



March 19, 2012

Public Safety Committee Report

Reporting Period: February 17, 2012 through March 15, 2012

CONTACTS

Between February 17, 2012 and March 15, 2012, the Office of Police Ombudsman was contacted **99** times.

Since January 1, 2012 there have been **178** 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 **11** complaints were received.

1. Wednesday, March 14, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. While shopping at a local business, the Complainant was vomited on by another customer. Police responded but were unable to provide the Complainant with the identity of the other party. The Complainant believed the Officers could a better job on following up on who the person was. (N/W), (OPO # 12-28)
2. Sunday, March 11, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received through the Office of Police Ombudsman website. The Complainant alleged that the Police Department failed to properly investigate a child abuse case. (OPO # 12-27)
3. Saturday, March 10, 2012: A **Demeanor** complaint was received through the Office of Police Ombudsman website. The Complainant alleged that an Officer was “covert and deceptive” in issuing the Complainant a citation during a traffic stop. (S/W), (OPO # 12-26)
4. Tuesday, February 28, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant attended a City Council meeting and made a comment during the Public Comment session that the Police Department had not followed up on a crime the Complainant had been a victim of. (S/E), (OPO # 12-25)

5. Monday, February 27, 2012: A **Harassment** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant is a local service provider who believes that they are being selectively targeted for enforcement action based on a strained relationship with Spokane Police Department. (N/E), (OPO # 12-24)
6. Friday, February 24, 2012: A **Harassment and Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant felt Officers did not adequately investigate a domestic violence complaint that the Complainant was involved in. The Complainant felt that Officers focused more on the fact that the Complainant was driving without a driver's license rather than that the Complainant had been assaulted. (OPO # 12-23)
7. Friday, February 24, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that the Police Department would not respond to their residence after someone damaged their car ignition while trying to steal their car. (N/W), (OPO # 12-22)
8. Wednesday, February 22, 2012: A **False Arrest** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant alleged that Officers arrested the Complainant for driving under the influence and being unlicensed but did not see the Complainant driving or in control of a vehicle. (N/E), (OPO # 12-21)
9. Sunday, February 19, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received through the Office of Police Ombudsman website. The Complainant advised that the Police Department has not contacted them regarding several complaints they have made. The complaint was processed and the Complainant was also referred to the West Central Neighborhood Council. (N/W), (OPO #12-20)
10. Friday, February 17, 2012: An **Excessive Force** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman by telephone. The Complainant alleged that an Officer used excessive force in falsely arresting the Complainant after the Complainant made a threat against a utility company. (N/E), (OPO # 12-19)
11. Friday, February 17, 2012: A **Harassment** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that they are intimidated and frightened by Officers who are frequently coming to their residence and attempting to enforce a no contact court order against their spouse. (N/W), (OPO # 12-18)

Between and February 17, 2012 and March 15, 2012, 3 complaints were referred.

1. Tuesday, March 6, 2012: A complaint involving the Spokane County Sherriff's Office was forwarded to the Office for follow up.
2. Tuesday, February 28, 2012: A complaint involving the Spokane Valley Police Department was forwarded to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office for follow up.
3. Friday, February 24, 2012: A complaint involving the Spokane County Sheriff's Office was forwarded to the Office for follow up.

INVESTIGATIONS CERTIFIED

Between February 17, 2012 and March 15, 2012, 4 completed investigations were certified as timely, thorough and objective:

1. Tuesday, March 13, 2012: An **Excessive Force** complaint was received by a Patrol Sergeant on January 06, 2012. The Complainant alleged that without provocation, Officer's threw them to the ground and kicked them while arresting them. The Ombudsman confirms that the complaint was investigated in a timely, thorough and objective process.
2. Tuesday, March 06, 2012: A **Demeanor** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman on January 12, 2012. The Complainant alleged that an Officer threatened to sue the Complainant for comments the Complainant made to a local newspaper and hung up on the Complainant during a phone conversation. The Ombudsman confirms that the complaint was investigated in a timely, thorough and objective process. **(OPO 12-06)**
3. Tuesday, February 21, 2012: a **Demeanor, Racial Profiling and Harassment** complaint was received by a Patrol Sergeant on January 08, 2012. The Complainant who is African American alleged that an Officer called them the "N" word after the Officer issued the Complainant a traffic citation. The Ombudsman confirms that the complaint was investigated in timely, thorough and objective process.
4. Tuesday, February 21, 2012: an **Unsafe Driving and Improper Response** to call was internally generated by a Spokane Police Department Supervisor on October 20, 2011. The Supervisor alleged that an Officer was driving too fast to a call for service. The Ombudsman confirms that the complaint was investigated in a timely, thorough and objective process.

