



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Office of Professional Accountability
April 2014 Report

Public Safety Committee Briefing
May 19, 2014



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Selected Officer Commendation Letters

“A big thanks to the Spokane police department for their quick response today and great work in my neighborhood. Very friendly and hardworking group of people.”

-Kate Jones

Officer Jen DeRuwe paid a visit to eight-year-old Diamond, the victim of a dog attack on Spokane’s North side. DeRuwe took her flowers and a gift card on behalf of SPD.

“She will feel protected and safe among the officers who reached out to her and all law enforcement! Good job guys!”

-Cassie Green

“What a wonderful Police Department Spokane has. Thanks to all for the wonderful thing you did for her!”

-Sharleen Smith



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Internal Affairs Unit Update

2014 January 1st through April 30th Complaints

Source of 2014 Complaints*

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 23
Inquiries	14
Citizen Complaints	9
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 13
Inquiries	9
Citizen Complaints	4
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 6

*Note: Sometimes a citizen will report a complaint in multiple places; in those cases, the place where the complaint was first reported is noted.

Categories of Complaints**

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1st and April 30th, 2014

Allegation	Number
Abuse of Authority	1
Conduct Becoming an Officer	1
Demeanor	3
Violation of the Code of Ethics	1
Failure to Report Domestic Violence	1
Illegal Detention	1
Lack of or Inadequate Response	4
Sexual Assault***	1
Unlawful/Improper Search	1
Excessive Force	2
Harassment	1

**Note: Some investigations involve multiple allegations



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

***Allegation was received during this period, but was alleged to have occurred in 2012. The accused officer is no longer an employee of the SPD. The case is complete and is being reviewed by the Spokane County Prosecutor's Office for charging consideration.

Allegations associated with **Internal Complaints** received between January 1st and March 31st, 2014

Allegation	Number
Absent Without Leave	1
Crime (Off-Duty DUI Arrest)	1
False Reporting****	1
False Statements****	2
Integrity****	1
Lack of / Inadequate Response	1
SPD Policy Violation	2
Untruthfulness	1
Insubordination	1

****Investigation involved a civilian employee. The investigation was forwarded to HR and the employee was exonerated.

Current Status of 2014 Cases

Citizen Complaints

Status	Number
Exonerated	1
Not Sustained	1
Under Investigation	5
Under Chain of Command Review	2
Reclassified as an Inquiry	1
Under Review by Prosecutor	1
Resigned prior to Termination	1
Under Review at Executive Level	1



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Internal Complaints

Item	Number
Under Investigation	2
Referred to City Human Resources	2
Under Review by the Ombudsman	0
Under ARP Review	0
Under Review at Executive Level	2

Unfounded - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve department personnel.

Exonerated - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.

Not Sustained - When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the employee.

Sustained - When the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted misconduct.

Training Failure - Deficiency in training was the cause of the alleged act.

Closed Due to Mediation - Is an alternative to the investigation, adjudication and disciplinary process.



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

2014 Deadly Force Incidents

2014 Investigative Reviews

Total: 4

March 2014---Investigative Reviews

March 26th, 2014---Internal Affairs Lt. Lundgren responded to 1527 W. Grace Avenue after an Officer Involved Shooting. Officers were investigating the suspect's involvement in a series of Armed Robberies at the time of the shooting. Sgt. Braun will be the lead on the Deadly Force Review after the SIRR Team investigation and Prosecutorial Review are completed.

April 2014---Investigative Reviews

April 3rd, 2014-- Sgt. Staben responded to Magnesium and Division after a suspect required medical treatment after fleeing from the scene of a collision. The suspect choked on a plastic bag that a witness reported seeing him swallow while attempting to flee from pursuing officers. The suspect died after choking on the plastic baggie.

April 29th, 2014-- Sgt. Braun and I responded to 2512 N. Standard on the report of an Officer-Involved Shooting. Officers, Detectives, and civilian media were on scene investigating a possible homicide after a woman was found dead at the location. A person of interest in the homicide reportedly drove through the barricades at the location and confronted officers at the location. Sgt. Braun is the lead investigator on the case.

Continuing Investigation for Investigators:

Sgt. Staben and Lt. Lundgren attended a two-day course in Seattle covering the investigation of use of force incidents. A member of the LAPD Force Investigation Division and the LAPD Inspector General taught the course which was hosted by Seattle PD.



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Training Unit Update

Entry Level Police Officers

Hired: 0

In Process: 47

Declined: 3

Lateral Police Officers

Hired: 0

In Process: 10

Declined: 5

Records Specialists

Hired: 0

In Process: 1

Declined: 2

Entry Level Dispatchers

Hired: 0

In Process: 5

Declined: 3

Lateral Dispatchers

Hired: 0

In Process: 7

Declined: 0



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Current Staffing is 283 commissioned officers. The following officers are on probationary status:

Yen	John	working on own	Ppo.	05/19/13	1169
Brown-Beiber	Benjamin	working on own	Ppo.	07/22/13	1176
Briggs	Nicholas	working on own	Ppo.	07/22/13	1177
Groom	Daryl	FTO car	Ppo.	07/22/13	1180
Lesser	Chris	FTO car	Ppo.	07/22/13	1181
Eckersley	David	FTO car	Ppo.	07/22/13	1182
Matt	Joseph	working on own	Ppo.	09/03/13	1185
Brown	Jordan	FTO Car	Ppo.	09/16/13	1186
LeQuire	Christopher	FTO Car	Ppo.	09/16/13	1187
Mohondro	Corrigan	FTO Car	Ppo.	09/16/13	1188
Dunkin	David	working on own	Ppo.	11/11/13	1189
Brooks	Winston	working on own	Ppo.	11/11/13	1190
Fabian	Brandon	FTO Car	Ppo.	11/11/13	1191
Lynch	Brandon	FTO Car	Ppo.	11/11/13	1193
Lowe	Jeff	In Academy	Ppo.	12/23/13	1194
Bennett	Anthony	In Academy	Ppo.	12/23/13	1195
Kaurin	David	FTO car	Ppo.	01/06/14	1196
Phillips	Jeff	FTO car	Ppo.	01/06/14	1197
Scott	John	FTO car	Ppo.	03/02/14	1200
Killian	Seth	working on own	Ppo.	03/02/14	1201
Shrier	Brian	working on own	Ppo.	03/02/14	1202
Wells	Dale	working on own	Ppo.	03/02/14	1203
Childress	Aaron	working on own	Ppo.	03/02/14	1204
Brownell	Mark	working on own	Ppo.	03/02/14	1206
Berrow	Seth	working on own	Ppo.	03/02/14	1207
Rodriguez	Juan	working on own	Ppo.	03/02/14	1212



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

BLEA/FTO Report for March:

Number of Officers at BLEA:	2
Number of Officers with FTOs:	12

Polygraphs:

Pre-employment:	5
Criminal:	3

Academy Training Hours Breakdown:

Community Hours	52
Hosted Hours	344
SPD Instructed Hours	100

Range Breakdown:

Other Agencies	337.5
SPD Use	177.5
Virtra	1

Records Unit Update

Public Record Disclosures:

Oldest request not completed:	3/20/14
New requests received this week:	92
Total requests started but not complete:	17
(this equals 106 incidents/reports responsive to these requests)	
Total requests not yet processed:	0



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Body Camera Update

Selection of Body Cameras:

In 2012 the Spokane Police Department, with the assistance of 18 patrol officers, field tested 3 police body camera systems.

1. Taser Axon Flex & Axon Body
2. Wolfcom
3. VieVue

The test group at that time had chosen the VieVue camera system, due to its functionality as it mounted on the uniform chest of the officers. The Administration at that time chose the Taser Axon Flex system, based on the quality of the recording perspectives of the head mount systems. Taser also supplied Evidence.com to its users to store video data. Through testing of the Flex, officers complained of headaches during extended usage as this system mounted to a set of glasses or to a hat. In late 2013, Taser introduced the Axon Body, which is a body-mounted system similar to the VieVue. The Axon also came with the Evidence.com storage capability. With this new device, it met the desires of the Flex and the VieVue at 1/3 the cost of the Flex.

It was determined through the field tests during day shift, swing shift, power shift and graveyard that the Taser system provided the best video. The overall video angles (130 degree view) and audio recording were superior to the other systems. The Axon Body system also had no wires exposed as the Flex did. Department testing was conducted in several potential reality based scenes utilizing the camera system to include:

- Foot pursuits
- Vehicle Pursuit
- Traffic Stop
- Building Search
- K-9 Deployment
- Suspect with a knife
- Suspect with a gun
- Assaultive Suspect
- DUI Investigation



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Taser International stated that the Spokane Police Department testing and evaluation implementation was the most thorough they had experienced with their product.

Policy:

The policy for the Taser cameras has been written and revised and currently waiting for approval from the Spokane Police Guild, Captains and Lieutenant's Association, Chief's Office and the ACLU. This policy was reviewed by Director Tim Schwering, Mary Muramatsu, Larry Haskell, Lt. Kevin King, Sgt. Shawn Kendall and Officer Ryan Snider.

April 2014:

The storage location for the 37 docking bays will be in the Spokane Police Departments officer drill hall on the second floor of the Public Safety Building. A load test on the current internet systems needs to be conducted to account for the cameras' download process. This load test includes a test on our current internet and on Comcast.

Taser International will come to the Spokane Police Department once the policy is in effect and the docks are operational to train officers.

May 2014:

17 Officers have volunteered to field test the Axon Body cameras in the field with the current policy. These officers will aid in the functionality of the cameras, its good/bad uses how to label their videos accordingly and to adjust policies as issues arise.

Impact:

- The body cameras will increase SPD's ability to proactively and strategically deal with the citizens and in turn create a record of accountability for the officers.
- With the use of the body cameras, the Spokane Police Department can help reduce the complaints/allegations of misconduct. The video has both video and audio that can show a better representation of the officers' actions as well as the citizens, rather than just recollection of the incident from both sides.



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Action:

March 20, 2014:

Spokane Police Department ordered and received from Taser International:

- 220 Taser Axon Body Cameras
- 37 (ETM) Six bay camera docks (Evidence.com)
- 2 year ETM maintenance
- 37 Wall brackets for the docks
- 2 year pre-paid body camera maintenance
- 3 year Evidence.com data storage contract

A test group of approximately 20 volunteer officers from the patrol division will operate with the Axon cameras on duty.

September 2014:

Once the following steps are in place (policy, Taser training and set up) the field test will begin in September or sooner depending on the availability of Taser trainers and the construction of the drill hall for the appropriate needs of the docks etc.