner Smith attended he was able to witness the unwillingness and pushback of the Interim Chief and Assistant Chief to consider a formal tracking system for training issues that may arise from an Administrative Review. The initial recommendation was pertaining to R23-09 from closing report F22-064. It raised his awareness to the effort put forth by the OPO on seemingly insignificant matters
- **Executive Session – Annual Performance Assessment Review**
 - Start – 7:15
 - End – 7:24

Motion Passes or Fails: 4

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:25

**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/>



Office of the Police Ombudsman

Public Safety & Community Health Committee Report

Reporting Period: January 1 – 31, 2024

Complaints / Referrals / Commendations



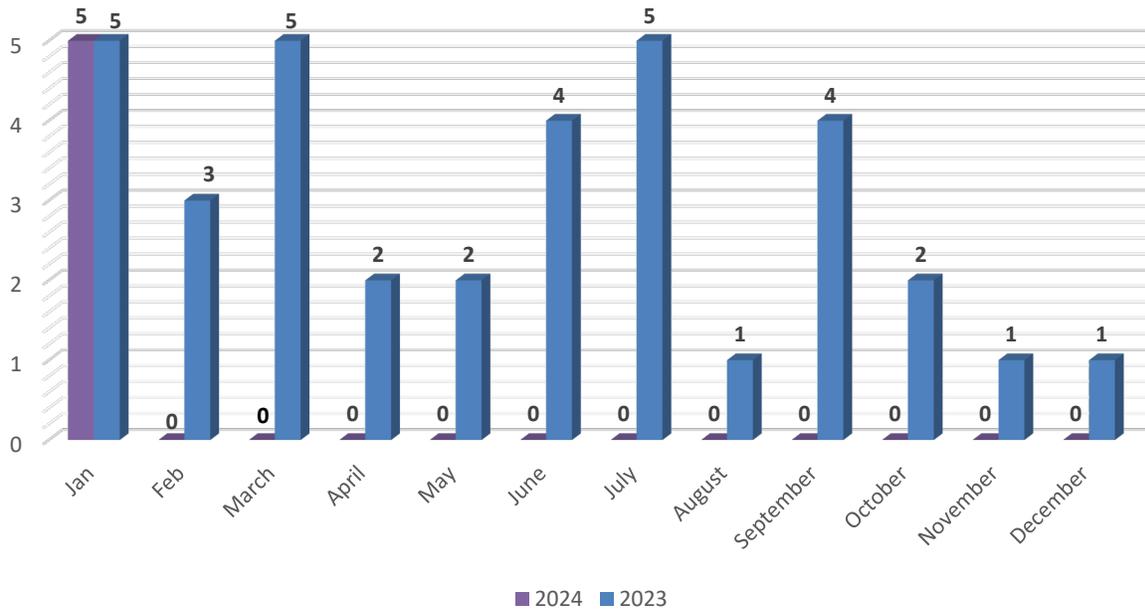
Highlights:

In January, the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPO) submitted 1 commendation, 4 referrals and 5 complaints to the Spokane Police Department (SPD) Internal Affairs department.

Highlights include:

- OPO 24-01: A community member alleged an officer used an inappropriate hand gesture to a person who was frustrated about their vehicle being towed.
- OPO 24-02: A community member was frustrated with the amount of force that was used during their arrest.
- OPO 24-03: A community member was concerned about inappropriate behavior of an officer during their arrest.
- OPO 24-04: A community member was frustrated with techniques that were used on them believing that the techniques were not in policy.
- OPO 24-05: A community member appreciated how a hit and run was handled by officers.

