



OFFICE OF THE POLICE OMBUDSMAN

OFFICE OF THE POLICE OMBUDSMAN 2019 Annual Report



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STAFF

Bart Logue, Police Ombudsman

Bart Logue began serving in this capacity in September 2016, after serving as the Interim Police Ombudsman. Bart is a Certified Practitioner of Oversight through the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE). Bart has a Master of Forensic Sciences from National University and a Master of National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School. Bart is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Session 239, and is also a certified Advanced Force Science Specialist.

Luvimae Omana, Analyst / Deputy Police Ombudsman

Luvimae Omana 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. Luvimae is also a certified Advanced Force Science Specialist.

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.

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

Jenny Rose, Chair
Ladd Smith, Vice-Chair
Blaine Holman
Elizabeth Kelley
James Wilburn

LETTER FROM THE OMBUDSMAN

July 21, 2020

Mayor Nadine Woodward
Council President Breean Beggs
City Council Members
Office of the Police Ombudsman Commissioners
Chief Craig Meidl

This report covers the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Oversight efforts in 2019 saw both successes and challenges. Community member utilization of the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPO) continued to average over 100 community member contacts per month. The OPO was pleased to see the Spokane Police Department (SPD) publish an update to its Use of Force Policy, after significant collaboration in 2018. Upon review of the newly published policy, the OPO made a recommendation to reestablish the previously mandated process of referring force reviews to Internal Affairs (IA) for investigation if a supervisor felt that the force utilized may have fallen out of policy. SPD followed through and provided that update to the Use of Force policy as well. The OPO continued to face 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 OPO continued to see a rise in oversight activities in 2019. This year saw a 20% increase in OPO generated community complaints and a 216% increase for OPO generated referrals. The OPO also saw a rise in Letters of Appreciation for officers in the police department. Community member contacts with the OPO continued to be substantially higher for the past two years and complaint intakes have more than doubled over the last two years. Interviews with community members, while 19% lower than last year, continued at a rate of over a 500% increase from 2017. The OPO also conducted 3 successful complaint mediations last year. The OPO and IA continued the practice of meeting on a bi-weekly basis to discuss ongoing cases and meetings with SPD averaged over 30 per month.

The abilities of the OPO to conduct oversight work free from attempts of undue influence, maintain OPO independence, and ensure unimpeded access to all complaint and investigative files continues to be a challenge. In 2020, I look forward to working with the Administration and City Council in a collaborative effort to align SMC §04.32 with the City Charter Article XVI, §129 in order to provide the OPO with the authority to independently investigate any matter necessary to fulfill its duties; publish reports which reflect the independent views of the OPO with findings; and ensure the independence of the office will not be infringed upon.

These issues are not unique to Spokane. The National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) has a forthcoming publication of what they consider to be basic principles for effective oversight. Included among them are independence, clearly defined and adequate jurisdiction and authority, adequate funding and operational resources, and public reporting and authority. Below is a synopsis regarding why NACOLE believes these principles are the building blocks for effective oversight:

1. Independence is one of the most important and defining concepts of civilian oversight. In the broadest sense, it means an absence of real or perceived influence. To maintain legitimacy, the agency must be able to demonstrate its independence from law enforcement, especially in the face of high-profile issues.
2. When an agency does not have clearly defined and adequate jurisdiction and authority to perform its mission, it simply cannot be effective. Stakeholders must ensure the level of authority of an oversight agency has in relation to its core oversight functions permits the agency to successfully perform its duties to the greatest degree possible and without limitation.
3. Allocating adequate funding and operational resources are necessary to ensure that work is being performed thoroughly, timely, and at a high level of competency. Political stakeholders must ensure support for civilian oversight includes a sustained commitment to provide adequate and necessary resources. Civilian oversight agencies must have adequate training on a regular basis, perform outreach, and disseminate public reports and other outreach materials in order to be effective.
4. Issuing public reports is critical to an agency's credibility because it is an effective tool in bringing transparency to a historically opaque process. Reports provide a unique opportunity for the public to learn about misconduct complaints and other areas of the law enforcement agency that serves the community.

