



OFFICE OF THE
POLICE OMBUDSMAN



OFFICE OF THE POLICE OMBUDSMAN
2018 Annual Report



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STAFF

Bart Logue, Police Ombudsman

Bart Logue began serving in this capacity in February 2016. Bart retired from the United States Marine Corps after more than 25 years of active service. Career highlights included accreditation as a Military Diplomat and serving as the Marine Attaché and American Legation United States Naval Attaché to Amman, Jordan, and serving as the Provost Marshal (Chief of Police) for MCAS Beaufort and MCRD Parris Island, South Carolina.

Luvimae Omaha, Analyst

Luvimae Omaha has dual degrees in Business Administration and Political Science from the University of California, Riverside and a Juris Doctorate from Gonzaga University School of Law. Luvimae is licensed to practice law in Washington.

Christina Coty, Administrative Specialist

Christina began working at the City of Spokane in 2015 for the ITSD department in contract procurement. Prior to her work at the City of Spokane she worked for Sony Electronics as a Regional Sales Manager managing the retail store operations in Southern California.

Tim Szambelan, OPO Attorney

Tim works in the Civil Division of the City Attorney's Office and currently represents the Ombudsman Office and other departments within the City of Spokane. Tim is licensed to practice law in Washington and Arizona.

Interns

Scott Richter, Eastern Washington University

Jayden Reynolds, Eastern Washington University

Kelsey Scott, Eastern Washington University

OFFICE OF THE POLICE OMBUDSMAN

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Mission

The Office of Police Ombudsman exists to promote public confidence in the professionalism and accountability of the members of the Spokane Police Department by providing independent review of police actions, thoughtful policy recommendations, and ongoing community outreach.

Office of the Police Ombudsman Commission

Ladd Smith, Chair

Colleen Gardner, Vice-Chair (Resigned May 18)

Elizabeth Kelley

Jenny Rose, Vice-Chair

James Wilburn



LETTER FROM THE OMBUDSMAN

July 10, 2019

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

This report covers the period from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Oversight efforts in 2018 saw both successes and challenges. Community member utilization of the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPO) greatly increased. The OPO was also able to collaborate with the Spokane Police Department (SPD) on an update to its Use of Force Policy as well as the Police Force Analysis System (Use of Force Dashboards). The OPO also faced major hurdles that still lack resolution sharing a common theme - the inability to enforce compliance with the governing ordinance, Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) §04.32. The abilities to conduct OPO work free from attempts of undue influence, maintain OPO independence, and ensure OPO unimpeded access to all complaint and investigative files were repeatedly challenged last year.

The OPO saw a rise in oversight activities in 2018. Community member contacts with the OPO increased by 60% over last year and complaint intakes more than doubled. One of the most significant increases seen was interviews with community members regarding ongoing or potential complaints which rose by over 500%. Mediated complaints held steady with a slight increase and the OPO and Internal Affairs (IA) are looking for more opportunities to utilize this approach in the upcoming year. The OPO and IA established a better process of coordination between our offices; meeting on a bi-weekly basis to discuss ongoing cases. Additionally, oversight of IA interviews almost doubled.

In late 2017, Chief Meidl appeared before the Office of the Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC) to announce a collaborative effort between SPD and the OPO to reform SPD's use of force policy. The OPO staff were members of the Use of Force Policy Review Committee created by the police department. Additionally, the Chief asked the OPO to research and deliver a progressive use of force policy for his consideration. In doing so, the OPO studied approximately 100 use of force policies currently in place around the country, looking at progressive policing policies, tactics, and procedures to see if there was a way to impact the actions and planning which occur leading up to a use of force. This effort at reform is still underway. In May, the OPO in agreement with the Chief, contracted with Police Strategies, LLC from Seattle for their Police Force Analysis System in order to create interactive dashboards that empower the public to use police data to analyze force used. This effort is nearing completion and has required collaboration throughout the process. I recognize that opportunities of this significance are rare in the world of civilian oversight of police, and I look forward to working closely with SPD on impactful endeavors in 2019.

In 2018, the OPO enjoyed a consistent relationship with IA and we had numerous robust discussions on how to proceed with cases. The quality of Internal Affairs investigations has steadily improved and chain of command reviews of community complaints have continued to increase. The OPO continued to utilize an Internal Referral program for lack of service types of complaints and have sent them to the appropriate departments for follow-up instead of classifying them as inquiries and closing them, resulting in increased customer service.

This better working relationship is evidenced by my only declining to certify two cases, compared to eighteen from the previous year. In one of the cases I declined to certify, Assistant Chief Lundgren and I presented the case to the OPOC to determine whether further investigation was required. This was the first time an investigation has required the OPOC to make the final determination. After the presentations, the OPOC directed IA to conduct additional investigation pursuant to their authority in SMC §04.32.030(F). The investigation was halted when the Chief and the Spokane Police Guild (one of SPD's Unions) objected saying this was outside the OPOC's authority. The Chief ignored the OPOC's direction and directed a partial re-investigation. He also acknowledged in a letter to the OPOC that the case could have been investigated better.



The OPO endured numerous obstacles to oversight efforts in 2018, which included:

- Denied access for the Administrative Specialist to reporting systems despite the authority given in SMC §04.32.070(M)
- Hampered access for Commissioners to video files which impeded an Ombudsman initiative to study SPD use of force cases, specifically regarding persons of color
- Significant disagreement between the OPO and SPD regarding how difficult it should be for a citizen to file a complaint
- Diminished OPO impactful participation in review mechanisms of use of force, pursuit, and collision cases
- Removal of the OPO and the OPOC from the Police Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Significant reduction in formal access to Chief Meidl and a seeming elimination of informal access to the Chief
- Delays in data submission for the Use of Force Analysis System; and
- Resistance to OPO staff attending Deadly Force Review Board's (DFRB) in the absence of the Ombudsman.