Complaints 2023 vs. 2024



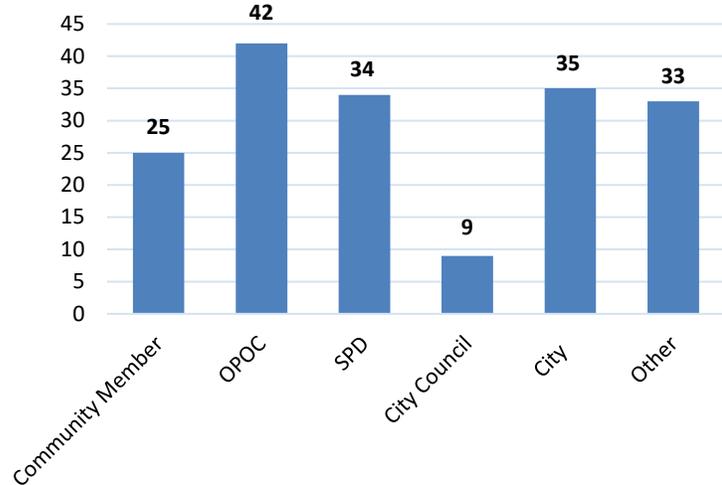
- 2023 Total numbers: Complaints – 34, Referrals – 61, Commendations – 17

Contacts / Oversight:

