



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

April 16, 2012

Public Safety Committee Report

Reporting Period: March 16, 2012 through April 12, 2012

CONTACTS

Between March 16, 2012 and April 12, 2012 the Office of Police Ombudsman was contacted **84** times.

Since January 1, 2012 there have been **262** contacts received by the Office of Police Ombudsman.

COMPLAINTS

To assist in identifying where complaints are occurring, the Office of Police Ombudsman has divided the City into four quadrants. The north-south borderline is Sprague Avenue and the east-west borderline is Division Street.

Between February 17 and March 15, 2012 **10** complaints were received.

1. Tuesday, April 10, 2012: An **Excessive Force** complaint was received through the Office of Police Ombudsman website. The Complainant alleges that Police were called to their home and Officers acted in an overly aggressive manner towards an individual that was arrested. (N/W), (OPO #12-38)
2. Wednesday, April 4, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman by phone. The complainant alleges that they had been threatened by an individual. They called the Police Department for help, were put on hold for 30-40 minutes and then told that nothing could be done about the threats. (N/W), (OPO #12-37)
3. Monday, April 2, 2012: A **Demeanor** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman by e-mail. The complainant alleges that an Officer was passing by their home in a vehicle and shouted at them. The complainant then shouted back and the Officer became rude and asked the complainant inappropriate questions. (N/W), (OPO #12-36)
4. Friday, March 30, 2012: A **Harassment** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman by phone. The Complainant advised that after they called the Police Department to get some information they received a call back from an Officer demanding to know their identity. The Complainant advised that when they refused to provide the Officer with their identity the Officer threatened the Complainant by telling the

Complainant that if they refused to provide the information they would be investigated by the Police Department. (OPO # 12-35)

5. Wednesday, March 28, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman by phone. The Complainant called the Police Department to discuss the abatement of an abandoned residence that is unsecured and attractive nuisance. The Complainant called the Police Department 3 times but was placed on hold each time (15, 30 and 60 minutes). The Complainant became frustrated and hung up without being able to speak with anyone. ((N/E), (OPO #12-34)
6. Tuesday, March 27, 2012: A **Harassment** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that an Officer threatened to arrest them for sidewalk obstruction. The Complainant advised that they were selectively targeted. (S/W), (OPO # 12-33)
7. Tuesday, March 20, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman by phone. The Complainant advised that the Police Department has not responded when the Complainant has called Crime Check on numerous occasions to complain about people and vehicle noise when people congregate in a closed business parking lot. (N/E), (OPO # 12-32)
8. Monday, March 19, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received through the Office of Police Ombudsman website. The Complainant alleged that it took Officers 35 minutes to respond to a burglary in progress at their residence. (N/W), (OPO #12-31)
9. Monday, March 19, 2012: The Office of the Mayor received an e-mail citizen's complaint that was forwarded to the Office of Police Ombudsman for follow up. The Ombudsman's Office contacted the Complainant and as a result processed an **Inadequate Response** complaint regarding a missing adult from 2010. (OPO # 12-30)
10. Friday, March 16, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant alleged that Officers failed to keep their identity confidential after the Complaint provided the police department with specific information that led to the solving of a serious crime. (N/W), (OPO # 12-29)

Between and March 16, 2012 and April 12, 2012 2 complaints were referred.

1. Tuesday, March 27, 2012: A complaint involving the U.S. Border Patrol was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The complaint was referred to the local office of the Border Patrol for follow up.

2. Monday, March 26, 2012: A complaint involving the Spokane Valley Police Department was referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office for follow up.

INVESTIGATIONS CERTIFIED

Between March 16, 2012 and April 12, 2012 3 completed investigations were certified as timely, thorough and objective:

1. Saturday, March 31, 2012: A **Conduct Unbecoming** complaint was received by a Patrol Sergeant on February 14, 2012. The Complainant alleged that an Officer was frequently at their significant others' residence for extended periods of time, several times a week, while on duty. The Ombudsman confirms that the complaint was investigated in a timely, thorough and objective process.
2. Wednesday, March 28, 2012: An **Unlawful Detention** complaint was received through the Office of Police Ombudsman website on January 01, 2012. The Complainant alleged that while the Complainant was walking they were stopped by Officers for no reason and threatened by the Officers. The Ombudsman confirms that the complaint was investigated in a timely, thorough and objective process. **(OPO # 12-01)**
3. Wednesday, March 21, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman on December 28, 2011. An Officer stopped the Complainant for a traffic offense. During their interaction the Complainant was mistaken for someone who had a restraining order against them. The Complainant alleged that although the Officer did not take any further enforcement action the Officer did not explain to the Complainant what led to the officer believing the Complainant had an order against them. The Ombudsman confirms that the complaint was investigated in a timely, thorough and objective process. **(OPO # 11-91)**

DECLINED CERTIFICATIONS and APPEALS

There were no declined certifications or appeals during the reporting period.