Outside of OPO Staff attending the DFRB (which Chief Meidl resolved), there proved to be little to no mechanisms of resolution or means to enforce the ordinance when the OPOC, community partners, and/or I called out these issues as potential violations of SMC §04.32. Mayor Condon, in a letter alongside Chief Meidl, suggested the appropriate avenue would be to file a complaint against Chief Meidl that Human Resources would investigate. The OPOC filed such a complaint in November 2018 which has yet to have a determination. These issues remain largely unresolved.

I again reiterate that a significant step forward in future ordinance revisions would be to give the ability to the OPO to write reports, if I feel a report would be impactful. There are times when the community is looking for answers that the OPO readily has, yet the OPO is prohibited from speaking openly on these matters. In 2019, I look forward to working with City Council in a collaborative effort to align SMC 04.32 with the City Charter and to provide the OPO with the authority to independently investigate any matter necessary to fulfill its duties; in addition to give authority to the OPO to publish reports which reflect the independent views of the OPO as provided by Article XVI, §129(C) of the City Charter.

As expressed earlier, the workload in the OPO has significantly increased. The OPO continues to face budgetary issues in trying to get our Administrative Specialist from part-time to full time status. Despite this, the OPO is grateful to the City Council for its continued support in enacting our mission. City Council members have always provided a listening ear to the unfolding challenges we face and fully supported our use of force dashboards initiative. The City Administration provided the OPO requested funding for an increase to our training budget as well as provided increases for administrative expenses. Increased funding was significant and indicates a growing awareness and appreciation of the concerns that the OPO is appropriately staffed and resourced to fulfill the requirements of Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) §04.32. In 2019, I look forward to submitting proposals, with the OPOC's guidance, to again request the Administrative Specialist position be increased to a full-time position and requesting funding to cover existing employee benefits deficiencies. A request for a community outreach position has been tabled under the priority of increasing the Administrative Specialist position to full-time.

In 2019, I will continue my efforts to push SPD towards greater transparency and public accountability, beginning with the implementation of the Police Force Analysis System. I look forward to establishing mechanisms with the Spokane Police Department which will provide the OPO with more timely insight into ongoing cases and investigations of critical incidents; engaging in robust communication efforts as we work to re-establish trust; and continuing to work towards greater accountability of the complaint process.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bart Logue
Police Ombudsman



ACTIVITIES

2017	2018	Change	Highlight of Activities
955	1534	+61%	Citizen contacts
116	102	-12%	Participation or attendance in community meetings and events
4	5	+25%	Letters of officer appreciation/commendation
30	64	+113%	OPO generated complaints
54	50	-7%	Referrals to other agencies / departments
3	4	+33%	Cases offered to SPD for mediation
18	2	- 89%	Cases Ombudsman declined to certify
29	187	+545%	Interviews of citizens with ongoing or potential complaints
72	141	+96%	Oversight of IA interviews
179	178	-1%	Special cases reviewed
257	302	+18%	Meetings with SPD
20	35	+75%	SPD review boards attended

TRAINING

Per Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) §04.32.070(A)-(C), The Ombudsman went on 2 ride-alongs with SPD, completed the Spring Spokane Police Department Reserve Academy, and attended Spring EVOC In-Service.

Other highlights include:

- NACOLE Annual Conference
- US Ombudsman Association Conference
- International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference
- Daigle Law Group's Conducting Proper and Effective Investigations

REPORTING

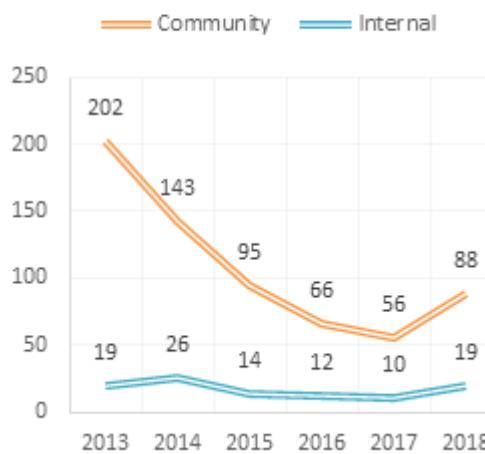
The OPO reports, on a monthly basis, to the Public Safety & Community Health Committee, the Mayor, the City Council, the City Administrator and the Chief of Police. In 2018, the Ombudsman completed 1 annual report for 2017 and 12 monthly reports. Per SMC §04.32.110(C), the Ombudsman briefed City Council on February 12, 2018.



