



**SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

---

**Office of Professional Accountability**  
December 2014 Report

**Public Safety Committee Briefing**  
**January 19, 2015**



# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Dear Chief Straub and SPD Officers,

First: my condolences on the recent, horrible deaths of two NYPD and one Florida officer. What strikes one, strikes all. As a black person recently relocated to Spokane, I want to let you all know that I appreciate that you are out there all day and all night doing a job that is dangerous and difficult.

I believe that 99% of police officers do serve and protect and do the best they can under extreme circumstances. If I need help, I will never be afraid to call on SPD officers.

*-Jackie McCowen-Rose*

Chief Straub,

Thank you for giving of your time to talk to our class. The class was so thankful for your insight! We appreciate the support of Lt. King, Sgt. Yamada and Super Sandy to make our day perfect. We salute you and your team!

*-Brian Newberry, Leadership Spokane*

Hi Shawn [Kendall],

Thank you so much for coming to our office and providing training that will really make a difference for our staff and our families. Everyone was very pleased and impressed at the quality of the training, and thoroughly enjoyed your presentation. I have included below some of the quotes provided by staff. Thank you for what you and your staff (definitely including the K-9s) do for our community.

- I found the course very interesting and engaging. It's a testament to his presentation skills that everyone on our team was interested and participated! Incredible, real-life info!
- He was very fun and engaging and you could tell that he likes what he does.
- I have started being more aware of my environment.
- I found his advice to be prepared for an unfortunate situation by thinking through the scenarios beforehand to be very helpful.
- I appreciated Shawn's enthusiasm and benefiting from his many years of service to our city. He was very thorough, and his presentation was well thought out and well executed. Shawn did an excellent job of maintaining the interest of audience members, and getting individual members to participate was a nice touch. Shawn inspired me to take additional steps to not be prey, and be prepared at all times for predators wherever they may be lurking.

*-Lizzie Riesenberg, Office Manager, Maplewood Software, Inc.*

Officer Jenn De Ruwe and Lt. Tracie Meidl,

Thank you for participating as panelists at the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission's "Courts Igniting Change" Conference. We have heard nothing but fantastic reviews about the event. We are truly grateful that you were able to share your knowledge and expertise with our audience of justices, judges, school administrators, teachers, lawyers, professors, advocates, youth, and many more.

*-Justices Charles W. Johnson and Mary I. Yu*



# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

### Internal Affairs Unit Update

#### 2014 January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> Complaints

##### Source of 2014 Complaints\*

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 90</b>
Inquiries	70
Citizen Complaints	15
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 53</b>
Inquiries	33
Citizen Complaints	17

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

Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 15</b>
---------------------------------	------------------

Four new complaints came in the last two weeks of December that have not yet been classified as Citizen Complaints or Inquiries.

##### Categories of Complaints\*\*

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1st and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Allegation	Number
Assault	1
Conduct Unbecoming	1
Demeanor	12
Failure to Report Domestic Violence	2
Failure to Take Report (Non-DV)	2
Sexual Assault***	1
Solicitation of Special Consideration	1
Excessive Force	5
Lack of or Inadequate Response	17
Failure to Take Reasonable Action	1
Exceeding/Abuse of Authority	2
Improper Search/Seizure	4

\*\*Note: Some investigations involve multiple allegations. Investigations do not include Inquiries.

\*\*\*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.



# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Allegations associated with **Internal Complaints** received between January 1st and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Number</b>
Absent Without Leave	1
Crime (Off-Duty Reckless Driving)	1
Crime (Off-Duty DUI Arrest)	1
Crime (Steroid Purchase)	1
Dereliction of Duty	1
Discourteous Treatment of Another Employee	1
Discrimination	1
Failure to Report DV	1
False Reporting****	1
False Statements****	2
Integrity****	1
Lack of / Inadequate Response	1
Other SPD Policy Violation	4
Untruthfulness	1
Unlawful Search	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

<b>Status</b>	<b>Number</b>
Exonerated	8
Sustained	6
Not Sustained	8
Unfounded	3
Resigned prior to Termination	1
Administratively Suspended	6
Changed to Inquiry	19



# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

### Internal Complaints

Item	Number
Sustained	9
Not Sustained	2
Referred to City Human Resources	2
Unfounded	1

**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.

### 2014 Deadly Force Incidents

2014 Investigative Reviews Year to Date Total: 5

June through October---None

November

Sgt. Braun responded to an officer-involved shooting case that occurred near the intersection of Montgomery and Post on November 8th, 2014. One officer fired at and hit a male suspect. The incident is under investigation by the SIRR team and Sgt. Braun will commence the administrative investigation upon their completion.



# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

### OPO Commission Initiated Investigations

Internal Affairs has reopened IA14-061 at the request of the OPO Commission for further investigation. The complaint involves an officer's interaction with the complainant pertaining to the sit and lie ordinance. The case had been previously closed as an inquiry.

IA14-038 was also reopened by request of the OPO Commission. The complaint involved the arrest of a driver after he refused to provide his driver's license during a traffic stop. The complaint alleged excessive force, illegal search, and failure to Mirandize.

### Records Unit Update

#### Public Record Disclosures as of 12/29/2014

Oldest request not completed:	9/3/14
New requests received this week:	208
Total requests started but not complete:*	446
(23 of the requests are very large and the requestors have been provided with an extended completion date.)	
Total requests not processed:	0

### Outreach Update

#### Community Outreach

SPD organized a meeting between faith leaders, leaders of diversity groups, and law enforcement, facilitated by Pastor Shon Davis. The meeting was called as a measure to increase communication between the groups, as violent incidents across the nation were occurring. Chief Straub saw the need for the meeting to take place as soon as possible, and was there to comment on the law enforcement perspective. Officers from the Police Activities League (PAL), Youth & Police Initiative (YPI), and Gang Unit also participated in the meeting, as they work with the community leaders on their projects.

SPD also participated in the Target Heroes and Helpers Event at the South Regal Target. Officers partnered with children and shopped for presents for their family members. Afterwards, they wrapped the presents with the kids. Gift cards were donated by Target and several SPD staff.



## SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

20 YPI graduates and their friends and family members attended the YPI Reunion event, held on December 18th at the West Central Community Center. Several SPD staff and community leaders attended and interacted with the youth. One graduate brought her newborn child and proudly introduced him to officers. The youth shared their success with officers, as several had obtained jobs since their YPI session. Several graduates proudly shared their increase in school attendance and improvement in grades and achievement of school credits. Some of the youth brought friends that would like to attend the next YPI. YPI sessions are currently scheduled for North Central High School in mid-January and Shadle High School in February.

The Community Outreach team recently had a great PAL Hockey night with Spokane Chiefs. Lt. Tracie Meidl and Officer DeRuwe enjoyed “dropping the puck” with PAL participants at the game. Participants and their families watched the game for free, and received T-shirts, hockey pucks, and tokens for food courtesy of the Chiefs and United Health Care. SPD also maintained a booth in the concourse to provide information on PAL and recruit youth for next summer.

The Community Outreach Unit helped a person enrolled in the Chronic Offender program. As the person was unable to receive Salvation Army or Toys for Tots, he was worried about gifts for his two toddlers. The Unit adopted his family; each member donated money, and then COU Officers delivered the presents and placed them under the tree.

Community Outreach activities this month included:

- Homeless Coalition
- Excelerate Success
- Promise Zone Designation monthly meetings
- Juvenile Court Coordination of Service presentations
- Reading to kids at the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center every other week

### **Body Camera Implementation Project—Progress Update**

The pilot program formally ended December 31, 2014. More than 70 outreach presentations were given during the pilot project, and a few more are scheduled in 2015. In total, the Office of Professional Accountability reached out to 160+ community groups and agencies regarding body cameras.

Although the pilot ended, the officers in the pilot program continue to wear cameras on a volunteer basis while we examine the results of the pilot program. Nine more officers volunteered to wear cameras starting January 1, 2015, so there are a total of 25 officers wearing cameras currently.

Over the next several months SPD will review use of the cameras and work to develop estimates on the video storage capacity and staff time to respond to record requests that a full body camera



## **SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

program would require. SPD will create a permanent policy governing camera use and will create a stakeholder commission to help with that process. The policy will be revised and updated to reflect any forthcoming changes in state law addressing video footage and public records.

Once the Spokane pilot program has been reviewed, cameras will be phased in for patrol officers gradually, with the goal of outfitting all patrol officers by the end of 2015.