OFFICE OF
POLICE OMBUDSMAN
221 N. WALL SUITE 238 (OLD CITY HALL)
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201
509.625.6742
FAX 509.625.6748
SPDombudsman.org

December 19, 2011

Public Safety Committee Report

Reporting Period: November 18, 2011 through December 15, 2011

CONTACTS

Between November 18, 2011 and December 15, 2011 the Office of Police Ombudsman was contacted **57** times.

Since January 1, 2011, there have been **530** contacts received by the Office of Police Ombudsman.

COMPLAINTS

Between November 18, 2011 and December 15, 2011 **6** complaints were received.

1. Thursday, December 15, 2011: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that a client of their business was assaulted as the client left the business. The Complainant called 9-1-1 and it took Officers 3 hours to respond to the call. **(OPO #11-87)**

2. Wednesday, December 07, 2011: The Office of Police Ombudsman received an **Inadequate Response** complaint via the Office of Police Ombudsman website. The complainant alleged that a Detective failed to complete a report on an incident where their children were victimized. **(OPO 11-86)**

3. Tuesday, December 06, 2011: The Office of Police Ombudsman received a **Unlawful Detention and Illegal Search** complaint via the Office of Police Ombudsman website. The Complainant alleges that they were stopped for speeding and detained for 30 minutes. They advised that prior to being released their car was searched without permission. **(OPO # 11-85)**

4. Monday, December 05, 2011: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that the Police Department declined to respond to a residential burglary that had occurred at their residence. **(OPO # 11-84)**

5. Saturday, December 03, 2011: A **Demeanor** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman via traditional mail service. The Complainant was upset with the demeanor of a Officer during a traffic stop where the Complainant received a citation. **(OPO # 11-83)**

6. Wednesday, November 23, 2011: A **Demeanor** complaint was received through the Office of Police Ombudsman website. The Complainant was concerned about the conduct of several Officers at the Federal Court Building. **(OPO # 11-82)**

Between November 18, 2011 and December 15, 2011 **no** complaints were referred.

INVESTIGATIONS CERTIFIED

Between November 18, 2011 and December 15, 2011 **5** investigations were certified as timely, thorough and objective:

1. Tuesday, December 13, 2011: On November 02, 2011 an **Excessive Force** complaint was internally generated by the Spokane Police Department after a Command Officer reviewed a completed report involving the use of a taser by an Officer during an arrest. The Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process.

2. Tuesday, December 13, 2011: An **Excessive Force, False Arrest and False Reporting** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman on September 30, 2011. The Complainant advised that after they were arrested they requested that Officers loosen the handcuffs. The Complainant alleges that an Officer removed them from the car and threw them on the ground injuring their head. The Complainant alleged that they were falsely arrested and the reports completed detailing their arrest were falsified. The Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process. **(OPO # 11-58)**

3. Sunday, December 11, 2011: A **Demeanor and Failure to Identify** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman on June 08, 2011. The complaint was initally classified as an Investigative Inquiry. The Ombudsman appealed the classification and the Chief agreed to investigate of the complaint. The Complainant alleged that officer's called the Complainant "sub-human" during their contact with the Complainant. The Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process. **(OPO # 11-31)**

4. Sunday, December 04, 2011: A **Driving** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman through the website on October 22, 2011. The Complainant alleged that they observed an Officer speeding through 2 school zones and failing to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrain. The Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process. **(OPO # 11-69)**

5. Saturday, December 03, 2011: An **Excessive Force** complaint was received by a Patrol Lieutenant on October 07, 2011. The Complainant alleged that an Officer "slammed" the Complainant to the ground prior to the Complainant being transported a medical facility for a mental evaluation. The Complainant advised that they received bruises to their arms, wrists and knees from the altercation. The Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process.

DECLINED CERTIFICATIONS and APPEALS

There were no declined certifications during the reporting period.

INTERVIEWS

- Internal Affairs, Officer Interviews: **8**
- Internal Affairs Complainant Interviews: **1**
- Internal Affairs, Witness Interviews: **14**

- Office of Police Ombudsman Complainant Interviews: **5**
- Office of Police Ombudsman Witness Interviews: **1**

- Closing (Complaint Closure) Interviews: **1**

OTHER DUTIES

Critical Incident Response: No critical incidents occurred during the reporting period.

Cases Resolved Through Mediation: No complaints were resolved through the mediation process during the reporting period.

Recommendations: On Thursday, November 10, 2011 the Ombudsman recommended to Mayor Verner that she request that the Department of Justice and U.S. Attorney General's Office conduct a pattern and practice audit of the Spokane Police Department.

New Intern: On Monday, Dec. 6, 2011, interviewed prospective new intern Katie Otte. Katie is a student at Whitworth, pursuing a Humanities degree which she is due to obtain May 2012. She is enrolled to become a Certified Transformational Mediator, and has experience in de-escalation research, social stratification, Law & Society, forensic psychology, and psychiatric inpatient crisis triage. Pending receipt of Katie's

background check, she will join the OPO in mid to late January, and will be primarily responsible (at least initially) for assisting with Ombudsman community outreach.

Body Camera Project: Held a meeting with Chief Lee Bennett from Airway Heights P.D., and Maj. Scott Stephens to preliminarily discuss the Body Camera Pilot Project currently underway in Airway Heights, and how a similar program may be of benefit to the SPD.

NEXT STEPS

- Completion of Student Handbook
- Completion of the 2011 Annual Report

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Wednesday, December 14, 2011:League of Women Voters Holiday Luncheon for Elected Officials (1130a-1p)
- Monday, December 12, 2011: Spokane City Council Meeting (6p-7p)
- Saturday, December 10, 2011:East Central Community Center Christmas Celebration (1p-4p)
- Friday, December 09, 2011: Washington State University- Spokane Graduate Course Guest Speaker (3p-430p)
- Friday, December 09, 2011: STA Main Terminal (Intern, 10a-1p)
- Thursday, December 08, 2011:North Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting (7p-930p)
- Wednesday, December 07, 2011:Balboa South Indian Trail Neighborhood Council Meeting (7p)
- Monday, December 05, 2011: Spokane City Council Meeting (6p-730p)
- Friday December 02, 2011: Community Assembly Meeting (4p-5p)
- Friday, December 02, 2011: The NATIVE Project (130p-330p)
- Friday, December 02, 2011: STA Main Terminal (1p-4p)
- Thursday, December 01, 2011: Five Mile Prairie Neighborhood Council Meeting (7p)

2011 OVERVIEW

Complaints Received: Since January 1, 2011, **87** complaints have been received by the Office of Police Ombudsman and forwarded to Internal Affairs. The complaints were for:

- 18 Demeanor
- 1 Discrimination
- 6 Excessive Force
- 7 Harassment
- 45 Inadequate Response
- 2 Perjury
- 2 Unlawful Detention/Search
- 1 Records Request/Driving
- 1 Records Request
- 1 Racial Bias
- 2 Driving
- 1 Inappropriate Comments on Personal Facebook Page

Complaints Referred: Since January 1, 2011, **24** complaints have been referred to the following agencies:

- **17** complaints have been referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.
- **2** complaints were referred to Internal Affairs due to OPO-implemented one-year statute of limitations or conflict-of-interest
- **1** complaint was referred to the Okanogan County Sheriff's Office
- **1** complaint was referred to the Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Office
- **1** complaint was referred to the Airway Heights Police Department
- **1** complaint was referred to Crime Complaint Check
- **1** complaint was referred to the Spokane C.O.P.S.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this months report