DECLINED CERTIFICATIONS and APPEALS

Wednesday, March 14, 2012: a **Demeanor** complaint was received through the Office of Police Ombudsman website on January 25, 2012. The involved employee was not a member of the Police Guild or the Lieutenants and Captains Association. Because the Office of Police Ombudsman does not have jurisdiction in this matter, the Ombudsman declined to certify the investigation for procedural reasons. (**OPO # 12-12**)

INTERVIEWS

- Internal Affairs, Officer Interviews: **9**
- Internal Affairs, Complainant Interviews: **1**
- Internal Affairs, Witness Interviews: **1**
- Office of Police Ombudsman Complainant Interviews: **11**
- Office of Police Ombudsman Witness Interviews: **1**
- Closing (Complaint Closure) Interviews: **3**

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: Based on a complaint received (**OPO # 12-21**), the Office of Police Ombudsman has recommended to the Police Department that members of the Department receive training on traumatic brain injury through a Department training bulletin or other source.

NEXT STEPS

- Research and report on alternative methods of oversight
- Completion of Student Handbook
- Hire fourth student intern
- Begin satellite office hours at River Park Square Mall, downtown Spokane (1st floor near concierge) - last two Fridays of every month (11a-2p)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Thursday, March 15, 2012: Northwest Neighborhood Council meeting (7p-830)*
- Thursday, March 15, 2012: Police Advisory Committee meeting (530p-630p)
- Wednesday, March 14, 2012: Chief Garry Park Block Watch meeting, delivered OPO Presentation (5p-630p)
- Wednesday, March 14, 2012: Emerson/Garfield Neighborhood Council meeting (Intern, 7p-720p)*

- Wednesday, March 14, 2012: West Central Neighborhood Council meeting (645p-815p)
- Tuesday, March 13, 2012: Bemiss Neighborhood Council meeting (Intern, 6p-7p)*
- Tuesday March 13, 2012: North Indian Trail, Five Mile Prairie and Balboa South Indian Trail Combined Neighborhood Council meeting (7p-9p)*
- Thursday March 08, 2012: Minnehaha Neighborhood Council meeting (Intern,7p-8p)*
- Thursday March 08, 2012: North Hill Neighborhood Council meeting (OPO Assistant, 7p-830p)*
- Wednesday March 07, 2012: Browne’s Addition Neighborhood Council meeting (OPO Assistant, 630p-8p)*
- Wednesday March 07, 2012: Peaceful Valley Neighborhood Council meeting (Intern, 6p-730p)*
- Wednesday, February 29, 2012: Use of Force Commission (OPO Assistant, 3p-530p)
- Tuesday, February 28, 2012: Human Rights Commission (OPO Assistant, 530p-730p)
- Monday, February 27, 2012: Spokane City Council meeting (6p-7p)
- Tuesday, February 21, 2012: East Central Neighborhood Council meeting (645p-9p)
- Tuesday, February 21, 2012: Logan Neighborhood Council meeting (Intern, 630p-8p)
- Monday, February 20, 2012: Spokane City Council meeting (6p-8p)*

* Delivered presentation on the Office of Police Ombudsman’s 2011 Annual Report

OTHER

- Thursday, March 15, 2012: Use of Force Commission meeting (3p-5p)
- Friday, March 02, 2012: The 2011 Annual Report was presented to the Community Assembly by the Office of Police Ombudsman Assistant (4p-6p)
- Thursday, March 1, 2012: Office of Police Ombudsman Intern, Katie Otte, participated in a ride along with the Spokane Police Department (4p-9p)
- Saturday, February 25, 2012: Ombudsman participated in a ride along with the Coeur D’Alene Tribal Police Department (11a-8p) - the Tribal Police use body video cameras
- Saturday, February 25, 2012: Office of Police Ombudsman Intern, Scott Richter, participated in a ride along with the Spokane Police Department (345p-900p)
- Monday, February 20, 2012: Office of Police Ombudsman Annual report was presented to the Spokane City Council
- Saturday, February 18, 2012: The Ombudsman attended the PJALS Peace and Economic Justice Action Conference (9a-5p)

2012 OVERVIEW

Complaints Received: Since January 1, 2012, **28** complaints have been received by the Office of Police Ombudsman and forwarded to Internal Affairs. The complaints were for:

- 6 Demeanor
- 6 Harassment
- 10 Inadequate Response
- 1 Unlawful Detention/Search
- 1 Due Process
- 2 Excessive Force
- 1 Racial Bias
- 1 False Arrest

Complaints Referred: Since January 1, 2012, **9** complaints have been referred to the following agencies:

- 3 complaints have been referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office
- 5 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

ATTACHMENTS

- A Discussion with Norm Stamper – March 29th, 2012
- USOA Conference Announcement