COMPLAINTS

RECEIVED COMPLAINTS

TREND OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED



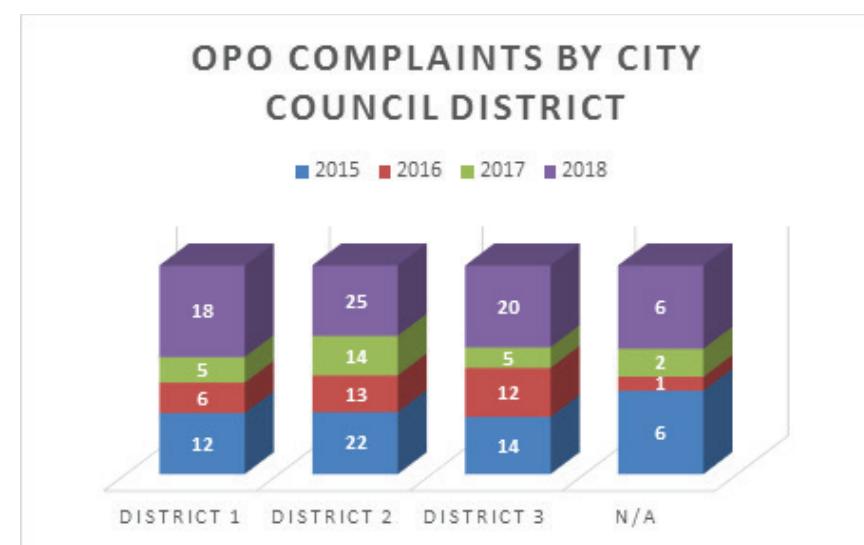
District 2 received the most complaints, similar to 2017.

2018 saw an uptick in complaints received by both the OPO and IA. Both offices saw a total of 107 complaints, 88 from the community and 19 filed internally, compared to 66 in 2017. The OPO received 5 commendations and 63 complaints.

Commendations for SPD

- 1) Police presentation at East Central Community Center
- 2) Positive encounter during a traffic stop
- 3) Property crime enforcement
- 4) Ride along
- 5) Ride along

OPO COMPLAINTS BY CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT



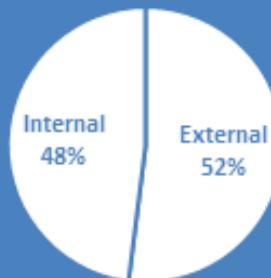
The N/A category includes commendations and numbers that were not assigned to a particular district.

REFERRALS

Internal referrals refer to inquiries or concerns to other areas in the Police Department outside of Internal Affairs. External referrals refer to all other referrals made to:

- American Medical Response
- Dispatch
- Center for Justice
- City Council
- Code Enforcement
- Crime Check
- Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
- Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Mayor's Office
- Parks Department
- Washington State Department of Corrections
- Washington State Patrol
- Downtown Partnership's Clean Team
- Spokane County Sheriff's Office
- Spokane Valley Police Department
- US Marshal's Office

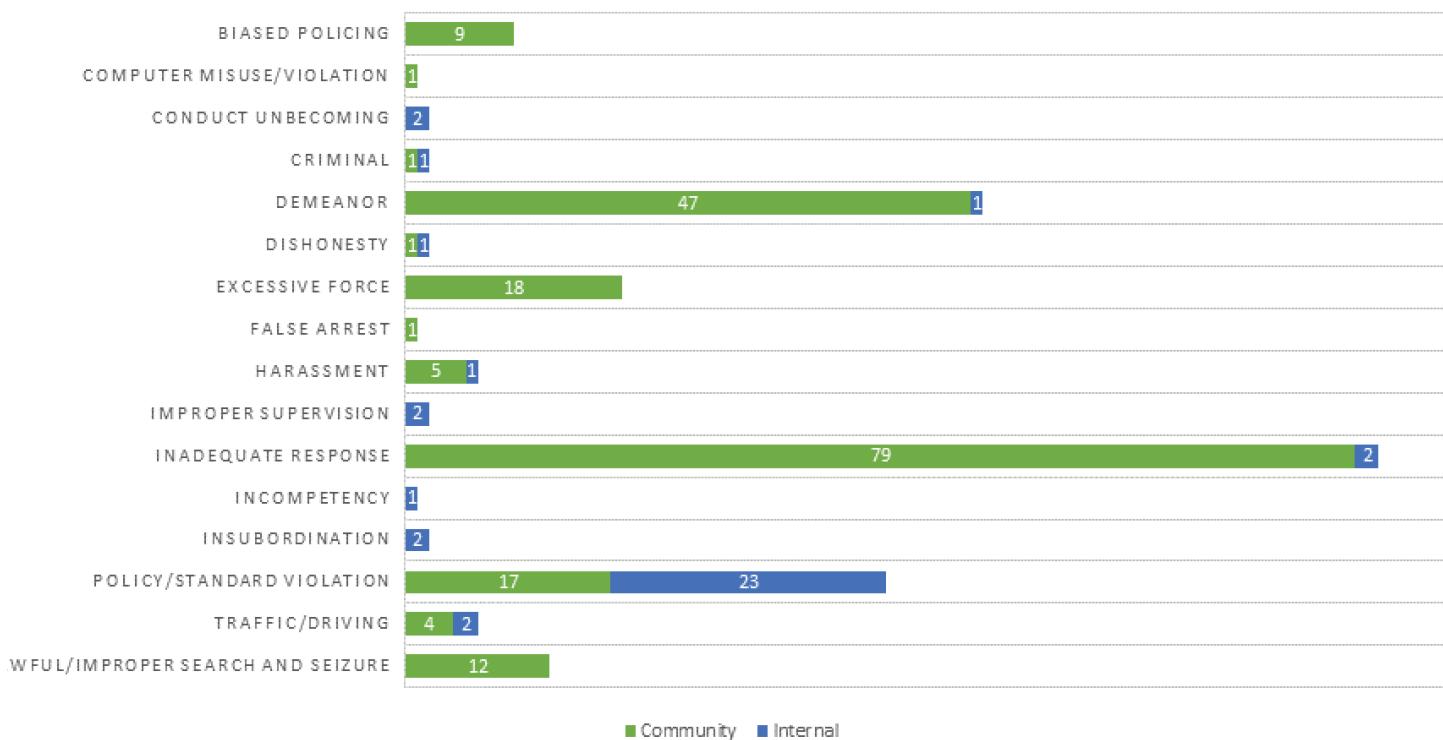
COMPLAINT REFERRALS



COMPLAINTS

CLASSIFICATION AND DISPOSITION OF ALLEGATIONS

WHAT WERE OFFICERS COMPLAINED ON?