The OPO is focused on opportunities to increase community visibility into incidents of concern last year. As such, we took a significant step forward in establishing our reporting efforts. SMC §04.32.030 provides authority for the OPO to publish closing reports on a case once it has been certified by the Police Ombudsman and the Chief of Police has made a final determination in the matter. Reporting efforts are solely meant to further discussion on aspects of an incident that could be improved upon for future incidents of a similar nature. As we looked to establish a reporting system and write a closing report on C19-040, the OPO used public records to conduct a review of officer reports, body worn camera (BWC) video footage, chain of command reviews, the IA investigation, the Administrative Review Panel (ARP) memorandum, and the SPD press conference regarding a case to ensure that all information would be fully releasable to the public. While this approach was time consuming and unwieldy, it provided the opportunity to robustly analyze the incident for policy and procedure recommendations that can result in improved police performance through their eventual implementation.

There continued to be substantial pushback on the OPO last year, particularly surrounding the case previously mentioned. These pushback attempts clearly infringed upon the independence and authorities of the OPO, even requesting Mayor Condon to intervene and remove the Police Ombudsman from the case. Outside of this, for the second year, the OPO and the OPOC forwarded budget requests to the Administration and the City Council to consider increasing our Administrative Specialist from part-time to full-time status. These requests continue to be unfunded, despite the significant increase in the workload of the OPO over the last two years.

In 2020, I will continue working towards ensuring the independence of the OPO as well as obtaining adequate staff and resources to meet the growing demands of police oversight. I pledge to work with the City in order to ensure that proper legal and labor safeguards are in place to ensure that the work of the OPO will not be inappropriately infringed upon and that employees of the OPO are treated with dignity and respect, particularly by those who challenge the mandates placed upon our office. I look forward to further engagement with Chief Meidl as we work to ensure greater accountability of the complaint process and transparency of incidents which impact community trust.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bart Logue
Police Ombudsman



Photo by James Richman

OPO ACTIVITIES

TRAINING

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

Other highlights include:

- NACOLE Annual Conference
- NACOLE Regional Conference
- US Ombudsman Association Conference
- International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference
- Daigle Law Group's Conducting Proper and Effective Investigations
- Forensic Video Solutions Investigating Course

Other training and activities:

- The Police Ombudsman joined the NACOLE Strategic Planning Committee which is responsible for planning future training opportunities to be presented to NACOLE members
- The Deputy Police Ombudsman was certified as an Advanced Force Science Specialist with the Force Science Institute
- Short seminars on:
 - o Dealing with Difficult and Unreasonable Complainants
 - o Administrative Investigations and Demonstrating Your Value
 - o Understanding Affinity Groups as a Strategy to Advance Race Equity
 - o Strategies for Conducting Compelled Interviews with Officers
 - o False Confessions, Interrogations, and In-Custody Interviewing
 - o Law Enforcement Interaction with Individuals with Developmental Disorders
 - o Finding the Leader in You
 - o Active Shooter Course

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 2019, the Ombudsman completed 1 annual report for 2018 and **12** monthly reports. Per SMC §04.32.110(C), the Ombudsman briefed City Council on September 9, 2019.

2019	2018	2017	Highlight of Activities
1294	1534	955	Citizen contacts
61	102	116	Participation or attendance in community meetings and events
8	5	4	Letters of officer appreciation / commendation
77	64	30	OPO generated complaints
158	50	54	Referrals to other agencies / departments
3	4	3	Cases offered to SPD for mediation
1	2	18	Cases Ombudsman declined to certify
152	187	29	Interviews of citizens with ongoing or potential complaints
65	141	72	Oversight of IA interviews
203	178	179	Special cases reviewed
379	302	257	Meetings with SPD
20	35	20	SPD review boards attended

COMMENDATIONS RECEIVED

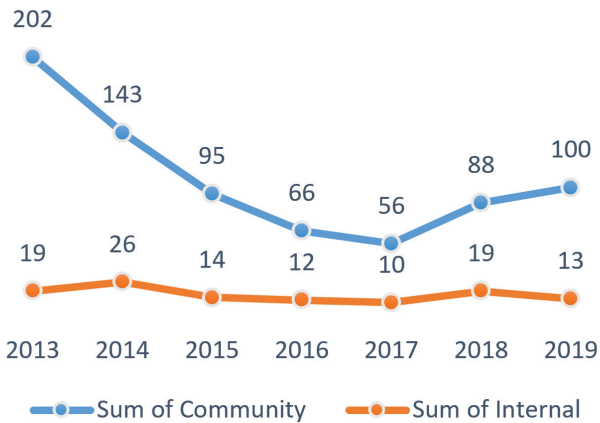
1)	A homeless individual commended an officer's encouragement in finding housing
2)	A citizen involved in a car accident commended how officers handled the incident
3)	A complainant commended the kindness received in an officer's follow up
4)	A citizen received a traffic infraction from an officer but commended the professionalism and friendliness the officer displayed during their interaction
5)	A citizen commended three officers for their helpfulness in responding to a stolen vehicle issue
6)	Ride along letter of appreciation
7)	Ride along letter of appreciation
8)	Ride along letter of appreciation

The OPO submitted the most number of commendations for SPD officers in 2019. 5 Commendations were from community members and 3 were directly from the OPO.

