



Office of Police Ombudsman
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January 21, 2012

December Public Safety Committee Report

Reporting Period: December 01, 2012 through December 31, 2012

2012 OVERVIEW

Complaints Received: Since January 1, 2012, **135** complaints have been received by the Office of Police Ombudsman and forwarded to Internal Affairs. The complaints were for:

- 18 Demeanor
- 19 Harassment
- 75 Inadequate Response
- 2 Unlawful Detention/Search
- 1 Due Process
- 6 Excessive Force
- 2 Racial Bias
- 1 False Arrest
- 1 Parking
- 6 Procedural
- 1 Driving
- 1 Bias Policing
- 2 Unlawful Entry

To view a three-year snapshot graph of OPO complaints received by month, see Attachment 1.

Complaints Referred: Since January 1, 2012, **19** complaints have been referred to the following agencies:

- 4 complaints have been referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.
- 7 complaints involving the Spokane Valley Police were referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.
- 3 complaints involving the Spokane County Jail were 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.
- 1 complaint involving Crime Check. was referred to the Chief of Police
- 1 complaint involving the Colville Police Department was referred to the Colville Police Department
- 1 anonymous complaint was forwarded to Internal Affairs.
- 1 complaint involving STA security officers was referred to the STA Ombudsman

CONTACTS

Between December 01, 2012 and December 31, 2012 the Office of Police Ombudsman was contacted 63 times.

Since January 1, 2012 there have been 690 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.

Complaint outcomes are updated regularly and can be viewed at the Office of Police Ombudsman website at www.spdombudsman.org under the headings "Documents and Reports" and "2012 Received Complaints."

Between December 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012, 6 complaints were received.

1. Tuesday, December 18, 2012: An **Unlawful Search** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant alleged that they were unlawfully searched by Officers after they were involved in an altercation with a parent. (OPO # 12-135)
2. Tuesday, December 18, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received through a referral from a City Councilmember. The Complainant called 9-1-1 requesting an Officer respond to a property ownership dispute. Police never responded. After waiting three hours, the Complainant called back and was advised that since one of the parties had left, Police would no longer respond. The Complainant was concerned that the Police Department had minimized their complaint and would not return their phone calls. The Complainant was directed to get a Protection Order. The Complainant needed information contained in the police report to get the Protection Order but was unable to get a copy of the report for 120 days. (N/W), (OPO # 12-134)
3. Monday, December 17, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received through a referral from PJALS. The Complainant was assaulted at a downtown bar and lost five teeth as a result of the assault. The Complainant advised that although the identity of the perpetrator is known, the Police Department is refusing to follow up on the incident. The Complainant advised that they were also told that it may take up to four months before they can obtain a copy of the police report. (S/W), (OPO # 12-133)
4. Thursday, December 13, 2012: A **Harassment** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that while attending a traffic court hearing, an Officer they recently filed a complaint against entered the court room and remained there for no apparent reason. (N/W), (OPO # 12-132)

5. Wednesday, December 12, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that they were arrested at a local college campus and transported to jail by the Police Department. The Complainant advised that their property was taken and not returned and the booking processing paperwork was not completed. (N/E), (OPO # 12-131)
6. Monday, December 10, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received through the Office of Police Ombudsman website. The Complainant alleges that personal property was stolen from their home and that they found some of the property at a local pawn shop. They informed the Police of the whereabouts of the property, but Officers failed to secure the property. (N/W), (OPO # 12-130)

Between December 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 1 complaint was referred.

- Wednesday, December 19, 2012: A complaint involving the Spokane Valley Police Department was referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office for follow up.