3 YEAR COMPARISON OF COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS

Classification of Allegation	2016 ¹	2017 ²	2018 ³
Inquiry / Suspended	58%	38%	38%
Unfounded / Exonerated / Not Sustained	29%	42%	42%
Sustained	14%	4%	10%

Similar to 2017, the community complained most about Inadequate Response and Demeanor.

3 YEAR COMPARISON OF INTERNAL COMPLAINTS

Classification of Allegation	2016	2017 ⁴	2018
Inquiry / Suspended	19%	38%	11%
Unfounded / Exonerated / Not Sustained	28%	0%	21%
Sustained	50%	13%	68%

1- Due to rounding the sum is 101%.

2- In 2017, the sum classification of community brought allegations made up 84% of classifications. At the time of publishing the 2017 report, the other 16% of allegations were comprised of Mediation (3%), Training/Policy Failure (2%), and TBD (11%).

3- In 2018, the sum classification of community brought allegations in the table make up 90% of classifications. The other 10% of allegations were Mediated (8%) and Training/Policy Failure (2%).

4- At the time of publishing the 2017 report, 50% of internal allegations were TBD.



STATISTICS OF INTEREST

	2017	2018	Change
Non-Deadly Use of Force	109	113	↑8%
Deadly Use of Force (Critical Incidents)	7	1	↓86%
Pursuits	25	27	↑8%
Preventable Collisions	25	22	↓12%

CRITICAL INCIDENTS

SPD officers were involved in a total of **1 officer involved shooting**. On March 12, 2018 a County Deputy and mental health workers were going to evict a tenant of an apartment complex in Hillyard. Upon entering the apartment, the suspect was observed sitting in the area of a couch. The suspect began reaching under a blanket covering what the Deputy/Officer(s) believed to be a weapon. Several commands were given, but those commands were ignored.



Photo by James Richman

RECOMMENDATIONS

UPDATES ON 2017 RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Uniform policy for complaints generated through a public records request	Ongoing. Policy 1020 has been updated, but this portion was not included in it yet as the details are still being worked through.
2) SPD should reestablish the practice of posting IA cases and BWC on IA's web page.	Not being implemented. SPD has made progress on posting summaries to the website. They have implemented a process wherein the investigator completes a summary when the case is complete to facilitate posting in a timelier manner.
3) OPO and SPD should collaborate on updating SPD's Use of Force policy to reflect the most progressive technique in de-escalation and tactical considerations.	Partially implemented. The OPO served on the Use of Force Policy Committee. Chief Meidl also asked the OPO to draft a second progressive policy for his consideration. The OPO completed a study of 100 active police use of force policies in the United States in this effort.

2018 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ombudsman provided **5 recommendations** to SPD related to policy and/or training. The subject matter of recommendations made included:

RECOMMENDATION #1: CRIME SCENE SHIELDS

Summary: The Ombudsman recommends that SPD refresh or implement a practice of shielding bodies of the deceased at the scene of the incident. SPD should also have a policy that diverts traffic when a deceased subject may be in public view.

Status: Implemented. The Chief requested shields be ordered. As of April 2018, the shields are deployed when officers respond to a scene where a body is located in a place that may be easily viewed by the public, so long as the screens do not compromise the integrity of the crime scene.

RECOMMENDATION #2: EVIDENCE RELEASE PROCEDURE

Summary: The Ombudsman recommends that the Property Unit update the letter it sends to citizens to better identify the property at issue and update its standard operating procedures to provide citizens the option of picking up property or have the Property Unit destroy it.

Status: Partially Implemented. The form letter has been updated to include the date of the incident. However, no action is being considered on providing citizens an option on how to release or dispose of the property due to the volume of release forms Property sends out every year.

RECOMMENDATION #3: USE OF FORCE DASHBOARDS

Summary: The Ombudsman recommends SPD collaborate with the OPO in implementing Use of Force dashboards in order to provide more transparency on the uses of force that occur in the community.

Status: In Progress. Internal Affairs provided the data required to build the dashboards. SPD is also working with the contractor to provide feedback on data collected to ensure reporting is accurate and providing input for outward facing dashboards.

RECOMMENDATION #4: SAFEGUARDING BODY WORN CAMERA EVIDENCE

Summary: The Ombudsman recommends that SPD review all investigative cases that involved body worn cameras (BWC) to ensure proper safeguarding during an investigation and the prescribed retention period.

Status: Completed. The Director of Strategic Initiatives created a new category that ensures all BWC related to ongoing IA investigations are not purged in accordance to Washington State Archives records and retention schedules for IA investigations.

RECOMMENDATION #5: SWORN STATEMENT REQUIREMENT

Summary: The Ombudsman recommends SPD remove the requirement that complainants submit essentially a sworn statement with their complaint by acknowledging that making false or misleading material statement is a gross misdemeanor and investigators remove a similar advisement prior to conducting an interview.