COMPLAINTS

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

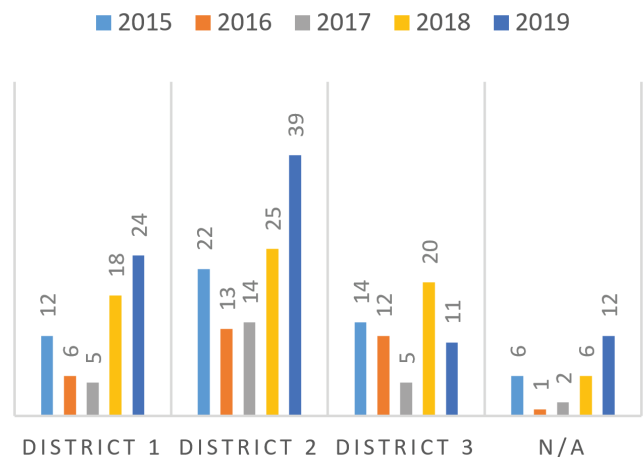
TRENDS OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED



Complaints on SPD officers from the community increased by 14% from the previous year. Complaints in 2019 were the highest number of complaints since 2014.

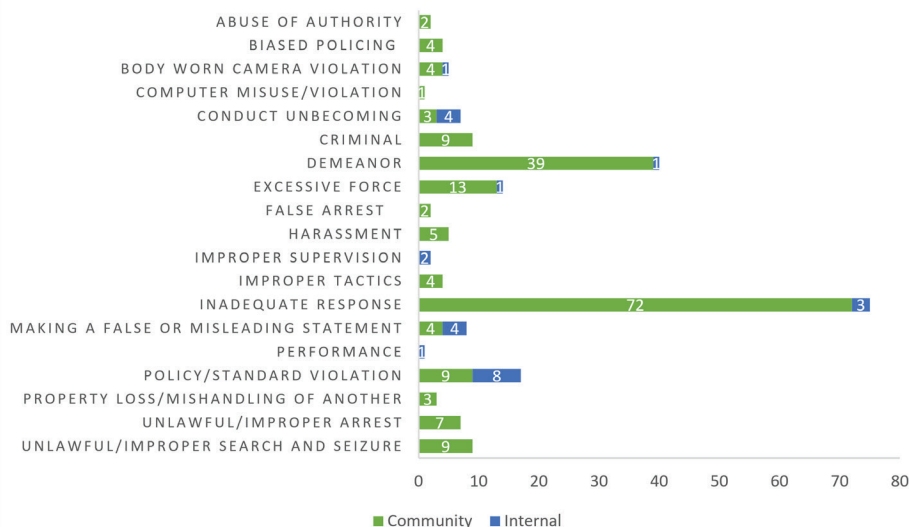
District 2, includes the downtown core area, received the most number of complaints similar to previous years.

COMPLAINTS BY CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT



*The N/A category includes commendations and complaints that either took place on numerous instances in various locations or involved an SPD response to an area outside of the City boundary.

WHAT WERE OFFICERS COMPLAINED ON?



Similar to 2018, the community filed the most complaints on inadequate response and demeanor.

COMPLAINTS

REFERRALS



Referrals increased 216% from 2018 primarily due to a significant number of complaints from a few complainants. 2 complainants comprised 65 referrals.

