



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

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**Office of Professional Accountability**  
**June 2014 Report**

**Public Safety Committee Briefing**  
**July 21, 2014**



## SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

### Selected Officer Commendation Letters

Pam Silva called to share how grateful she was to Officer Tracie Ponto and her husband, Sean. Ms. Silva has had her garage burglarized five times because her garage is not fenced in. Officer Ponto and her husband came to her home, on their own time and at their own expense, and built her a new fence. Her garage is no longer accessible to thieves. She said this is the first time she has slept through the night because she didn't have to worry about that any more. Ms. Silva said that her faith in SPD has been restored because of their actions and she wanted to make sure that they were acknowledged for their kindness.

*-Pam Silva in phone call to the Chief's Secretary*

Thank you for the IED training that your staff provided to law enforcement and public safety personnel in Pend Oreille County. Captain Olsen was very thoughtful to send trainers to us as Pend Oreille County has had several bomb threats in the past couple of years. Sergeant Rob Dashiell and Officers Erin Raleigh and Shawn Pegram did an outstanding job presenting the IED training and answering questions. They represented the Spokane Police Department in an exemplary manner and I continue to hear favorable comments from those that attended.

*-Alan Botzheim, Pend Oreille County Sheriff*

Thank you for every single thing you guys do! Thank you for protecting our community and helping keep us safe. What you guys do is admirable, and the honor goes to you guys for going through the dangers you go through. Each and every one of you are courageous, brave, and selfless. It takes a special person, and particular personality to be able to be a policeman.

*-Elizabeth Syrotchen*

Outstanding job, SPD!! I am so grateful for the hard work you do to make the City of Spokane and the rest of our community a safe a friendly place to live!!

*-Karen McDermott*

### **Detective Elise Robertson and Officer Teresa Fuller both received Partners in Justice Awards by Lutheran Community Services. Excerpts from the nomination forms below:**

Detective Elise Robertson is recognized as an expert in the Special Victims Unit. She is a true professional when conducting her work. Elise is an asset for the Special Victims Unit, the Spokane Police Department, and the community in which she serves.

Officer Teresa Fuller met with a survivor to take a sexual assault report. During the lengthy process, she treated the survivor with the utmost compassion and kindness. It was evident that Officer Fuller was genuinely concerned for her well-being. After reporting, the survivor expressed to me her gratitude for Officer Fuller.



# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### Internal Affairs Unit Update

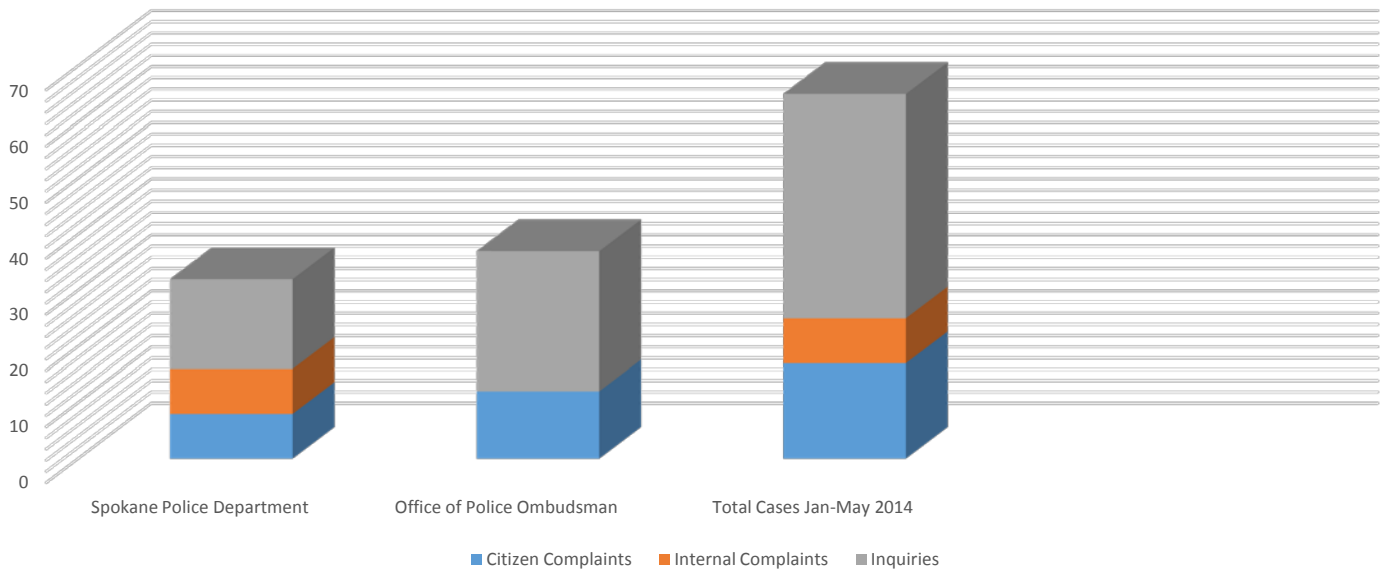
#### 2014 January 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> Complaints

##### Source of 2014 Complaints\*

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 37</b>
Inquiries	25
Citizen Complaints	12
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 23</b>
Inquiries	16
Citizen Complaints	8
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 8</b>

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

SPD Internal Investigation Cases  
By Type and Origin





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### Categories of Complaints\*\*

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1st and May 31st, 2014

Allegation	Number
Demeanor	7
Failure to Report Domestic Violence	2
Failure to Take Report (Non-DV)	1
Sexual Assault***	1
Excessive Force	4
Lack of or Inadequate Response	8
Failure to Take Reasonable Action	1
Exceeding Authority	1
Improper Search/Seizure	1

\*\*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.