Status: Partially Implemented. The Chief did not consider action for removing the requirement that complainants acknowledge making a false or misleading material statement but said one advisement was sufficient. In Chief Meidl's response on October 30, 2019 to the recommendation, he pointed out that under SMC 04.32.140(B), "The OPO shall notify complainants that they can be charged with a criminal gross misdemeanor for making a false misleading material statement pursuant to SMC 10.07.020." The OPO should have the ability to determine whether providing an advisement is necessary, if at all. As such, the OPO requested City Council amend SMC 04.32 to change "shall" to "may" notify complainants they may be charged.

Outcome: In January 2019, the City Council voted on and passed changing 04.32.140(B) from "shall" to "may." SPD agreed to reduce the number of advisements, either on the form or at the time of interview.



COMPLAINTS RECEIVED



OPO	Council District	Allegation(s)	Complaint Summary	Days Investigated	Status	Ombudsman Findings	Chief's Findings	Officer Discipline
18-1			Commendation #1					N/A
18-2	2	Inadequate Response	Complainant alleges Internal Affairs refused to open an investigation into complaint. Citizen was contacted by an officer from the citizen's precinct regarding the complaint. Citizen disputes the conclusion reached by the officer.	37	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
18-3	N/A	Policy Violation	Complainant alleges an officer made numerous statements to the citizen that were in violation of SPD policy 340.3.5(f).	55	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
18-4	2	Harassment	Complainant alleges a supervising officer sent six police officers and a mental health professional to the citizen's residence as retaliation from filing a previous complaint.	33	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
18-5	1	Excessive Force / Unlawful/ Improper Search and Seizure / Demeanor	Complainant alleges an officer used excessive force in executing an arrest warrant. At the time of arrest, the citizen was in a vehicle. The officer broke the window and dragged the citizen out of the car. The citizen also heard the officers laughing as they watched the arrest on their cell phones.	93	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
18-6	3	Inadequate Response / Demeanor	Complainant alleges lack of response from assigned Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO).	60	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
18-7	3	Unlawful / Improper Search and Seizure / Inadequate Response	Police were called to Zip Trip due to an aggressive employee. The complainant was a bystander who called the police to report the employee. The complainant alleges being unlawfully detained and request made to press charges was dismissed.	141	Closed	Certified	Officer 1 - Inadequate Response, Sustained / Officer 2 - Inadequate Response, Sustained / Officer 3 - Inadequate Response, Sustained; Unlawful/Improper Search and Seizure, Unfounded / Officer 4 - Inadequate Response, Sustained / Officer 5 - Inadequate Response, Sustained / Officer 6 - Inadequate Response, Sustained	Officer 1 - verbal counseling / Officer 2 - verbal counseling / Officer 3 - document of counseling / Officer 4 - verbal counseling / Officer 5 - verbal counseling / Officer 6 - verbal counseling
18-8	N/A	N/A	Complainant alleges being cut off by an exempt vehicle.	N/A	Referred to SCSO	N/A	N/A	N/A
18-9	3	Inadequate Response	Complainant alleges the police have not investigated the theft of the citizen's belongings because it "wasn't a big crime" and the evidence provided was "just circumstantial."	26	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A

OPO	Council District	Allegation(s)	Complaint Summary	Days Investigated	Status	Ombudsman Findings	Chief's Findings	Officer Discipline
18-10	2	Harassment	Complainant alleges being stalked, followed, and harassed by SPD over two hundred times over the last two years but has never been stopped or cited.	32	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
18-11	3	Demeanor	Complainant was in the Public Safety Building and requested to speak with the person in charge of the Records Department. The complainant alleges the officer came out from behind the glass in a very aggressive fashion, with hands on the hand cuff case, while asking what the problem was. The complainant says the officer was rude, interrupted while complainant was communicating concern, and shoved a complaint form at the citizen. Complainant says the officer provided accurate information but defendant was disrespectful and curt.	125	Closed	Certified	Unfounded	None
18-12	2	Demeanor / Inadequate Response	Complainant reports a man was assaulted and robbed at the Amtrak Station. The man appears impaired due to medical conditions. Complainant says the police treated the man as if he were drunk, told him to clean himself up, and he was scaring people. Complainant says police only made the situation worse.	30	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
18-13	2	Inadequate Response	Citizen was a victim of vehicle prowling while at work at Deaconess Hospital. Citizen discovered items missing from vehicle and reported it to Crime Check. Crime check was referred to an officer at SPD. The citizen attempted to contact the officer on at least five instances but has not received any follow up from the officer or SPD.	52	Closed	Certified	Unfounded	None
18-14			Commendation #2					
18-15	3	Inadequate Response	Citizen was in a vehicle accident. Both parties and a witness called 911 and Crime Check. They were told the police would not respond because it was not blocking the roadway and there were no injuries involved.	51	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-16	3	Inadequate Response	Complainant called 911 to request police response after discovering home was broken into. Complainant says an officer responded after midnight. While the officer was courteous, he/she was not willing to speak with potential witnesses and did not receive assistance after discovering the thief used the citizen's bank card.	94	Closed	Certified	Not Sustained	None
18-17	2	Inadequate Response	Complainant is a landlord whose tenants have been experiencing repeated break-ins and prowling. Complainant and tenants have repeatedly contacted 911 and Crime Check but have not received police response.	32	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-18	2	Wrongful Exercise of Authority	Complainant reports meeting with an SPD official and was caught off guard by other attendees in the meeting, was interrogated, and portions of the interaction were not captured on the audio recorder.	87	Closed	Certified	N/A	N/A