External Referrals	
911	Mayor's Office
Aberdeen Police Department	Parking Enforcement
Airway Heights Correction Center	Parks & Recreation
Amtrak Police	Police Records
SCSO Citizen Advisory and Review Board	Prosecutor's Office
Center for Justice	River Park Square
City Council	Spokane County Sheriff's Office
Code Enforcement	Spokane County Jail
Crime Check	Spokane Schools
Detention Services	Spokane Valley
Grays Harbor Sheriff's Department	Tribal Law Enforcement
Human Resources	Washington State Patrol

The OPO made **158 referrals** in 2019. 51 referrals were external and 107 were internal. Excluding the repeat complainants, the OPO still made 93 referrals total in 2019. OPO began publishing data on referrals made in 2017. The OPO made 54 referrals in 2017 and 50 referrals in 2018. Internal referrals refer to inquiries or concerns to other areas in the Police Department outside of Internal Affairs, while External Referrals refer to all other referrals made. Repeat complaints from the same individual on similar incidents were also forwarded as referrals for review instead of artificially inflating the number of complaints against SPD.

COMPARING COMPLAINTS OVER A 3-YEAR PERIOD

3-Year Comparison of Community Complaints	2017	2018	2019
Inquiry / Suspended / Closed	38%	38%	68%
Unfounded / Exonerated / Not Sustained	42%	42%	20%
Sustained	4%	10%	4%

2019 Saw a 30% increase in community complaints categorized as an inquiry, suspended, or closed upon an initial investigation. There was a 28% decrease in complaints that received a chain of command review.

3-Year Comparison of Internal Complaints	2017	2018	2019
Inquiry / Suspended / Closed	38%	11%	28%
Unfounded / Exonerated / Not Sustained	0%	21%	16%
Sustained	13%	68%	56%

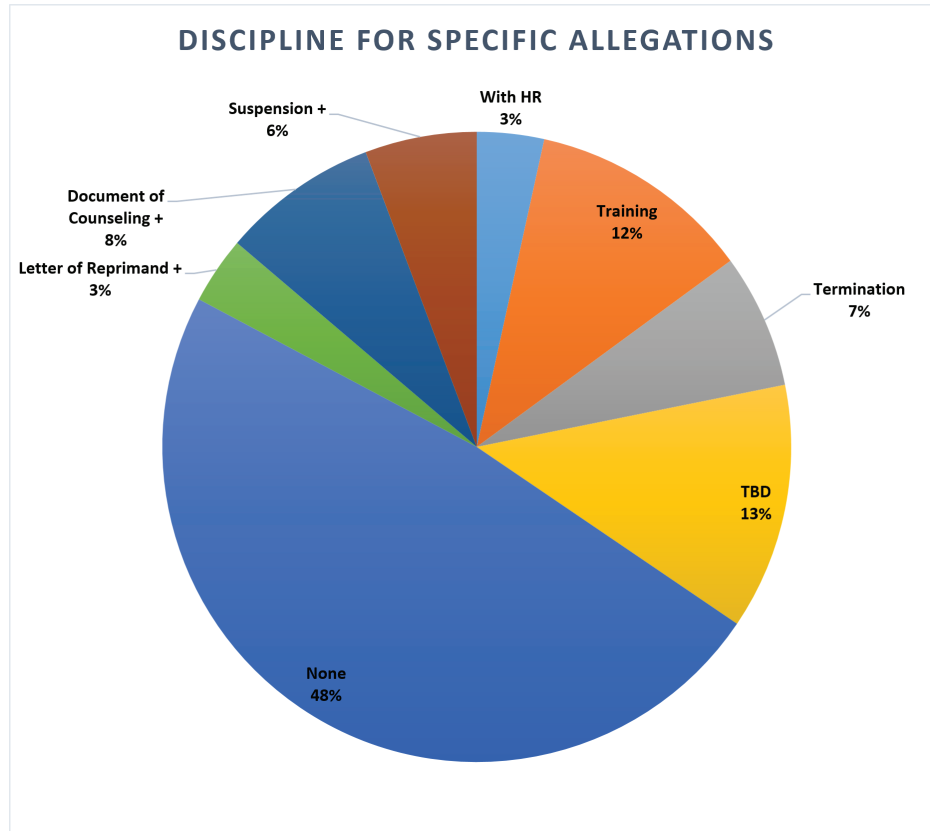
In 2019, the OPO observed IA's practice of sending 5 cases to an officer's supervisor to recommend training and/or mentoring even though they had been closed as an Inquiry or Administratively Suspended. When a case is classified as an Inquiry or Closed, the issue being complained upon does not rise to the level of a policy violation and the Department does not require further action after the initial review. The OPO commends SPD for recognizing opportunities to use an incident for a supervisor to informally but directly mentor an officer. Some of the issues addressed include:

- Minor demeanor concern more appropriately handled by the direct supervisor;
- Application of RCW and how to interact with child victims;
- Discussing when writing a police report versus Computer Aided Dispatch notes are appropriate documentation;
- Discussing importance of evidence collection; and
- Considering alternative measures to avoid potentially dangerous encounters with innocent people while officers are conducting an investigation.