Allegations associated with **Internal Complaints** received between January 1st and May 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	3
Untruthfulness	1
Insubordination	1

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



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### Current Status of 2014 Cases

#### Citizen Complaints

Status	Number
Exonerated	3
Not Sustained	1
Founded	1
Unfounded	2
Under Investigation	5
Under Review by OPO	3
Under Chain of Command Review	2
Under Review by Prosecutor	1
Resigned prior to Termination	1
Administratively Suspended	3

#### Internal Complaints

Item	Number
Founded	2
Referred to City Human Resources	2
Under Investigation	1
Under ARP Review	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.



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### 2014 Deadly Force Incidents

#### **2014 Investigative Reviews**

**Total: 4**

#### **March 2014**

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**

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. **UPDATE:** The Medical Examiner's Office has determined the cause of death to be accidental. Sergeant Staben's investigation is being reviewed at ARP.

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.

#### **May 2014**

None

#### **June 2014**

None



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### Continuing Investigation Training for Investigators

The IA team scheduled IA Pro/Blue Team software training in June. A representative from the company provided two days of formal training in Spokane on IA Pro and Blue Team functions and capabilities. This was the first formal training that any members of Internal Affairs or the Ombudsman's office had received in the software that tracks and stores all SPD Administrative reports. All members of Internal Affairs, Kathy Armstrong from SPD Strategic Initiatives, and Elysia Spencer from the Ombudsman's Office attended.

### Training Unit Update

#### Training and Hiring Statistics

CLASSIFICATION	HIRED	IN PROCESS	DECLINED	NOTES
Entry Level Police Officer	2	9	3	
Lateral Police Officer	2	8	4	
Reserve Officers	N/A	28	N/A	Academy is assisting Volunteer Services with Reserve Officer applicant backgrounds
Entry Level Dispatchers	0	0	0	Eligibility List expired 4/19/14. Testing Fall 2014
Lateral Dispatchers	0	7	1	
Records Specialists	0	15	1	Eligibility List exhausted. New test will be announced July 7, 2014
Other Applicants	2	3	0	<b>Hired:</b> Mannan & Lynds <b>In Process:</b> Heidinger, Spring and White
Vendor Backgrounds	0	0	0	



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### Records Unit Update

#### Public Record Disclosures

Oldest request not completed: 4/29/14

New requests received this week: 54

Total requests started but not complete:\* 26

(This totals 212 incidents/reports responsive to these new requests. Two of the requests are very large and we are waiting for the 10% deposit response.)

Total requests not processed: 0

### Body Camera Implementation Project

#### Policy Update

The draft policy for the Taser cameras has been reviewed by Director Tim Schwering, SPD Legal Advisor Mary Muramatsu, Spokane County Deputy Prosecutor Larry Haskell, Training Lieutenant Kevin King, Defensive Tactics Instructor Shawn Kendall and Officer Ryan Snider.

A policy review was held June 23rd with the Spokane Police Guild, Chiefs, Lieutenants and Captains Association, Mary Muramatsu, and a representative from Taser International. It was a successful meeting. The revised draft was sent out to everyone afterward. The Guild is in the process of sending it to their attorney, who will look it over for any other potential issues. SPD has also sent the draft policy to ACLU for review.

We are still working on the policy and collaborating with other agencies. Officers Raleigh and Snider from the Technical Assistance and Response Unit (TARU) traveled to Albuquerque to meet with the Albuquerque Police Department about their experience with camera policy and implementation.

SPD is set to start the pilot program in September. 17 officers have volunteered to field test the body cameras in the field with the current policy. Their experience will help us adjust the policy as issues arise.





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### Spokane Police Department Statistics: January-June 2014

#### Community Contacts

In the first six months of 2014, officers from the Spokane Police Department made a minimum of 67,009 contacts with individuals in the community.

#### Mental Health Contacts

Spokane Police officers responded to 583 incidents involving persons with a mental illness or mental disability.

Of those contacts:

- 354 contacts required no law enforcement action
- 206 contacts resulted in the person transported directly to hospital
- 19 contacts resulted in the person transported directly to Jail
- 4 individuals contacted exhibited symptoms of excited delirium

Officers responded to 870 Suicide attempt calls, but only used force less than 1% of the time. 5 of those calls required officers to use force to detain the subjects.