



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Office of Professional Accountability
May 2014 Report

Public Safety Committee Briefing
June 16, 2014



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Selected Officer Commendation Letters

I wanted to write to express appreciation for the hard work of the staff in your department. My family and I travelled to Spokane on last May 17 for a visit and did some shopping there. On our way back to Calgary, Alberta, we stopped at the Burlington Store for approximately 20 minutes. On returning to our vehicle, we found that it had been broken into and our valuables (new clothes and luggage) had been stolen. We immediately sought assistance from Burlington store personnel and they assisted us in contacting the Spokane Police department. The next evening, I received a call from Corporal Blessing of the SPD. She informed me that they may have apprehended some suspects and recovered some of the stolen merchandise. She was also very helpful in providing contact information and answering my questions. I would like to express my appreciation for the prompt response of the police in your city and for the excellent work you do.

-Esther Ludeki

Just a quick note to say that I had a great experience with Officer Brooks on Saturday night. He's very professional, polite and a perfect example of what a police officer should be. The SPD is lucky to have him on staff! Thank You!

-Heather Schelling

The letters attached to this email were written by the students who attend the Criminal Justice Class of Lewis & Clark High School. At the beginning of the year when they were asked if they respected or like their local police, not one of these students raised their hand. When asked to explain they expressed mistrust, disdain or would not seek them for help. Captain Judi Carl and Corporal Glen Bartlett of your downtown district have been visiting the class as guest speakers instructing in crime scene investigation, careers with law enforcement along with Community Court acquaintance. During National Police Week the students wrote these letters. As you can see there is a significant change in their perception of their police department and the job performed by them. Would you please share these letters with your Chief. Also I would like to commend both Captain Carl and Corporal Bartlett for the exceptional professionalism, their commitment to duty, and for showing these young adults what a true law enforcement officer that serves their community is all about.

-Leon Strigotte, Lewis & Clark High School Criminal Justice Program



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Internal Affairs Unit Update

2014 January 1st through May 31st Complaints

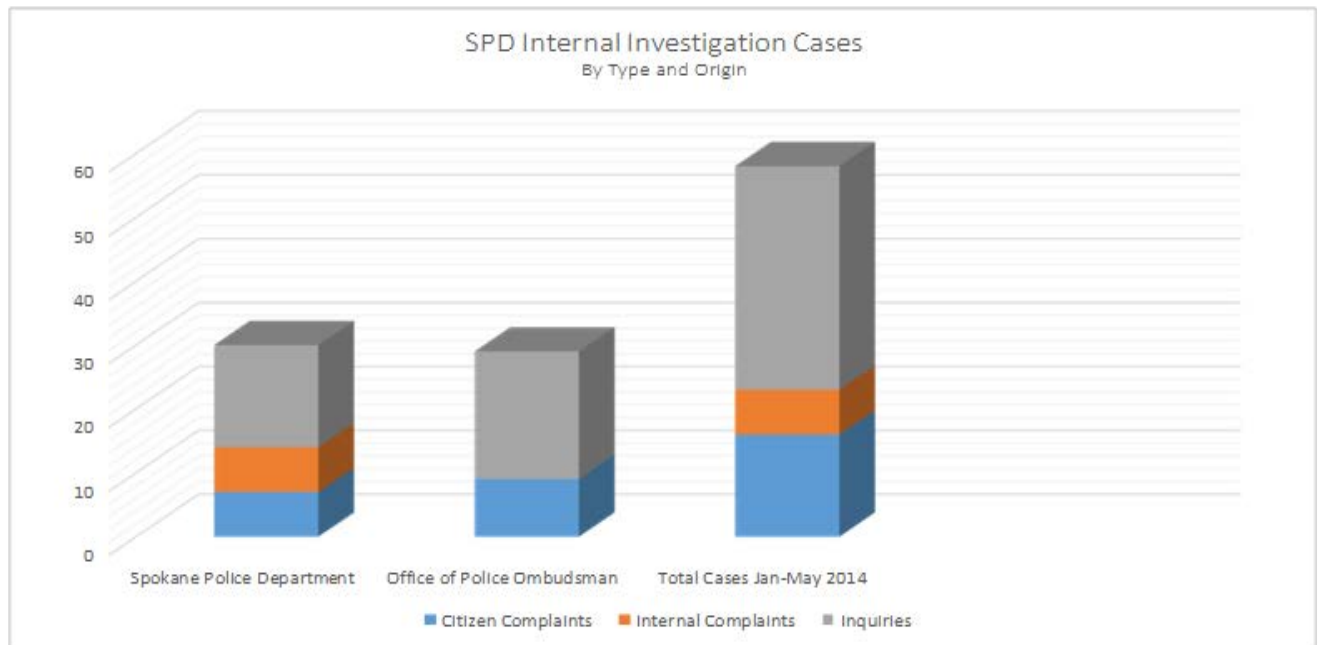
Source of 2014 Complaints*

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 29
Inquiries	20
Citizen Complaints	9

Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 22
Inquiries	16
Citizen Complaints	7

*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	Total: 7
---------------------------------	----------





SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Categories of Complaints**

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

Allegation	Number
Demeanor	5
Failure to Report Domestic Violence	1
Failure to Take Report (Non-DV)	1
Sexual Assault***	1
Excessive Force	2
Lack of or Inadequate Response	5

**Note: Some investigations involve multiple allegations

***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.



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Current Status of 2014 Cases

Citizen Complaints

Status	Number
Exonerated	2
Not Sustained	1
Founded	1
Unfounded	1
Under Investigation	6
Under Review by OPO	2
Under Chain of Command Review	1
Under Review by Prosecutor	1
Resigned prior to Termination	1

Internal Complaints

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



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. **UPDATE:** The Medical Examiner's Office has determined the cause of death to be accidental.

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 Training for Investigators:

Sgt. Staben and Sgt. Braun attended the one-week Force Science ® force investigations course. Dr. Bill Lewinski and other experts in the field of human dynamics teach a scientific approach to use of force investigations. The Force Science Institute has conducted exhaustive research into what occurs during a use of force encounter and how investigators can analyze the evidence to determine what occurred. Dave and Steve successfully completed the course and are now certified use of force investigators.



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Training Unit Update

In addition to the below Hiring and Training statistics, the Academy also:

- Met with Northtown Mall and made arrangements to use their facility for training. A table-top Active Shooter Training is scheduled for June.
- Began work on the Fall 2014 In-service including scouting locations.
- Academy Staff observed BLEA Mock Scenes and attended Graduation.
- Met with WSCJTC about bringing both the Equivalency Academy and the BLEA to the Spokane Academy. The first Equivalency is scheduled for August. The first BLEA is scheduled for 1/6/15.
- Rescheduled the Citizens' Academy for the Fall.
- Began taking applications for the new TAC officer.
- Began taking applications for Sgt. Crane's replacement as Range Master for 2015.
- The FTO unit assisted in starting a new Downtown Patrol unit made up of an FTO and Lateral recruits to assist in problem areas for the summer months

CLASSIFICATION	HIRED	IN PROCESS	DECLINED	NOTES
Entry Level Police Officer	4	14	29	
Lateral Police Officer	2	7	8	
Reserve Officers	N/A	17	N/A	Academy is assisting Volunteer Services with Reserve Officer applicant backgrounds
Entry Level Dispatchers	0	0	5	
Lateral Dispatchers	0	5	2	
Records Specialists	0	1	0	
Other Applicants	1	2	0	Hired: Odle In Process: Lynds and Mannan
Vendor Backgrounds	0	0	0	



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

BLEA/FTO Report for May:

Number of Officers at BLEA:	4
Number of Officers with FTOs:	11

POLYGRAPHS for May:

Pre-employment:	4
Criminal:	1

Academy Training Hours Breakdown:

Community Hours	56.5
Hosted Hours	224
SPD Instructed Hours	249

Range Breakdown:

Other Agencies	343
SPD Use	146.5
Virtra	18

Records Unit Update

Public Record Disclosures:

Oldest request not completed:	4/11/14
New requests received this week:	218
Total requests started but not complete: (responsive to these new requests)	23 (this totals 245 incidents/reports)
Total requests not 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.

May 2014:

I traveled to Taser International in Scottsdale, AZ, with Officer Ryan Snider. We met the Taser representatives that have assisted Spokane police with the body camera purchase: Joe Fiumara, Brian Black, David Fowers and the CEO/Founder. The visit was very productive; we were able to network with the Seattle Police Department and the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.

June 2014:

We ran into a technical issue, as there wasn't a part number assigned to the particular 360 degree holster that was ordered in March with the original order.

Brian Black assured SPD that they now have the part assigned a number and we can complete our order and make payment. The order should arrive June 16th.

A meeting with the Spokane Police Guild, Chiefs, Lieutenant's and Captain's Association, Mary Muramatsu, and a representative from Taser International is set for Monday June 23rd, at 9:00 AM at the Spokane Training Center.

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



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

trainers and the construction of the drill hall for the appropriate needs of the docks.