



January 18, 2011

Public Safety Committee Report

Reporting Period: December 20, 2010 through January 14, 2011

CONTACTS

Between December 20 - 31, 2010 20 contacts were received by the Office of Police Ombudsman; a total of 459 contacts were received during 2010.

Since January 1, 2011, an additional 20 contacts were received.

COMPLAINTS

Between December 20 -31, 2010, one complaint was received.

1. Tuesday, December 21, 2010: A **Demeanor** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that as they walked out of a convenience market, officers pointed their guns at the Complainant and detained and handcuffed the Complainant. The Complainant advised that after being detained for approximately 5 minutes the handcuffs were removed and they were released without an explanation. The Complainant advised that an officer used profanity when addressing the Complainant.

Between January 1 -14, 2011, six complaints were received.

1. Thursday, January 06, 2011: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that the police refused to accept a "Citizens" arrest of a CPS employee (**OPO #11-01**).
2. Thursday, January 06, 2011: A **Demeanor** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that an officer spoke to them in a disparaging manner (**OPO #11-02**).
3. Thursday, January 06, 2011: A **Records Request** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. A vehicle the Complainant was driving was struck by a police car. After the collision occurred, the Complainant had difficulty obtaining the accident report (**OPO #11-03**).
4. Friday, January 07, 2011: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that they were having difficulty getting police officers and sheriff's deputies to enforce a restraining order against a former significant other (**OPO#11-04**).

5. Friday, January 07, 2010: A **Harassment** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that they were contacted by a police officer and directed to stop playing their musical instrument in public (**OPO #11-05**).
6. Tuesday, January 11, 2011: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that the police made him leave the building housing CPS without the legal authority to require him to leave (**OPO #11-06**).

Between December 20, 2010 and January 14, 2011, one complaint **was referred**.

1. Friday, January 7, 2011: The **Inadequate Response** complaint listed as item number 4 under complaints received between January 1- 18, 2011 was referred to the Spokane County Sheriffs Office.

INVESTIGATIONS CERTIFIED

Between December 20, 2010 and January 14, 2011, the following three investigations were certified as timely, thorough and objective:

1. Tuesday, December 21, 2010: A **Conduct Unbecoming** complaint was received by the Internal Affairs Unit on October 12, 2010. The complaint involves a volunteer alleged to have brandished a weapon at a civilian during a parking dispute. The Office of Police Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process.
2. Tuesday, December 21, 2010: An **Excessive Force** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman on October 1, 2010. The Complainant advised that while being arrested for reckless driving the arresting officer slammed them into a wall and dragged them by the handcuffs which had been put on them. The Office of Police Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process.
3. Tuesday, January 11, 2011: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Internal Affairs Unit on September 20, 2010. The Complainant believed that responding officers failed to arrest an individual for brandishing a weapon during an argument and did not completed a thorough criminal investigation of the incident. The Office of Police Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process.

DECLINED CERTIFICATIONS

None

INTERVIEWS

- Internal Affairs, Officer Interviews: 0
- Internal Affairs Complainant Interviews: 0
- Internal Affairs, Witness Interviews: 0
- Office of Police Ombudsman Complainant Interviews: 7
- Office of Police Ombudsman Witness Interviews: 2
- Closing (Complaint Closure) Interviews: 0

OTHER DUTIES

Critical Incident Responses: 0

Cases Resolved Through Mediation: 1

1. Wednesday, January 05, 2010: A Demeanor complaint regarding a child custody issue was mediated through the Office of Police Ombudsman.

Recommendations: 0

NEXT STEPS

- Completion of the 2010 Office of Police Ombudsman Annual Report

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Monday, January 15, 2011: Spokane City Council meeting (6p-730p)
- Monday, December 20, 2010: Spokane City Council meeting (6p-730p)

OTHER

- December 16, 2010: the Office of Police Ombudsman received a citizen's request through the East Central Senior Center for assistance in obtaining a police clearance letter for citizenship purposes. Spokane Police Department policy dictates that background checks not pertaining to specific criminal incidents (most commonly, immigration or adoption services) be referred to the Washington State Patrol. Given specific language to obtain "clearance letters from each city..." follow-up calls were made to state and federal government offices to clarify the requirements and the process. The Office of Police Ombudsman was able to clarify the requirements of the request and forward specific instructions and appropriate forms to the citizen well ahead of their deadline. To remove any remaining uncertainty, the Office of Police Ombudsman also provided a letter explaining the police department's policy to the Immigrations officer and the citizen.

2011 OVERVIEW

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

- 3 Inadequate Response
- 1 Harassment
- 1 Demeanor
- 1 Records Request/Driving

Complaints Referred: Since January 1, 2011, one complaint has been referred to the following agencies:

- 1 Complaint was referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.