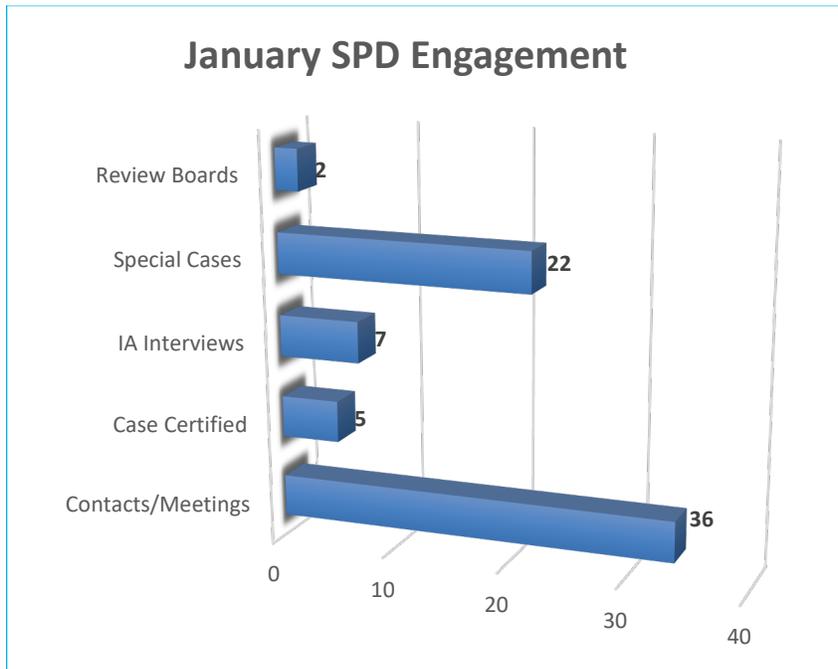
Contacts / Oversight

- 173 total contacts
- 10 OPO interviews were conducted
- 34 total SPD contacts

January Contacts



Oversight Activities



Case Work

5 – Cases certified

7 – IA Interviews

Review Board Cases

8 – Use Of Force

3 – K9

10 – Collision

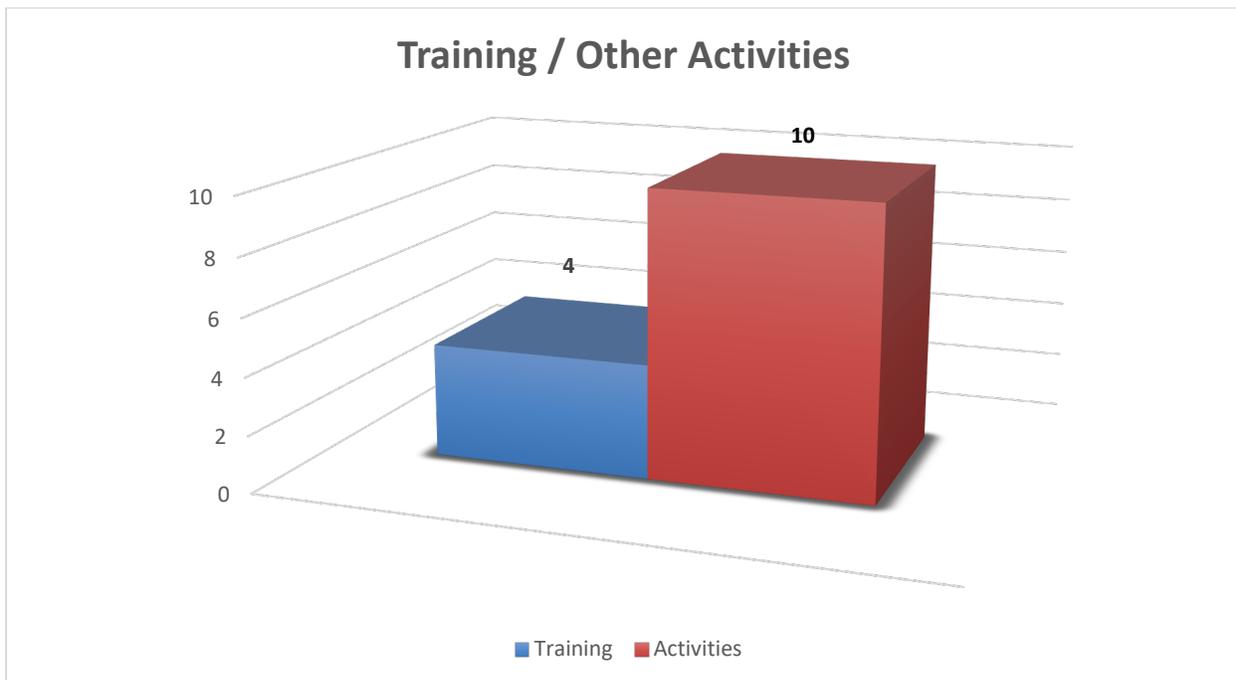
1 – Pursuit

Critical Incident

OIS on 1/31/24

Lower South Hill

Training / Other Activities



Highlights:

- Community Meetings / Events – OPOC Meeting, Swearing in ceremony for new officers at the Spokane Police Academy, Journeyman Leadership Meeting, Leadership Spokane Board Meeting (4), Outreach Connections (4)
- Oversight / Outreach – IA Biweekly meeting, NACOLE board meeting (2), WSCJTC SW Washington Regional Police Academy Grand Opening ceremony,
- Training – Axon Standards Training, NACOLE Webinar

Upcoming:

- OPOC Appointments and Reappointments
- NACOLE Winter Board Meeting
- WSCJTC Committee Meeting
- NOLA Peer Review report
- OPO / OPOC Annual report

Office of the Police Ombudsman Commission Meeting:
Held in person, the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm
Virtual meeting options available.

Agendas and meeting recordings can be found at:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/bcc/commissions/ombudsman-commission/>



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OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION
808 W. SPOKANE FALLS BLVD.
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201
509.625.6755 (VOICEMAIL ONLY)
FAX 509.625.6748

February 14, 2024

Mayor Lisa Brown
Council President Betsy Wilkerson
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, Washington 99201

RE: OPO/OPOC Budget

Dear Mayor Brown and Council President Wilkerson,

On behalf of the Office of the Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC), I would like to request your consideration for the restoration of the Office of the Police Ombudsman's (OPO) budget to the 2023 level. During late 2023, the OPO and the OPOC, along with many other departments, had their budget significantly reduced; in fact, far beyond what was initially briefed to us. The previous Administration removed \$42,940.11 total from the OPO and OPOC budgets and we are asking for this amount to be restored. The OPO/OPOC is a very small department, and it does not have the capability to withstand budget reductions without direct impact to its oversight mandates.

Since 2017, the OPO has consistently worked to adequately establish the office. These white papers have included staff requests, equipment, training, and even line items for benefits that were not included in the OPO budget. See the Appendix for a list of the requests the OPO has made to the City regarding properly establishing the OPO budget. SMC 04.32.160, Funding, states, "the City Council shall maintain funding necessary to appropriately staff the Office of the Police Ombudsman and the Commission, including adequate staff to enable [the] Ombudsman to perform the required duties and responsibilities of the office as well as providing staff assistance to the police ombudsman commission." Since we are asking for our budget to be restored, it is also a good opportunity to ask you to consider safeguarding the OPO budget by establishing it by ordinance and the city charter.