OPO	City Council District	Allegation(s)	Complaint Summary	Days Investigated	Status	Ombudsman Findings	Chief's Findings	Officer Discipline
18-19	2	Demeanor	Complainant was stopped by an officer while riding a bicycle. Complainant says the officer yelled at the complainant for not having the right of way. They had an argumentative encounter. The complainant says the officer accused the complainant of not having brakes, and then badgered the complainant for not having a middle name. The officer also threatened to take the complainant to the hospital for mental evaluation.	43	Closed	Certified	Demeanor, Sustained; Policy/Standard Violation, Sustained	Letter of Reprimand; Training
18-20	3	Excessive Force / Inadequate Response / Bias Policing / Policy/ Standard Violation	Complainant and family have ongoing dispute with neighbors that resulted in several individuals being physically attacked. Complainant was the only party involved who was arrested. Complainant feels singled out because of family relations. In the weeks following the incident, the complainant called for police service and received minimal or no police response.	.125	Closed	Certified	Officer 1 - Excessive Force, Unfounded; Inadequate Response, Not Sustained; Bias Policing, Unfounded / Officer 2 - Bias Policing Unfounded; Inadequate Response, Not Sustained / Officer 3 - Bias Policing, Unfounded; Inadequate Response, Sustained / Officer 4 - Inadequate Response, Not Sustained; Bias Policing, Unfounded / Officer 5 - Excessive Force, Unfounded; Policy/ Standard Violation, Other Sustained; Bias Policing, Unfounded; Inadequate Response, Not Sustained / Officer 6 - Inadequate Response, Not Sustained; Bias Policing, Unfounded / Officer 7 - Inadequate Response, Not Sustained; Bias Policing, Unfounded	Officer 1 - none / Officer 2 - none / Officer 3 - document of counseling / Officer 4 - none / Officer 5 - document of counseling / Officer 6 - none / Officer 7 - none
18-21	3	Demeanor / Inadequate Response	Complainant sent an email complaint to SPD in the past year but has received no follow up. Complainant spoke with an officer about the complaints at the Public Safety Building. Complainant says the officer's reply was short, uncaring, and did not attempt to do anything to assist. When the complainant requested the officer look up the case numbers related to the complaints, the officer referred the complainant to the OPO.	.125	Administratively Suspended	Certified	N/A	N/A



OPO	City Council District	Allegation(s)	Complaint Summary	Days Investigated	Status	Ombudsman Findings	Chief's Findings	Officer Discipline
18-22	3	Demeanor	Police were sent to complainant's home while having a mental health crisis. Complainant was handcuffed and sat outside while only wearing underwear. Complainant requested twice that police allow complainant put on clothes, both requests were denied. As complainant was strapped to a gurney, complainant requested medication be retrieved to help the complainant calm down. This request was also denied.	38	Mediated	Concur	N/A	N/A
18-23	3	Demeanor/ Inadequate Response	Complainant has ongoing dispute with neighbor and has called for police services on multiple occasions, but has not received any response. Further, officers banged on complainant's door around 2-3am to take a sex crimes report, but had the wrong address. Officers left without offering an apology.	26	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-24	2	Excessive Force /Demeanor /Unlawful/ Improper Search and Seizure	Complainant was a passenger in a vehicle stopped by officers. Complainant alleges the officers told them they were being stopped as part of a routine traffic stop and that vehicle tabs were expired. The second officer approached the complainant and requested to see identification. The second officer ran the complainant's record and found a warrant out for arrest. The officer arrested the complainant for obstruction and resisting arrest. When the complainant refused to exit the vehicle, officers snatched and body slammed the complainant against the ground. While handcuffed, the complainant says another officer placed a knee on the side of the complainant's face. The complainant asked for a supervisor but no one arrived.	123	Closed	Certified	Officer 1 - Excessive Force, Exonerated; Demeanor, Unlawful/Improper Search and Seizure, Exonerated / Officer 2 - Excessive Force, Exonerated; Demeanor, Sustained; Unlawful/ Improper Search and Seizure, Sustained	Officer 1 - None / Officer 2 - Document of Counseling; Training
18-25	2	Inadequate Response	Complainant is a local business owner who has faced issues with homeless people leaving needles and human feces on the business property. Complainant says police only come one in fifty times they're called and nothing happens. The most recent incident was on the morning complaint was made. Complainant is scared for self and employees.	13	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-26	2	Inadequate Response	Complainant alleges son is being targeted as a nuisance by a local business due to a mental illness and as a result the police haven't done anything to assist him. Complainant says a man threatened to shoot the son in front of officers, but they did nothing. In another incident, while the son was crossing the street, he was hit by a car (driven by the same man who previously threatened to shoot him). When the police arrived, officers told the son pedestrians don't always have the right of way and should stay out of the center of the road. The suspect was not cited for either incident.	123	Closed	Certified	Exonerated	None