Internal complaints saw a 17% increase in the inquiry, suspended, or closed category. Chain of command reviews slightly decreased from 89% to 72%.

COMPLAINTS

CLASSIFICATION AND DISPOSITION OF ALLEGATIONS



36% of allegations reviewed by the chain of command received some type of discipline. While 48% of allegations reviewed were found to be unfounded or exonerated.

Of all complaints received, 29% received a Chain of Command review. This does not include 5% of allegations that are TBD. Of the complaints the Chain of Command reviewed, they found 48% of allegations to be Unfounded or Exonerated in the cases they reviewed. Of the sustained allegations, 36% received some form of discipline. This includes: 12% training, 7% Termination, 3% Letter of Reprimand / Letter of Reprimand and Training, 8% Document of Counseling / Document of Counseling and Training, and 6% that include a Suspension of some type. Suspension issued varied from 40-hours suspension to 1-day suspension without pay, and suspension held in abeyance – an unusual form of suspension that is not administered unless some condition is met.

Two officers were terminated as a result of an internal complaint. The first complaint alleged Making a False or Misleading Statement. The second complaint alleged Conduct Unbecoming, Demeanor, Excessive Force, Inadequate Response, and Making a False or Misleading Statement.

HR is investigating 1 internal complaint filed in November 2019. The complaint is comprised of 3 allegations against a supervisor for promoting a culture of excessive force. The outcome of 2 cases received from the community are still to be determined (TBD). The first case is pending a criminal case. The complaint alleges Abuse of Authority, Body Worn Camera Violation, Computer Misuse/Violation, Criminal, and Policy/Standard Violation. The second case alleges Conduct Unbecoming, Demeanor, and Excessive Force.

STATISTICS OF INTEREST

	2018	2019	Change
Non-Deadly Use of Force	113	117	↑4%
Critical Incidents ¹	1	5	↑400%
Pursuits	28	30	↑7%
Preventable Collisions	22	23	↑5%

The statistics of interest reflect an increase in each category. However, the numbers are relatively similar to 2018. Critical incidents increased by 400% but 2018 saw a lower number of critical incidents. Additionally, the number of incidents are so low any increase greatly impacts the percent change.

1 Previously reported as "Officer Involved Shooting." Officer involved shootings are encompassed in Critical Incidents. See Critical Incident section for more information.

2 OPO previously reported SPD pursuits in 2018 as 27. The number of pursuits was updated to 28 after publishing the 2018 Annual Report.

CRITICAL INCIDENTS

SPD officers were involved in a total of 5 critical incidents. Four of the incidents were officer involved shootings. One incident resulted in the subject's death after contact with officers. A critical incident occurs when a SPD employee is involved as a principal, victim, witness, or custodial officer, where death or serious bodily injury results or where deadly force was used regardless of whether any injury or death resulted. SPD shall notify the Ombudsman to observe any administrative or civil investigation conducted by or on behalf of the Department. See SMC 04.32.040.

Date	Location	Race	Status	Incident Type	Summary
1/7/19	600 W. Montgomery	White	Deceased	Officer involved shooting	Officers responded to a report of a male firing a gun at neighbors. Shortly after arriving on scene, officers reported hearing what they believed to be shots coming from the suspect's house. Officers arrived on scene and confronted the subject on a residential driveway. The officers believed the subject was holding a short barreled shotgun and ordered him to drop it and surrender. The subject did not comply and instead walked toward the residence. An officer fired his service weapon and struck the subject. The subject was pronounced dead on scene.
1/23/19	3000 N. Monroe	Black	Deceased	Officer involved shooting	Officers responded to reports of a suspect threatening citizens with a handgun. Officers located the suspect armed with what appeared to be a knife. The suspect refused commands and did not respond to de-escalation attempts. The suspect closed distance on the officers with what appeared to be a knife and officers fired their service weapon striking the suspect.
7/6/19	6th and Maple	Black	Survived	Officer involved shooting	An officer was engaged in a foot pursuit of a suspect with a felony warrant. During the pursuit, the suspect pointed his weapon at the officer and the officer returned fire at the suspect but did not strike him. A nearby citizen tipped off another officer of the suspect's whereabouts and officers were able to take the suspect into custody without incident.
9/7/19	907 E. Euclid	White	Deceased	Resulting death	Officers responded to a report of a male who sustained significant self-inflicted injuries and was fading in and out of consciousness. Officers used force to gain entry into a locked bathroom. The subject physically resisted medics' attempts to render aid, so officers deployed their TASER to restrain the subject and administer first aid. The subject was pronounced dead during medical transport to the hospital.
10/23/19	3400 E. Garnett	White	Deceased	Officer involved shooting	An officer responded to a call of a suicidal male armed with a firearm. The officer commanded the subject to drop the gun but did not comply and instead turned toward the officer and pointed the gun at the officer. The officer fired his service weapon striking the subject. The male was pronounced deceased at the scene.

