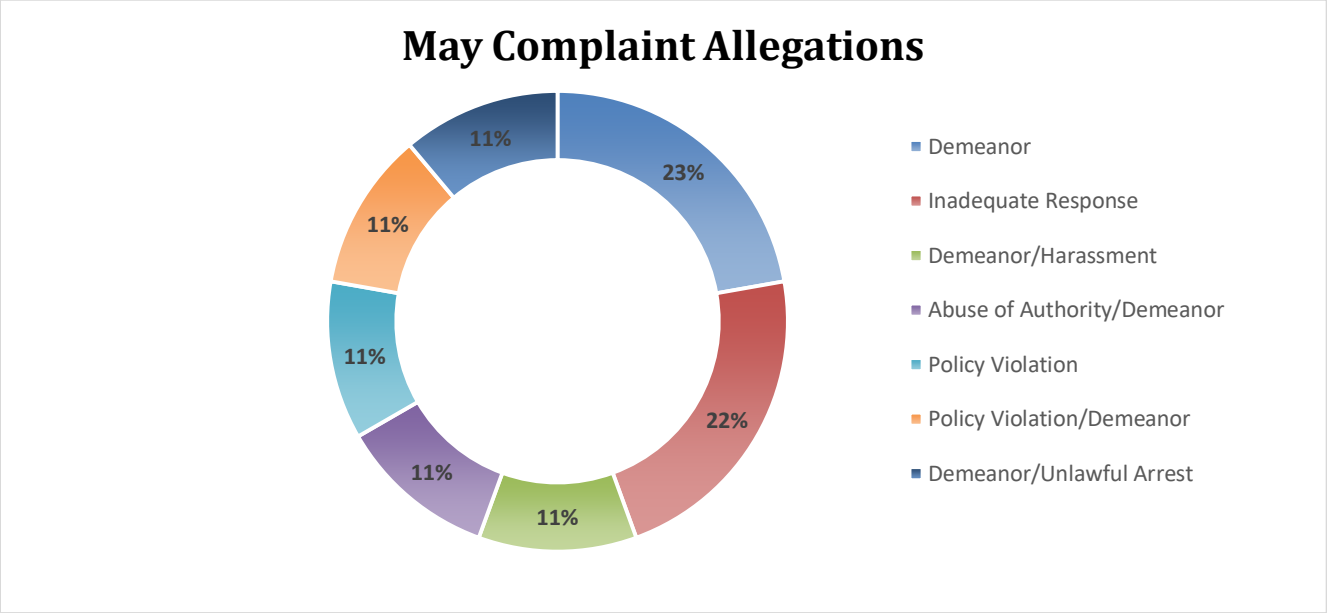
Office of the Police Ombudsman

Public Safety & Community Health Committee Report

Reporting Period: May 1-31, 2021

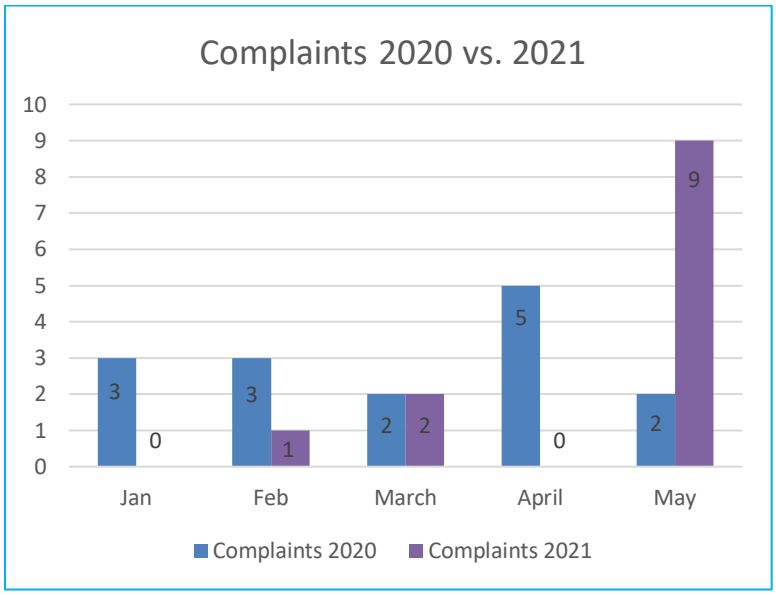
Complaints/Referrals/Contacts



Highlights:

In May, the OPO received 9 complaints and made 1 referral to the Director of Strategic Initiatives Examples include:

- IR 21-27: A community member from another state reached out requesting SPD Patches for her daughter who was collecting them for a program called Blue Wives Matter. They help support the families of fallen officers. The patches are sent to the children of fallen officers so they never feel like their fallen parent has been forgotten.
- OPO 21-05: A complaint came into the OPO via phone. The complainant was frustrated that the person who assaulted them was not arrested. The complainant also allegedly heard the officer say that they didn't want to do paperwork.
- OPO 21-07: A complaint came into the OPO via email. The complainant was submitting on behalf of a homeless man who had allegedly been harassed by various SPD officers.
- OPO 21-08: A complaint came into the OPO via email. SPD went to the complainant's residence. When the complainant stated they would need a warrant to enter, they allegedly entered the residence anyway and the complainant was arrested for obstructing.
- OPO 21-09: A complaint came into the OPO via email. The complainant alleges that an officer lied to their supervisor in order to make an arrest. The allegations were also included in a written report.



YTD Complaint Comparison

The OPO saw a steady intake of complaints in May 2021 (9) compared to May 2020 (2).

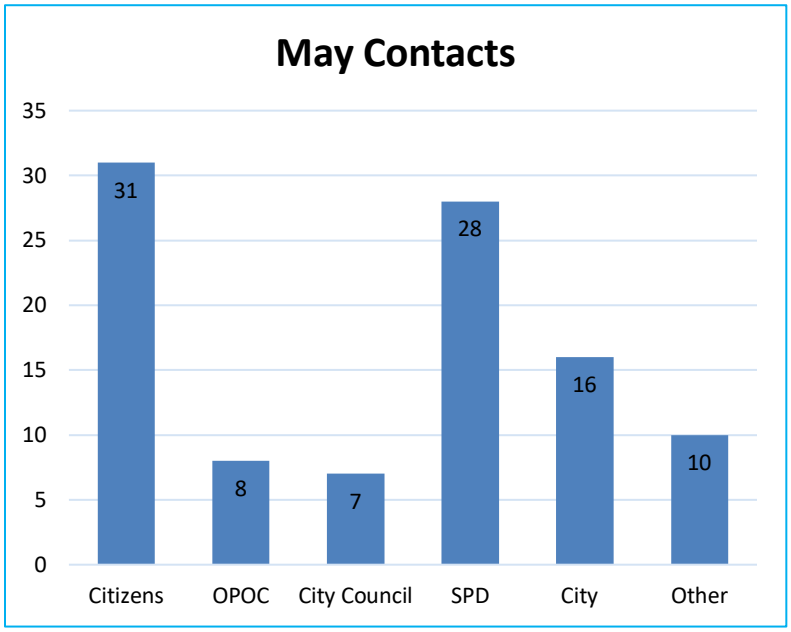
Overall complaints are down YTD (12) Compared to 2020 (15).

Contacts/Oversight:

- Chief Meidl agreed to begin meeting monthly, instead of Quarterly with the OPO
- Interviews increased substantially during the month of May from previous months
- The OPO had numerous meetings with City Legal and SPD regarding closing reports

Contacts/Oversight

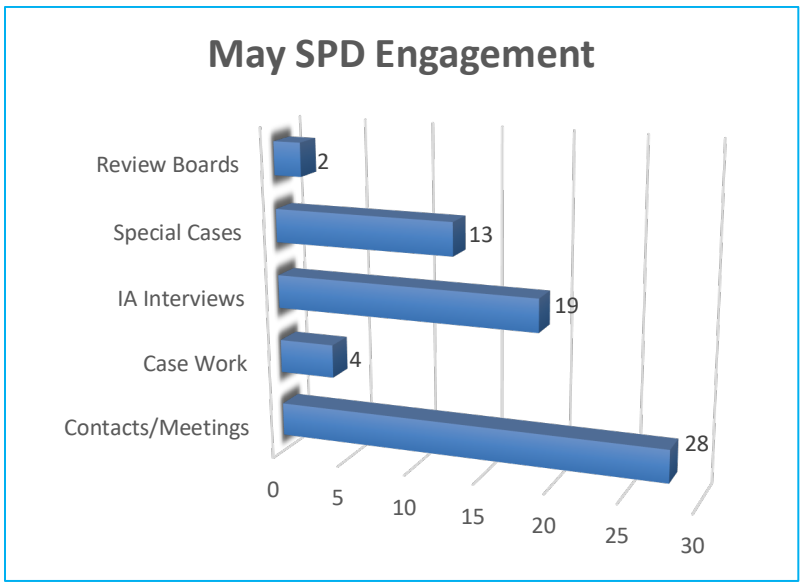
- 97 total contacts
- 12 community member interviews were conducted
- Attended 19 IA Interviews
- 28 total SPD contacts
- 18 IA contacts



