



**OFFICE OF
POLICE OMBUDSMAN**
808 W. SPOKANE FALLS BLVD.
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201
509.625.6742
FAX 509.625.6748

August 31, 2017

Director Jacqui MacConnell
Spokane Police Division
1100 W. Mallon Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99260

RE: R17-08 – Reestablish practice for posting IA cases online

Dear Director MacConnell,

I have received feedback from several community members in addition to comments made in public meetings for additional information on case summaries posted on the Internal Affairs' ("IA") webpage. First, the posted complaints are not up to date, with several of the listed cases without working hyperlinks. Second, most of the summaries are generic and do not adequately communicate the complaint to the public. For instance, C16-004 received a lot of media attention this year. Chief Meidl called the interaction between the officer and the subject "the most atrocious demeanor I've seen in my career."¹ Yet the IA summary posted online merely said, "During the transport the officer engaged in back and forth profane language with the arrestee." The summary has been called "pretty tame, like it's a small thing," when compared to the body worn camera ("BWC") footage, and "there's a lot of daylight between the summaries and what happened...The average person would not know enough from the summary to make a record request."²

Based on community expectation, it is my recommendation that SPD create a policy that would require entire IA cases that are properly redacted to be posted on its webpage again once the case has been closed. Furthermore, I recommend posting any accompanying BWC footage as part of the file. Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Bart Logue
Police Ombudsman
Office of the Police Ombudsman, City of Spokane

¹ Ryals, Mitch, *Loose Lips: A deeper look into the Spokane Police Department's leak investigation*, Inlander, August 17, 2017.

² Ryals, Mitch, *Spokane Police Department takes a 'big step backward' regarding transparency*, Inlander, February 27, 2017.