INTERVIEWS

- Internal Affairs, Officer Interviews: 7
- Internal Affairs, Complainant Interviews: 2
- Internal Affairs, Witness Interviews: 5
- Office of Police Ombudsman Complainant Interviews: 7
- Office of Police Ombudsman Witness Interviews: 0
- 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:

- Monday, March 26, 2012: the Ombudsman recommended to the Chief of Police that the Citizen Inquiry process not be used for potential excessive force complaints or where force was used in an arrest situation. The Ombudsman also recommended that Police Supervisors advise the people they speak with during a Citizen Inquiry that if they are not satisfied with the Citizen Inquiry process that they can file a complaint with the Internal Affairs Unit or the Office of Police Ombudsman.

NEXT STEPS

- Research and report on alternative methods of oversight
- Completion of Student Handbook
- Hire fourth student intern

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Thursday, April 12, 2012: Cliff Cannon Neighborhood Council meeting (7p-830p)*
- Thursday, April 12, 2012: Latah Neighborhood Council meeting (Intern 7p-8p)*
- Thursday, April 12, 2012: Crosswalk Open House (5p-630p)
- Wednesday, April 11, 2012: Southgate Neighborhood Council meeting (OPO Assistant 7p-815p)
- Wednesday, April 11, 2012: West Central Neighborhood Council meeting (Intern 630p-745p)*
- Monday, April 09, 2012: Spokane City Council meeting (OPO Assistant 6p-7p)
- Friday, April 06, 2012: Community Assembly meeting (OPO Assistant 4p-6p)
- Wednesday, April 04, 2012: The Community Café meeting, East Central Community Center (OPO Assistant 6p-8p)
- Wednesday, April 11, 2012: Police Advisory Committee meeting (Intern 7a-8a)
- Friday, March 30, 2012: The NATIVE Project (2p-4p)
- Friday, March 30, 2012: River Park Square Information Table (Intern 1p-4p)
- Wednesday, March 28, 2012: Riverside Neighborhood Council meeting (5p-7p)*
- Tuesday, March 27, 2012: Manito Cannon Hill Neighborhood Council meeting (7p-9p)

- Tuesday, March 27, 2012: Human Rights Commission meeting (OPO Assistant 530p-7p)
- Monday, March 26, 2012: Spokane City Council Town Hall meeting, East Central Community Center (6p-8p)
- Saturday, March 24, 2012: West Central Community Center, Board of Directors' Retreat (830a-1230p)
- Friday, March 23, 2012: Riverpark Square Information Table (Intern 1p-4p)
- Wednesday, March 21, 2012: Comstock Neighborhood Council meeting (7p-9p)
- Wednesday, March 21, 2012: Hillyard Neighborhood Council meeting (Intern, 630p-845p)
- Wednesday, March 21, 2012: The Community Café meeting, East Central Community Center (6p-630p)
- Tuesday, March 20, 2012: Logan Neighborhood Council meeting (Intern, 630p-815p)
- Tuesday, March 20, 2012: Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council meeting (OPO Assistant, 7p-815p)*
- Tuesday, March 20, 2012,: East Central Neighborhood Council meeting (645p-815p) *
- Monday, March 19, 2012: Spokane City Council meeting, OPO Presentation (6p-730p)
- Friday, March 16, 2012: House of Charity (9a-11a)

* Delivered presentation on the Office of Police Ombudsman's 2011 Annual Report (to date, 17 of 27 Neighborhood Councils have received a 2011 Annual Report presentation)

OTHER

- Thursday, April 12, 2012: Spokane Regional Tourism Ambassador Training (OPO Assistant and Intern 830a-1230p)
- Tuesday, April 10, 2012: Use of Force Commission meeting (OPO Assistant and Intern 3p-6p)
- Thursday, March 29, 2012: Norm Stamper Presentation at the Bing Theatre (Ombudsman, Assistant Ombudsman, 3 Interns 7p-9p)
- Thursday, March 29, 2012: Use of Force Commission meeting (3p-5p)
- Friday, March 23, 2012: Spokane Police Academy In Service Training, Mental Health Awareness, Community Resources, Legal Updates (9a-5p)
- Thursday, March 22, 2012: Human Rights Commission Planning Retreat, (OPO Assistant 1p-5p)
- Saturday, March 17, 2012 (St. Patrick's Day): The Ombudsman participated in a ride along with Spokane Police Department (6a-3p)

2012 OVERVIEW

Complaints Received: Since January 1, 2012, **38** complaints have been received by the Office of Police Ombudsman and forwarded to Internal Affairs. The complaints were for:

- 7 Demeanor
- 9 Harassment
- 15 Inadequate Response
- 1 Unlawful Detention/Search
- 1 Due Process
- 3 Excessive Force
- 1 Racial Bias
- 1 False Arrest

Complaints Referred: Since January 1, 2012, **11** complaints have been referred to the following agencies:

- 3 complaints have been referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.
- 6 complaints involving the Spokane Valley Police were referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office
- 1 complaint involving the Spokane County Jail was referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.
- 1 complaint involving the U.S. Border Patrol was referred to the local U.S. Border Patrol office.

ATTACHMENTS

- Neighborhood Council, Office of Police Ombudsman Complaint/Inquiry form



COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Office of Police Ombudsman

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SPDOmbudsman@spokanecity.org

www.SPDOmbudsman.org

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Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Response requested: YES NO

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