RECOMMENDATIONS

UPDATES ON 2018 RECOMMENDATIONS

Use of Force dashboards to increase transparency on the uses of force that occur in the community. Completed. The dashboards are available at my.spokanecity.org/opo/analysis/. The OPO, in conjunction with SPD, has agreed to provide yearly updates to uses of force for the public dashboards.

2019 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ombudsman provided **4 recommendations** to SPD related to policy and/or training. The recommendations included:

Recommendation #1: Juvenile Miranda Advisements

Summary: The Ombudsman recommended that SPD create a policy for juvenile Miranda advisements, or at a minimum, ensure officers take extra steps to ensure that minors comprehend the advisement. Additionally, this will help preserve any information officers obtain from the minor in a court setting.

Status: In progress. SPD has drafted modified language in Policy 324, Temporary Custody of Juveniles, which adds a section on Juvenile Miranda Warnings. The Department affirmed they will disseminate new Constitutional Rights cards that have both adult and juvenile warnings pending the availability of new Constitutional Rights cards. The juvenile warnings provides juveniles with simpler language that are easier to understand.

Recommendation #2: Use of Force Reporting Used Against Persons of Mistaken Identity

Summary: The Ombudsman recommended a non-involved supervisor review cases where officers mistakenly use force against an innocent individual. The supervisor should contact the individual involved to determine whether further documentation of the use of force is necessary.

Status: Partially implemented. SPD's previously updated Use of Force policy requires that, "Unless otherwise provided in policy, all force used by an officer shall be promptly, completely, and accurately documented." SPD authored a Training Bulletin in January 2020 to address what officers are required to document when force is used on a subject based on a matching suspect description but was not the suspect involved.

Recommendation #3: Reportable Uses of Force

Summary: The Ombudsman recommended SPD update its use of force reporting methodology to include reporting on any physical force that was used to overcome any level of resistance. This would align SPD with other police departments' standards on reporting force. This recommendation was made by an independent contractor hired by the OPO, Police Strategies LLC. They consulted with OPO and SPD to analyze SPD data from 2013-2018 and found SPD documents lower levels of force in their reports but does not consider it a "reportable use of force" for statistical purposes.

Status: Partially in progress/partially not implemented. SPD conducted a review of other Washington state law enforcement agencies including Spokane County Sheriff's Office/Spokane Valley Police Department, Tacoma, Seattle, King County Sheriff's Office, Richland, Everett, Pasco, Bellevue, Bellingham, Auburn, Kennewick, Kirkland, and Snohomish County Sheriff's Office. SPD looked at how these agencies tracked: routine handcuffing; control holds; takedowns; pointing a firearm; displaying a less lethal device; requirement to report neck restraints, Level II strikes, TASER, OC, baton 40mm, K9, etc.; and animal discharge. SPD determined its current use of force reporting policy was made after considering resources and the level of government intrusion. SPD is exploring the ability to track incidents measured by Police Strategies LLC and will keep the OPO updated on the progress of this issue.

Recommendation #4: Use of Force Policy Concern

Summary: The Ombudsman recommended SPD re-implement a section from the previous Use of Force Policy, Referral to Internal Affairs, which required Internal Affairs be notified when a supervisor is concerned a violation may have occurred and that the supervisor initiate an IA complaint. This would allow for a thorough and objective investigation by IA.

Status: Implemented. SPD updated its policy so that when a supervisor observes conduct that could rise to the level of misconduct, the supervisor shall initiate a complaint with IA.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

For a detailed summary of complaints the OPO received in 2019, please visit our webpage at my.spokanecity.org/opo/complaints/2019/.

