

**The Office of Police Ombudsman
Monthly Report
to
The Public Safety Committee
August 16, 2010**

REPORTING PERIOD

July 19, 2010 through August 15, 2010

CONTACTS

Between July 19 and August 15, 2010 **50** contacts were received.

Since January 1, 2010 there have been **303** total contacts

COMPLAINTS

Complaints Received: 10 complaints were received between July 19 and August 15, 2010.

1. July 16, 2010: Complaint that the police department did not respond to a possible assault within a reasonable amount of time.
2. July 20, 2010: Complaint that an officer threatened and humiliated the complainant during a conversation.
3. July 22, 2010: Complaint that the police inadequately investigated a bar fight in which the complainants' jaw was broken.
4. August 1, 2010: Complaint via OPO Web Site that an officer was illegally parked at a location where legal parking space was available.
5. August 7, 2010: Complainant located and followed his mother's stolen vehicle throughout Spokane for approximately 20 minutes however the police were not able to respond in time to stop the vehicle before the complainant lost sight of the vehicle.
6. August 9, 2010: Complaint that the police would not respond to a business that was not allowing a guest to register in a hotel with a service animal.
7. August 9, 2010: Complaint that the police department failed to notify the complainant after the complainant's stolen vehicle was located and stored which resulted in an additional \$110 in storage fees the complainant had to pay.
8. August 10, 2010: Complaint that the police were unfairly enforcing the No Trespassing signage under the freeway in the parking area because the complainant is transient.
9. August 13, 2010: Complaint that an officer scolded a convenience store manager for calling 9-1-1 regarding a customer causing a disturbance and telling the store

manager that the PD would not respond to any calls except robberies if the store manager continued to call 9-1-1 to report disturbances.

10. August 14, 2010: Complainant is frustrated by the police department's inability to move forward with the prosecution of an individual alleged to have sexually assaulted the complainant's child and the lack of follow through and communication between the police department and the complainant.

Inquiries: 1

1. July 28, 2010: Complaint that a report was not taken after 3 officers responded to a party complaint. Complainant attempted to get a copy of the report they thought was taken and they were advised that no record existed for the incident.

Complaints Referred: 0

No complaints were referred during this reporting period.

INVESTIGATIONS CERTIFIED

The following 10 investigations were certified as timely, thorough and objective:

- July 20, 2010, Demeanor Complaint: Complaint that officer required them to put out a "legal" fire in a pit at the complainant's residence. Complainant alleged that the enforcement action was racially motivated.
- July 20, 2010, Perjury Complaint: Complaint that an officer gave false testimony during a hearing
- August 2, 2010, Child Custody Complaint: Complaint regarding the placement of an infant with someone other than CPS after the sole parent died unexpectedly.
- August 2, 2010, Domestic Violence Investigation: Complaint the officers failed to adequately document a domestic violence complaint they responded to where one of the spouses damage the residence.
- August 2, 2010, Harassment Complaint: Complaint that a specific officer was targeting one specific street musician to enforce the noise ordinance upon and talking with businesses in the downtown area about the complainant.
- August 3, 2010, Demeanor Complaint: Complaint that the officer was creating a traffic obstruction while parked enforcing traffic laws and that the officer refused to explain to the complainant why they were parked at the location.
- August 4, 2010, Excessive Force Complaint: Complaint that an officer pointed their firearm at the complainant after the complainant startled the officer by walking up upon the officer who was engaged in a vehicle stop interrupting the officer and refusing to comply with the officers directions.
- August 8, 2010, Harassment/ Demeanor Complaint: Complaint that the officer's loud voice woke up the complainant in the early morning hours while the officer detained a bicyclist. Complainant was upset that the officer would not disclose why they had stopped the bicyclist and that the officer returned the following day and shined their spotlight into the complainant's residence.

- August 8, 2010, Excessive Force Complaint: Complaint by the person arrested that the arresting officer used unnecessary force when arresting them when the officer placed them on the ground and handcuffed them.
- August 8, 2010, Rumor Spreading, Internal complaint that 3 officers were spreading rumors about 3 detectives.

INTERVIEWS

- **Internal Affairs, Officer Interviews: 2**
- **Internal Affairs Complainant Interviews: 3**
- **Internal Affairs, Witness Interviews: 2**
- **Closing (Complaint Closure) Interviews: 1**

OTHER DUTIES

- **Critical Incident Responses: 0**
- **Cases Resolved Through Mediation: 1**

On July 21, 2010 an officer met with a husband / wife couple at the Office of Police Ombudsman and the officer explained why a traffic stop was initiated on the vehicle the wife was driving and why the officer did not request to see the wife's identification or issue the wife a citation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- SPD Ride Along Sunday August 15, 2010 (10a-8p)
- Established Satellite Office Hours at The STA downtown (Second Friday of each month 10a-1p)
- The 27 reports from 2009 where the taser was utilized by SPD have been redacted and will be put on the OPO web site as a public record available for viewing.

NEXT STEPS

- Audit of SPD Taser Use in 2009

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Saturday, August 14, 2010 OPO Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
- Wednesday, August 11, 2010 West Central Neighborhood Council Meeting
- Monday, August 11, 2010, City Council Meeting
- Wednesday, July 21, 2010, Hillyard Neighborhood Council Meeting
- Wednesday, July 21, 2010, Bemis Neighborhood Council Meeting

2010 OVERVIEW

Complaints Received: Since January 18, 2010, **51** complaints have been received by the Office of Police Ombudsman and forwarded to Internal Affairs. The complaints involve:

- 22 Inadequate Response
- 8 Harassment

- 11 Demeanor
- 1 Policy/Procedure
- 4 Excessive Force
- 1 Ethics
- 1 Ethics, Unlawful Arrest and Improper Search
- 2 Racial/Bias Policing
- 1 Driving

Referrals Made: 0

No referrals were made during this reporting period.

Since January 18, 2010, **21** complaints have been referred to the following agencies:

- 11 Complaints were referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office
- 3 Complaints involved the Spokane Valley Police Department and were referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office
- 2 Complaints were referred to the Liberty Lake Police Department
- 1 complaint was referred to the Airway Heights Police Department
- 1 complaint was referred to the Spokane Airport Police Department
- 1 Complaint was referred to The Department of Corrections
- 1 Complaint was referred to the Spokane Fire Department
- 1 Complaint was referred to the Spokane Transit Authority