INVESTIGATIONS CERTIFIED

Between December 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 4 completed investigations were certified as timely, thorough and objective:

1. Thursday, December 20, 2012: A Sergeant generated a **Misuse of Department Property** complaint on September 6, 2012. The Sergeant advised that an Officer allowed a civilian unsupervised access to the Department armory and weapons were provided to civilians to use without Department permission. The Ombudsman confirms that the complaint was investigated through a timely, thorough and objective process. (SPD IA # 12-068),
2. Wednesday, December 19, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman on September 21, 2012. The Complainant advised that prior to being transported to County Jail after being arrested, Officers refused to allow them to take their seizure medication or take their medication with them to jail. The Ombudsman confirms that the complaint was investigated through a timely, thorough and objective process. (SPD IA # 12-066), (OPO # 12-105)
3. Wednesday, December 19, 2012: A Patrol Lieutenant generated an **Excessive Force** complaint on September 20, 2012 after reviewing reports associated with an arrest where force was used. The Lieutenant had expressed concerns regarding the thoroughness of the reporting, the level of force that was used and the tactics the Officer used relating to the Officer's personal safety. The Ombudsman confirms that the complaint was investigated through a timely, thorough and objective process. (SPD IA # 12-067)

4. Tuesday, December 18, 2012: An internally generated complaint for **Acceptance of a Gratuity and Conduct Unbecoming of an Officer** was received by the Internal Affairs Unit from the Spokane County Sheriff's Office on September 17, 2012. The Complainant advised that a Spokane Officer contacted a Deputy after the Deputy issued the Officer's friend a traffic citation. The citation was voided. The Officer's friend who had received the citation then gave the Officer a sealed envelope and asked the Officer to give it to the Deputy. The Officer gave the envelope to the Deputy. The envelope contained gift cards. The Ombudsman confirms that the complaint was investigated through a timely, thorough and objective process. (SPD IA # 12-062),

DECLINED CERTIFICATIONS and APPEALS

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

INTERVIEWS

- Internal Affairs, Officer Interviews: 13
- Internal Affairs, Complainant Interviews: 2
- Internal Affairs, Witness Interviews: 6
- Office of Police Ombudsman Complainant Interviews: 5
- Office of Police Ombudsman Witness Interviews: 0
- Closing (Complaint Closure) Interviews: 0

OTHER DUTIES

Critical Incident Response: No Critical Incidents were responded to during the reporting period.

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

Recommendations:

- Wednesday, December 19, 2012: a policy be created requiring that all voided citations be reviewed and approved by a supervisor before a citation can be voided for cause. (SPD IA# 12-062)

NEXT STEPS

- Publishing the Student Handbook

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Wednesday, December 19, 2012: Hillyard Neighborhood Council meeting (630p-730p)
- Tuesday, December 18, 2012: East Central Neighborhood Council meeting (645p-8p)
- Monday, December 17, 2012: Spokane City Council meeting (6p-9p)
- Friday, December 14, 2012: STA Main Terminal (Intern 10a-1230p)
- Tuesday, December 11, 2012: Riverside Neighborhood Council meeting (5p-7p)
- Monday, December 10, 2012: Spokane City Council meeting (6p-730p)
- Monday, December 3, 2012: Spokane City Council meeting (6p-730p)

OTHER

- Thursday, December 20, 2012: SPD Ride-Along (OPO Intern 4p-10p)
- Thursday, December 20, 2012: Use of Force Commission Press Conference (OPO Assistant 2p-230p)
- Monday, December 17, 2012: Public Safety Committee meeting (130p-3p)
- Friday, December 14, 2012: SPD Ride-Along (10a-3p)
- Tuesday, December 11, 2012: OPO moved from Old City Hall to first floor City Hall
- Saturday, December 8, 2012: East Central Community Center Toy Giveaway (12n-2p)
- Friday, December 7, 2012: Community Assembly meeting (4p-6p)
- Thursday, December 6, 2012: Center for Justice Winter Party (Ombudsman and Assistant 530p-645p)
- Thursday, December 6, 2012: League of Women Voters Lunch (1130a-1p)
- Thursday, December 6, 2012: Coats 4 Kids Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon (OPO Assistant 12p-115p)

ATTACHMENTS

- 3 year snapshot graph of OPO complaints received by month

Office of Police Ombudsman Complaints by month