OPO	City Council District	Allegation(s)	Days Investigated	Receipt Date	Date Ombudsman Review Completed	Status	Ombudsman Findings (concur/not concur)	Chief's Findings	Officer Discipline
19-1	2	Demeanor / False Arrest	14	3/3/2019	3/21/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-2	2	Demeanor	22	1/2/2019	1/31/2019	Closed	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-3	N/A	Not assigned	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-4	2	Demeanor / Inadequate Response	50	1/23/2019	4/2/2019	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	Training
19-5	3	Inadequate Response	6	1/23/2019	1/30/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-6	2	Demeanor / Inadequate Response	38	1/28/2019	3/20/2019	Mediated	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-7	2	Policy Violation	22	1/29/2019	2/27/2019	Closed	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-8	2	Inadequate Response	25	1/30/2019	3/5/2019	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-9	1	Inadequate Response / Harassment	74	1/14/2019	4/25/2019	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-10	1	Inadequate Response	103	1/14/2019	6/5/2019	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-11	1	*Inadequate Response / Demeanor	36	4/25/2019	6/13/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-12	1	Inadequate Response / Excessive Force	41	2/5/2019	4/2/2019	Completed	Certified	Unfounded / Exonerated	None
19-13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-14	1	*Inadequate Response / Demeanor	44	2/13/2019	4/15/2019	Completed	Certified	Sustained	Document of Counseling
19-15	2	Inadequate Response	45	2/12/2019	4/15/2019	Completed	Certified	Unfounded	N/A
19-16	2	Inadequate Response	22	3/6/2019	4/4/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-17	1	Inadequate Response / Demeanor	29	3/6/2019	4/15/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-18	2	Demeanor / Excessive Force	328	3/6/2018	6/6/2019	Mediated	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-19	3	Excessive Force	42	3/7/2019	5/3/2019	Completed	Certified	Unfounded	N/A
19-20	2	Demeanor / Inadequate Response	52	3/13/2019	5/23/2019	Completed	Certified	Unfounded	N/A
19-21	2	Commendation	N/A	3/19/2019	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-22	N/A	Policy 447.2.3 Violation / Standard 1.5 Violation / BWC Policy Violation	125	3/13/2019	9/3/2019	Completed	Certified	Unfounded on Policy 447.2.3 Violation / Unfounded on Standard 1.5 Violation / Sustained on BWC Violation	Document of Counseling

* Asterisk denotes the allegation filed by the OPO listed differs from the final allegation categorized by Internal Affairs.



OPO	City Council District	Allegation(s)	Days Investigated	Receipt Date	Date Ombudsman Review Completed	Status	Ombudsman Findings (concur/not concur)	Chief's Findings	Officer Discipline
19-23	1	Biased Policing	50	4/3/2019	6/11/2019	Completed	Certified	Unfounded	N/A
19-24	1	Demeanor / Inadequate Response	37	4/3/2019	5/23/2019	Completed	Certified	Unfounded	N/A
19-25	2	Demeanor / Biased Policing	45	4/8/2019	6/7/2019	Completed	Certified	Unfounded / Exonerated	N/A
19-26	2	Policy Violation / Inadequate Response	14	4/11/2019	4/30/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-27	2	Demeanor	20	4/17/2019	5/14/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-28	2	*Demeanor / Inadequate Response / False Arrest	32	4/23/2019	6/5/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-29	2	*Demeanor / Inadequate Response	35	4/25/2019	6/12/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-30	2	Demeanor	63	5/1/2019	7/26/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-31	3	Demeanor / Inadequate Response	25	5/2/2019	6/5/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-32	2	*Demeanor / Unlawful Search/Seizure	29	5/2/2019	6/11/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-33	3	Inadequate Response	33	5/4/2019	6/19/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-34	1	Inadequate Response	24	5/23/2019	6/25/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-35	1	*Harassment	87	5/14/2019	9/11/2019	Unfounded	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-36	2	*Inadequate Response	68	5/14/2019	8/15/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-37	3	Inadequate Response	16	5/20/2019	6/10/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-38	2	Demeanor	15	5/21/2019	6/10/2019	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-39	2	Harassment / Demeanor / Inadequate Response	51	5/22/2019	7/31/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-40	2	Demeanor / Inadequate Response	54	5/24/2019	8/7/2019	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	Training
19-41	2	Officer 1: Excessive Force / BWC Violation; Officer 2: Excessive Force / Policy Violation / Demeanor / BWC Violation; Officer 3: Excessive Force	80	5/23/2019	9/11/2019	Completed	Certified	Officer 1: Exonerated / Sustained; Officer 2: Exonerated / Exonerated / Sustained; Officer 3: Exonerated	Officer 1: None / DOC; Officer 2: None / None / 1 Day Suspension / 1 Day Suspension if policy violated in 12 month period; Officer 3: None
19-42	1	Inadequate Response	18	5/23/2019	6/17/2019	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-43	1	Harassment	31	6/4/2019	7/16/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-44	2	Inadequate Response	9	6/6/2019	6/18/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-45	2	Demeanor	48	6/11/2019	8/15/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A