OPO	City Council District	Allegation(s)	Complaint Summary	Days Investigated	Status	Ombudsman Findings	Chief's Findings	Officer Discipline
18-27	1	Unlawful/ Improper Search and Seizure	Complainant's spouse was a passenger in a vehicle stopped by officers. The driver and one of the passengers was arrested. The complainant's spouse was not arrested but the spouse's keys were confiscated by an officer.	25	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
18-28	1	Demeanor / Inadequate Response	Complainant was involved in a domestic violence incident with spouse. Complainant requested medical attention but never received any. The responding officers were rude and condescending. When the complainant was describing injuries sustained to an officer, the officer responded with eye rolling and sarcasm. Complainant says officers called injuries suffered were fabricated and asked why the complainant hasn't left the relationship.	180	Closed	Certified	Demeanor; Exonerated; Inadequate Response, Unfounded	None
18-29	2	Inadequate Response	Complainant was trespassed from a community center due to service animal being disruptive and not on leash. Complainant offered to get leash from the car and return, but the officer trespassed without conducting an investigation.	162	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-30	1	Inadequate Response	Complainant has called Crime Check every day for seven days to report a camper parked on the street. Crime Check always says they'll send police but they have not arrived. Complainant reports the campers bathe and launder clothes on the splash pad in Glass Park.	9	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-31	1	Inadequate Response	Complainant's vehicle was stolen. Complainant says SPD called the wrong number when the vehicle was recovered, took it off the stolen vehicle list before it was recovered, and as a result Idaho police could not assist when the vehicle was located in Idaho. Further, when an officer found the suspect in possession with the vehicle, the officer did not arrest. Complainant seeks restitution from the suspect through the Prosecutor, but has been denied because the suspect was never arrested.	19	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
18-32	2	Demeanor	Complainant was protesting outside of a Cathy Morris rally. Complainant came approximately six inches from the bumper of a black SUV when the driver honked at him. The driver rolled down the window and said, "If you damage this vehicle, you are going to jail." The complainant pointed out the vehicle to officers and they said, "that wasn't a threat, that was a promise."	136	Pending Guild grievance letter to City; SPD Closed as Inquiry	Declined	N/A	N/A
18-33	2	Demeanor	Complainant was protesting outside of the Spokane Club and invited officers present to carry political signs. The officers declined saying they must remain neutral. Officers then asked the complainant to stand outside the pillars located out front on the sidewalk. Complainant says the officers' demeanor and interactions were not neutral.	37	Closed as an Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A



OPO	Council District	Allegation(s)	Complaint Summary	Days Investigated	Status	Ombudsman Findings	Chief's Findings	Officer Discipline
18-34	3	Demeanor	Complainant was routed to SPD through 311. The interaction with the officer was very poor and the officer was rude and disrespectful.	180	Closed	Certified	Not Sustained	None
18-35	1	Inadequate Response	Complainant's property was stolen. Complainant called Crime Check to request a police response. Crime Check informed the complainant that they could offer him an incident number but that SPD will not respond to a property crime. The complainant declined the incident number saying, what's the point of an incident number if the police won't come.	25	Closed as an Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-36	1	Inadequate Response	Complainant alleges being ignored on multiple attempts to contact the assigned Neighborhood Resource Officer.	102	Closed as an Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-37	2	Inadequate Response / Demeanor	Complainant and roommate got into an argument that resulted in a physical alteration and damage to the complainant's television. Complainant called the police to press charges. When the officers arrived, one of the officers yelled at the complainant. The officer said he/she would not let the charges go through.	103	Closed	Certified	Officer 1 - Inadequate Response, Training Failure / Officer 2 - Inadequate Response, Training Failure; Demeanor, Exonerated	Officer 1 – Training / Officer 2 – Training
18-38	2	Inadequate Response / Demeanor	Complainant called Crime Check, after dialing 911. wouldn't work, after being threatened and feared for his/her life. Crime Check wanted to get all of the complainant's information before dispatching officers. It took over 25 minutes for police to respond. When officers arrived they treated the complainant as if he/she were the suspect. Officers assured the complainant they had an officer looking for the suspect, but the complainant later learned no officer was searching.	118	Closed as an Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-39	3	Demeanor	Complainant was pulled over in a traffic stop. Complainant's vehicle was impounded due to a passenger having a warrant issued against him/her. Complainant contacted the officers' supervisor on when the car may be picked up. The supervisor was rude and not helpful.	175	Closed	Certified	Exonerated	None
18-40	3	Inadequate Response / Demeanor	Complainant is a landlord who evicted tenants from property. Neighbors reported that when the tenants vacated, they took furniture and appliances furnished by the landlord and vandalized the property. Complainant says police didn't show up to an active theft, but hours later after the fact. Complainant entered the property and requested police assistance to remove a squatter. Crime Check said the police were too busy. The complainant called Crime Check again to get an incident number, the officer complained upon responded. Complainant says the officer was argumentative, didn't want to look at documents establishing ownership, and the officer automatically believed the tenants.	150	Closed	Certified	N/A	N/A



OPO	Council District	Allegation(s)	Complaint Summary	Days Investigated	Status	Ombudsman Findings	Chief's Findings	Officer Discipline
18-41	3	Inadequate Response	Complainant reported an ongoing assault and requested police assistance. Police didn't show up until the following day.	11	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-42	3	Inadequate Response	Complainant's firearm was stolen and pawned. The firearm was reported to be returned to the owner, but the complainant has yet to recover the firearm. Complainant called the detective assigned to the case numerous times but has not received any follow up.	91	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-43	1	Inadequate Response	Complainant was in a car accident and the officers who responded did not accurately detail witness statements and the narrative of the incident was extremely vague with inaccurate wording.	36	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-44	1	Policy Violation	Complainant alleges violation of First Amendment rights. An officer ordered the complainant to remove tents used to protest and demonstrate the need for new camps for the homeless.	57	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-45	3	Inadequate Response / Demeanor	Complainant called for police assistance following an altercation with a squatter in an abandoned apartment building. Responding officer took the squatter's statement but was not interested in taking the complainant's statement. Instead the officer accused the complainant of harassing behavior.	159	Closed	Certified	Inadequate Response, Exonerated; Demeanor, Unfounded	None
18-46	1	Inadequate Response	Complainant says that due to SPD's slow response time, an individual was subjected to continued assault.	180	Closed	Certified	Exonerated	None
18-47	1	Traffic/Driving	Complainant witnessed an officer commit a hit and run. When complainant reported it to Crime Check he/she received several calls from officers. Complainant felt accused of lying.	117	Closed	Certified	Exonerated	None
18-48	1	Inadequate Response	Complainant found a homeless man sleeping in his/her carport. Complainant asked the homeless man to move but he wouldn't. Complainant called Crime Check who said someone would be over. Police response didn't arrive until 12 hours later.	28	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-49	1	Harassment	Complainant is a business owner who has encountered the complained upon officer when enforcing code violations. While the complainant has not received any code violations regarding the liquor license, complainant feels harassed by the officer. In one instance, the officer even threatened the complainant's life.	180	Closed	Certified	Unfounded	None
18-50	2	Inadequate Response	Complainant reported suspicious activity behind office building to Crime Check numerous times. Complainant has also contacted the designated NRO and left at least two voicemails but has not received a call back.	50	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A



