



Monday, February 20, 2012

Public Safety Committee Report

Reporting Period: January 13, 2012 through February 16, 2012

CONTACTS

Between January 13, 2010 and February 16, 2010 the Office of the Police Ombudsman was contacted **49** times.

Since January 1, 2012 there have been **79** contacts received by the Office of Police Ombudsman.

COMPLAINTS

To assist in identifying where complaints are occurring, the Office of Police Ombudsman has divided the City into 4 quadrants. The north-south borderline is Sprague Avenue and the east-west borderline is Division Street.

Between January 13, 2012 and February 16, 2012 **6** complaints were received.

1. Wednesday, February 15, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman by mail. The Complainant alleged that they were assaulted by hospital staff while receiving treatment and police failed to investigate their complaint. (SW), (OPO # 12-17)
2. Monday, February 13, 2012: A **Racial Bias and Harassment** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant alleged that they were profiled and harassed because they are black. (NW), (OPO # 12-16)
3. Friday, February 03, 2012: An **Excessive Force and False Arrest** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant alleged that Officers' forced entry into the Complainant's apartment and assaulted, tased and falsely arrested them without cause. (SW), (OPO 12-15)
4. Wednesday, February 01, 2012: A **Demeanor** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant was upset by the way Officers' spoke to them when they contacted the Police Department to obtain information on a previous incident they had been involved in. (NW), (OPO #12-14)

5. Tuesday, January 31, 2012: A **Harassment** (selective enforcement) complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman from the COPS Northwest location. The Complainant filed a complaint with the COP Shop and it was forwarded to the Office of Police Ombudsman for follow up. The Complainant alleged that an Officer is selectively issuing the Complainant parking citations. (NW), (OPO 12-13)
6. Wednesday, January 25, 2012: A **Demeanor** complaint was received through the Office of Police Ombudsman website. The Complainant alleged that an Officer was rude to them when they asked the officer a question. The Complainant alleged that the Officer told them “make it short, I need to get out of here.” The Officer then answered their question, “I have no idea, I am on my lunch.” (NE), (OPO # 12-12)

Between January 13, 2012 and February 16, 2012 **4** complaints were referred.

1. Friday, February 10, 2012: The Office of Police Ombudsman received a complaint by phone. The complaint involved the Spokane Valley Police Department. The complaint was referred to the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office for follow up.
2. Saturday, February 04, 2012: The Office of the Police Ombudsman received a complaint by mail. The complaint involved the Spokane County Jail and was referred to the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office for follow up.
3. Thursday, January 26, 2012: The Office of Police Ombudsman received a complaint through the Office of Police Ombudsman website. The complaint involved the Spokane Valley Police Department. The complaint was referred to the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office for follow up.
4. Wednesday, The Office of Police Ombudsman received a complaint through the Office of Police Ombudsman website. The complaint involved the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office. The complaint was referred to the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office for follow up.

INVESTIGATIONS CERTIFIED

Between January 13, 2012 and February 16, 2012 **4** completed investigations were certified as timely, thorough and objective:

1. Thursday, February 02, 2012: An **Excessive Force and False Arrest** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman on October 20, 2011. The Complainant alleged that Officers forced entry into their residence, pushed them to the ground and arrested them on an invalid court protection order. The Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process. (OPO # 11-67)

2. Tuesday, January 31, 2012: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman on October 20, 2011. The Complainant was the victim of a residential burglary. The Complainant was not satisfied with the follow up investigation of their burglary. The Complainant was also not satisfied with the follow through by the Prosecutor's Office or the correctional facility. The Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process. (**OPO # 11-68**)
3. Monday, January 30, 2012: An **Unauthorized use of a Law Enforcement Database** complaint was received by a Patrol Sergeant on December 16, 2011. The Complainant alleged that an Officer used the database for personal reasons to identify where the Complainant resides. The Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process.
4. Monday, January 16, 2012: An **Excessive Force** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman on October 13, 2011. The Complainant was involved in an altercation at a local bar and grille. The Complainant advised that their leg was injured in the altercation with the staff from the bar and grille. The Complainant alleged that an Officer who responded to the altercation pushed them to the ground for no reason which further injured their leg. The Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process (**OPO # 11-60**)

DECLINED CERTIFICATIONS AND APPEALS

There were no declined certifications or appeals during the reporting period.

INTERVIEWS

- Internal Affairs, Officer Interviews: **8**
- Internal Affairs, Complainant Interviews: **1**
- Internal Affairs, Witness Interviews: **0**
- Office of Police Ombudsman Complainant Interviews: **6**
- Office of Police Ombudsman Witness Interviews: **1**
- Closing (Complaint Closure) Interviews: **1**

OTHER DUTIES

Critical Incident Response: No critical incidents occurred during the reporting period.