Oversight Activities

Highlights:

- The OPO completed 2 closing reports which were sent to City Legal for review.
- The OPO attended 2 review boards during the month of May – Use of Force Review Board and Collision and Pursuit Review Board
- The OPO attended the Internal Affairs Bi-Weekly meetings
- The OPO requested and attended a meeting with Director MacConnell and Lt Wohl regarding Take Home Vehicles
- The Police Ombudsman sent a request for mediation on a complaint to Chief Meidl. The request was approved.



Case Work

- 4 cases certified
- 1 request for mediation was sent to Chief Meidl

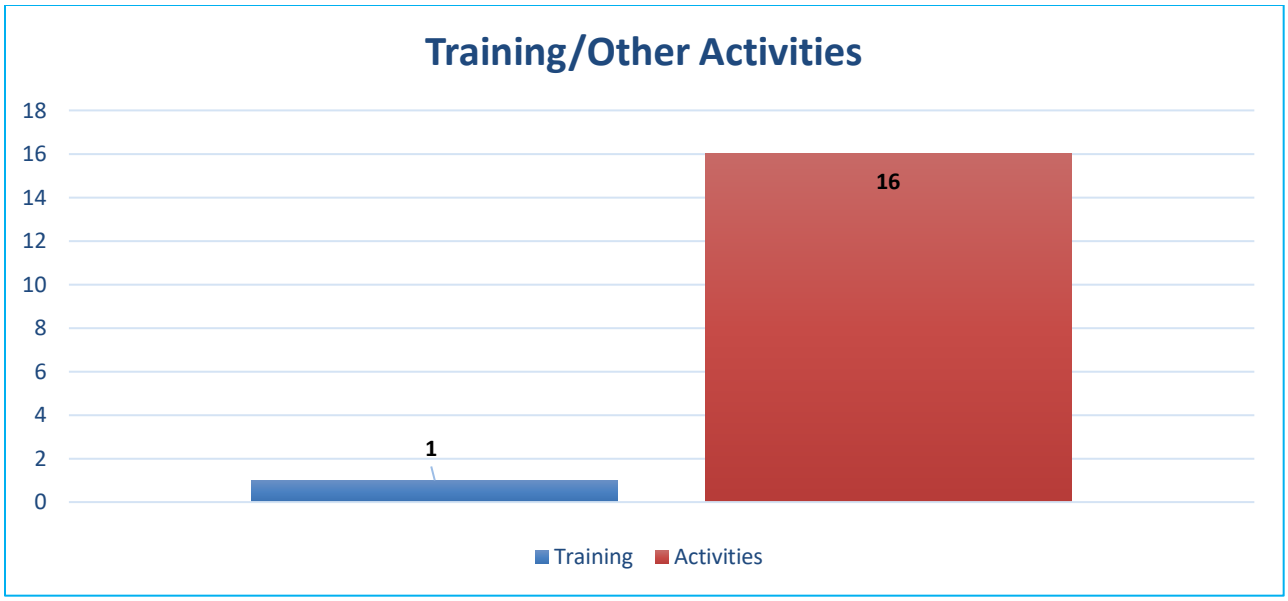
Special Cases

- Use of Force – 3
- K9 - 3
- Collision – 7
- Pursuit – 0

Training/Other Activities

Highlights:

- City Meetings – PSCHC Meeting, Mayors Quarterly Meeting
- Oversight – OPOC monthly meeting, NACOLE Use of Force Working Group, NACOLE Strategic Planning Committee, NACOLE Peer to Peer Subcommittee, Task force 2.0 Policing and Alternatives to Policing subcommittee
- Other Community Meetings – Leadership Spokane Executive Board meeting, Leadership 2021 meeting, Jonah Project Meeting, Leadership Spokane Social Committee meeting, Leadership Round Table, Volunteered at a Celebrate Recovery event



Upcoming

- The OPO will be presenting 2 closing reports utilizing the new format specified in the Police Guild Contract
- The OPO is working through the review requirements for the Closing Reports with the Police Guild
- The OPO review of May 31st SPD protest response on hold pending City action on Guild Grievance

Office of the Police Ombudsman Commission Meeting:
Held virtually, the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm
Agendas and meeting recordings can be found at:
https://my.spokanecity.org/bcc/commissions/ombudsman-commission/