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2018 OPO Annual Report

OPO	City Council District	Allegation(s)	Days Investigated	Receipt Date	Date Ombudsman Review Completed	Status	Ombudsman Findings (concur/not concur)	Chief's Findings	Officer Discipline
19-46	3	Demeanor / Inadequate Response	112	6/12/2019	11/14/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-47	3	Demeanor	13	6/13/2019	7/1/2019	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-48	2	*Demeanor	13	6/24/2019	7/10/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-49	2	Inadequate Response / Making a False or Misleading Statement	40	6/21/2019	8/15/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-50	1	*Making a False or Misleading Statement	56	6/24/2019	9/9/2019	Completed	Certified	Unfounded	N/A
19-51	2	Making a False or Misleading Statement	15	7/9/2019	7/29/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-52	1	Inadequate Response	13	7/11/2019	7/29/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-53	2	*Violation of Civil Rights	87	7/24/2019	11/21/2019	Closed	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-54	2	Inadequate Response	7	8/7/2019	8/15/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-55	2	Demeanor	27	8/7/2019	9/12/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-56	3	Inadequate Response	45	8/15/2019	10/16/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-57	2	*False Arrest/Racial Bias	36	8/20/2019	10/8/2019	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-58	3	Property Loss/Mishandling of Another	54	9/5/2019	11/15/2019	Closed	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-59	N/A	N/A	N/A	9/10/2019	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-60	1	Demeanor / Inadequate Response	28	8/27/2019	10/3/2019	Closed	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-61	3	Demeanor	70	9/5/2019	12/11/2019	Closed	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-62	1	Inadequate Response	57	9/10/2019	11/27/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-63	1	Inadequate Response	55	9/12/2019	11/27/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-64	2	Inadequate Response	41	9/24/2019	11/19/2019	Closed	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-65	1	Inadequate Response / Demeanor	41	10/1/2019	11/26/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-66	2	Demeanor	41	10/1/2019	11/26/2019	Closed	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-67	1	Inadequate Response	15	10/2/2019	10/22/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-68	1	*Demeanor	36	10/8/2019	11/26/2019	Closed	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-69	N/A	Commendation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-70	1	Inadequate Response	36	10/23/2019	12/11/2019	Closed	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-71	2	Inadequate Response	28	10/29/2019	12/5/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A

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OPO	City Council District	Allegation(s)	Days Investigated	Receipt Date	Date Ombudsman Review Completed	Status	Ombudsman Findings (concur/not concur)	Chief's Findings	Officer Discipline
19-72	1	Inadequate Response	31	10/23/2019	12/4/2019	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-73	2	Demeanor	36	10/30/2019	12/18/2019	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-74	1	Inadequate Response	28	11/4/2019	12/11/2019	Closed	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-75	2	Demeanor	-222	11/12/2019	1/6/2019	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-76	1	Demeanor	17	11/12/2019	12/4/2019	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-77	3	Inadequate Response	34	11/20/2019	1/6/2020	Administratively Suspended	Concur	N/A	N/A
19-78	NA	Commendation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-79	2	Inadequate Response	33	11/21/2019	1/6/2020	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-80	N/A	Not Assigned	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-81	N/A	Commendation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-82	N/A	Commendation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-83	N/A	Commendation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-84	N/A	Commendation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-85	2	Inadequate Response / Demeanor	37	12/18/2019	2/6/2020	Closed as Investigative Inquiry	Certified	N/A	N/A
19-86	County	Improper Tactics / Demeanor	1	1/23/2020	1/23/2020	Administratively Suspended / Inquiry	Concur / Certified	N/A	Training / N/A

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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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