Cases Resolved Through Mediation: 1 complaint was resolved through the mediation process during the reporting period.

- Thursday, February 09, 2012: A **Trespass and False Arrest** complaint was resolved through mediation. The Complainant alleged that an Officer unlawfully entered their residence and arrested them after the Officer discovered their home was unlocked and thought it was being burglarized.

Recommendations: There were no recommendations made to the Police Department during the reporting period.

NEXT STEPS

- Completion of Student Handbook
- Presentation of the Annual Report
- Hire 4th student Intern

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Thursday, February 16, 2012: Chief Garry Park Neighborhood Council meeting (Intern, 7p-8:30p)
- Thursday, February 16, 2012: Northwest Neighborhood Council meeting (7p-830p)
- Wednesday, February 15, 2012: Hillyard Neighborhood Council meeting (630p-9p)
- Wednesday, February 15, 2012: Whitman Neighborhood Council meeting (6p-630p)
- Wednesday, February 15, 2012: STA Main Terminal (Intern, 1p-4p)
- Tuesday, February 14, 2012: North Indian Trail Neighborhood Council meeting (7p-830p)
- Monday, February 13, 2012: Spokane County Sheriff's Advisory Committee meeting (630p-8p)
- Friday, February 10, 2012: Pow Wow for the Heart by The NATIVE Project (530p-10p)
- Friday, February 10, 2012: STA Main Terminal (Intern, 1p-4p)
- Friday, February 10, 2012: Mayor's Inaugural Speech (7a-9a)
- Thursday, February 09, 2012: Minnehaha Neighborhood Council meeting (7p-8p)
- Wednesday, February 08, 2012: Nevada Lidgerwood Neighborhood Council meeting (Intern, 7p-830p)
- Wednesday, February 08, 2012: West Central Neighborhood Council meeting (630p-8p)
- Wednesday, February 08, 2012: Spokane Police Advisory Committee (Intern, 7a-8a)
- Monday, February 06, 2011: Spokane City Council meeting (6p-930p)

- Friday, February 03, 2012: Community Assembly meeting (4p-6p)
- Friday, February 03, 2012: STA Main Terminal (Intern, 1p-4p)
- Wednesday, February 01, 2012: Community Café meeting, East Central Community Center (6p-7p)
- Monday, January 30, 2012: Spokane City Council meeting (6p-7p)
- Wednesday, January 18, 2012: Hillyard Neighborhood Council meeting (Intern, 630p-8p)
- Wednesday, January 18, 2012: Police Advisory Committee meeting (7a-8a)
- Tuesday, January 17, 2012: Spokane City Council meeting (6p-730p)

OTHER

- Mayor Condon authorized an increase in the Assistant to the Police Ombudsman position from a 60% position to a full time position in response to the increased demands of the Office.
- Melissa Nystrom was hired as the Assistant to the Office of Police Ombudsman. Melissa replaces Marnie Rorholm who has been promoted and reassigned to the Office of the Mayor. Melissa is a graduate from the University of Washington and Gonzaga University School of Law.
- Katie Ottie was hired as a volunteer Intern. Katie is a senior at Whitworth University. Katie began work with the Office on Wednesday, February 01, 2012. Katie is also an Intern with the Public Defender's Office. Katie will assist in community outreach and project research.
- Intern Scott Richter participated in the Point in Time homeless persons census training and count on January 19, 30 and 31, 2012. The Point in Time Count is a census of the homeless members of our community. Beyond gaining a statistical understanding of our homeless, this information is used to show a real need in Spokane and will help Spokane to meet financial requirements through grants and other means. Volunteers engaged with the community at various places to find people who are dealing with homelessness. When a homeless person or family is identified, the volunteer assists with the accurate filling out of the form by asking the appropriate questions.
- Intern Scott Richter was recently appointed to the Police Advisory Committee.

2012 OVERVIEW

Complaints Received: Since January 1, 2012, **21** complaints have been received by the Office of Police Ombudsman and forwarded to Internal Affairs. The complaints were for:

- 6 Demeanor
- 6 Inadequate Response
- 3 Harassment
- 1 Due Process
- 1 Excessive Force
- 1 Hiring Practices

- 1 Procedural
- 1 Racial Basis
- 1 Racial Bias

Complaints Referred: Since January 1, 2012, 6 complaints have been referred to the following agencies:

- 3 complaints have been referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.
- 2 Complaints involving the Spokane Valley Police were referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.
- 1 complaint involving the Spokane County Jail was referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.

ATTACHMENTS

- 2011 Office of Police Ombudsman Annual Report