One way to do this is to tie the OPO budget to a percentage point of the Spokane Police Department's (SPD) budget. This would not be to take away from SPD's budget; rather, simply set a baseline for the OPO's budget. We propose that the city consider setting the OPO budget at no less than 0.75% (three-quarters of one percent of the Spokane Police Department's annual budget). This number would include enough funding to allow for the establishment of a Senior Administrative Analyst as well as a further our effort with community outreach. Should the size and scope of the mission of the OPO adjust in the future, the OPOC should be allowed to request a percentage adjustment.

In 2022, the OPOC also set forth a priority to have an additional Senior Administrative Analyst position established within the OPO with a commensurate salary, potentially in range 44 of M&P-B (like city employed Human Resources Analyst 1, Senior Grants Analyst, Public Safety Systems Analyst and Environmental Analyst), approximately \$74666.88-\$106070.40. If this position cannot be established in the 2024 calendar year, the OPOC will request the position be established the following calendar year.

WWW.SPDOPOC.ORG

EMAIL: SPDOMBUDSMAN@SPOKANECITY.ORG

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SPDOMBUDSMAN • WWW.TWITTER.COM/SPD_OMBUDSMAN

Additionally, in the last two years, we have worked with individual members of the City Council to properly secure the office space of the OPO with a solid wall like the briefing rooms on the opposite side of the first floor of city hall. At the time of the discussion, the exterior and interior walls and carpet were approximately \$72,196.52, which would need to be updated to 2024 costs. We request a one-time allotment to properly secure the OPO given the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) security requirements surrounding an office with access to confidential and protected information.

We understand that both the Administration and the City Council constantly balance many competing interests in your efforts to serve the dynamic needs of the community. The rapidly evolving landscape of police accountability laws on the state level and the increasing responsibilities placed on civilian oversight require the OPOC Commissioners and OPO stay engaged with effective practices at the state and national level.

Sincerely,

Luc Jasmin, *OPOC Chair*

**cc: Jonathan Bingle, Council Member
Michael Cathcart, Council Member
Paul Dillon, Council Member
Kitty Klitzke, Council Member
Lili Navarrete, Council Member
Zack Zappone, Council Member
Bart Logue, Police Ombudsman
Ladd Smith, OPOC Commission Vice-Chair
Jenny Rose, OPOC Commission**

Appendix: OPO Briefing Papers Submitted

1. 2017
 - a. Analyst – \$14,000.00
 - b. OPOC Coordinator – \$16,000.00
 - c. Professional Services – \$7,500.00
 - d. Training – \$5,000.00
 - e. Total: \$42,500.00
2. 2018
 - a. Permanently establish OPOC Coordinator – \$26,000.00
 - b. Establish Clerk II position – \$32,700
 - c. Training –\$23,500
 - d. Administrative costs –\$8,580.00
 - e. Professional services – \$7,500.00
 - f. Total: \$98,280.00
3. 2019
 - a. Change Administrative Specialist to a FTE – \$23,693.00
 - b. Professional Services
 - i. Use of force dashboards annual case updates – \$7,500.00
 - ii. Mediation –\$2,500.00
 - iii. Translation services – \$10,000
 - c. Administrative expenses – \$6,441.60
 - d. Training – \$10,000
 - e. OPOC legal services –\$25,000
 - f. Total: \$85,134.60
4. 2020
 - a. Change Administrative Specialist to a FTE – \$28,535.55
 - b. Funding for vacation cash out benefit – \$4,444.80
 - c. Total: 32,980.35
5. 2021
 - a. Change Administrative Specialist to a FTE – 30,705.00
6. 2022
 - a. Training restoration – \$23,665
 - b. *OPO Wall – \$73,000

*Not an official white paper, but submitted for consideration for an SBO to City Council