



**OFFICE OF  
POLICE OMBUDSMAN**  
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March 01, 2018

Chief Craig Meidl  
Spokane Police Department  
1100 W. Mallon Avenue  
Spokane, Washington 99260

**RE: R18-3 – Use of Force Dashboards**

Dear Chief Meidl,

Thank you for your consideration of the Office of Police Ombudsman's (OPO) request that the Spokane Police Department (SPD) continuously look for potential mediums where greater public transparency into issues of community concern can be offered to the public. As you know, I have been in contact for over a year with representatives from Police Strategies, LLC regarding the potential procurement of their Police Force Analysis System, which I have referred to as Use of Force Dashboards.

There are multiple benefits in the Police Force Analysis System. First, there is a detailed internal dashboard system which will allow Police Administrators to analyze the actions of officers over time in order to determine if early intervention may be appropriate. Second, there is a public dashboard component which is interactive and non-intrusive to officer privacy that will allow for meaningful public dialogue in an informed manner, as there are numerous data sets that can be explored regarding trends in use of force events. In February, I was able to preview these dashboards to three members of the City Council in order to gauge their interest in potential funding for this project. A City Council study session was requested so that the entire City Council could preview the product. That study session is scheduled for March 22, and I believe there is a very good chance for obtaining funding for both the creation and implementation of the dashboard system as well as annual upkeep.

I recommend that SPD strongly consider collaborating with the OPO in creating and implementing this program in order to increase public transparency into use of force cases. I also ask that a subject matter expert be assigned that would help insure that the data presented accurately reflects SPD practices. I have asked for sufficient funding so that the maintenance of the system would wholly rely on the contractor, and not become yet another task for your department. As such, it is imperative for the success of this endeavor that you provide access to the information necessary to properly populate the dashboards from previous, current, and future use of force cases.

Sincerely,

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

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