OPO	City Council District	Allegation(s)	Complaint Summary	Days Investigated	Status	Ombudsman Findings	Chief's Findings	Officer Discipline
18-51	1	Inadequate Response	Complainant is a business owner whose store got vandalized. Complainant used social media and the media to gather information on the suspects. Information was provided to SPD yet nothing was done in a timely fashion.	112	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-52	1	Inadequate Response	Complainant is a landlord who had tenants evicted. After tenants were evicted, they tried to return unlawfully. Responding officers allowed tenants back into garage to collect possessions. However, complainant contends the garage also included the complainant's property.	41	Closed	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-53	3	Inadequate Response / Demeanor	Complainant is continuously harassed by neighbors. Police response doesn't sufficiently address issues.	144	Closed	Certified	Officer 1 – Inadequate Response, Unfounded / Officer 2 – Inadequate Response, Unfounded; Demeanor, Unfounded / Officer 3 – Demeanor, Unfounded / Officer 4 – Inadequate Response, Unfounded; Demeanor, Unfounded	Officer 1 – None / Officer 2 – None / Officer 3 – None / Officer 4 – None
18-54	2	Policy Violation / Computer Misuse/ Violation	Complainant began speaking to an officer on the Tinder dating application. Complainant alleges the officer used department resources to learn personal information.	132	Closed	Certified	Unfounded	None
18-55	1	Inadequate Response	Complainant has a protection order against spouse. Every time the complainant calls to request police response, Crime Check/911 provide an incident number but no police response. Complainant says police told her if there is no video or picture of spouse violating the order, they won't do anything.	108	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-56	3	Excessive Force / Demeanor	Complainant was walking down the street with a hoodie and headphones when officers ran toward him with a rifle drawn and yelling at the complainant to stop. Complainant was thrown to the ground.	161	Closed	Certified	Officer 1 – Demeanor, Unfounded; Excessive Force, Exonerated / Officer 2 – Demeanor, Unfounded; Excessive Force, Exonerated	Officer 1 – None / Officer 2 – None
18-57	2	Inadequate Response / Demeanor	Complainant was assaulted. When police arrived, they did not address the issues they were called for. Complainant was made to feel in the wrong rather than as the victim.	63	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-58		Commendation #3						
18-59	2	Inadequate Response	Complainant has witnessed drug dealers on street and reported it to Crime Check, 911 & NRO directly. Complainant has received no response.	72	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-60	2	Demeanor	Officer followed up with complainant on the phone after complainant reported being "charged" at by landlord. Officer told the complainant he/she was wasting the officer's time and officer hung up on him/her.	43	Closed	Certified	Not Sustained	None



OPO	City Council District	Allegation(s)	Complaint Summary	Days Investigated	Status	Ombudsman Findings	Chief's Findings	Officer Discipline
18-61	2	Inadequate Response	Complainant called 911 after being assaulted by sibling. The responding officer did not ask to see wounds and asked roommate if the complainant was exaggerating. Officer then told the complainant he/she was overreacting, after he/she was dragged by a vehicle. Complainant further reported to the officer that the sibling is armed, wearing a bulletproof vest, and has made threats to kill. But because he/she could not list the specific weapons, the officer said nothing could be done. Two days later the sibling was involved in an armed robbery. Complainant feels dismissed and that the robbery could have been prevented.	184	Closed	Certified	Sustained	Document of Counseling; Training
18-62	1	Harassment	Complainant alleges an officer continuously pulls over his/her work trucks without reason.	8	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-63	3	Unlawful/ Improper Search and Seizure / Inadequate Response / False Arrest	Complainant called the police for DV by significant other. Complainant says officers assumed he/she was wrong instead of talking about it.	35	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-64	1	Driving	Complainant witnessed an officer speeding, changing lanes without signaling and with lights on to get through an intersection.	16	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
18-65	2	Demeanor	Complainant contacted the police desk regarding the law on video recording an officer while on duty. The desk officer confirmed the law but was rude and when complainant had more questions the officer hung up.	97	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
18-66	2	Demeanor	Complainant was pulled over for speeding and was treated with disrespect, belittled and mocked by the officer.	182	Closed	Declined	Sustained	Verbal Counseling
18-67	3	Inadequate Response	Complainant called SPD for assistance. Upon arrival complainant was taken to a hospital for evaluation. Concerns were never addressed. Commendation #4	44	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-68								
18-69	2	Excessive Force / Inadequate Response	Complainant called SPD for assistance with neighbors. The complainant was then arrested and concerns were never addressed. Commendation #5	22	Administratively Suspended	Certified	N/A	N/A
18-70								



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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