



July 18, 2011

Public Safety Committee Report

Reporting Period: June 17, 2011 through July 14, 2011

CONTACTS

Between June 17, 2011 and July 14, 2011 the Office was contacted **37** times.

Since January 1, 2011, there have been **245** contacts received by the Office of Police Ombudsman.

COMPLAINTS

Between June 17, 2011 and July 14, 2011 **2** complaints were received.

1. Monday, June 27, 2011: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised that the Property Room was refusing to return their property to them. The Complainant advised they had a Court Order and had attempted to retrieve the property on five occasions without success (**OPO 11-33**).
2. Tuesday, June 28, 2011: A **Records Request** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman. The Complainant advised they were involved in a Hit-and-Run accident where police arrested the responsible driver. The Complainant needs a copy of the report to process their insurance claim without having to pay their deductible and was advised that it would take 90 days to get the information (**OPO 11-34**).

Between June 17, 2011 and July 14, 2011 **3** complaints were referred.

1. Friday, June 24, 2011: A **Demeanor** complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman through the OPO email box regarding a Crime Check operator. The complaint was referred to Crime Check administration for follow-up. The Ombudsman felt that it was important for the PSC to be aware of the complaint recognizing that Crime Check provides a vendor service for the Police Department.
2. Monday, June 20, 2011: A complaint was received through the Office of Police Ombudsman involving a Spokane County Sheriff's Deputy. The Complainant advised that they were forced to move their disable vehicle while waiting for a mechanic, resulting in additional damage to their vehicle. The Complainant also advised that when they called to make a complaint, the employee they spoke with refused to take the report. The complaint was forward to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office for follow-up.

3. Monday, June 20, 2011: A complaint was received by the Office of Police Ombudsman alleged to involve Spokane Valley Sheriff's Deputies. The Complainant advised that they were handcuffed, detained, and put face down on the ground while walking home from a run. The complaint was forward to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office for follow-up

INVESTIGATIONS CERTIFIED

Between June 17, 2011 and July 14, 2011 2 investigations were certified as timely, thorough and objective:

1. Saturday, June 25, 2011: A **Demeanor** complaint was received by the Internal Affairs Unit on May 31, 2011. The complaint was assigned to a Patrol Sergeant for investigation on June 1, 2011. The Complainant alleged that an Officer was rude while issuing the Complainant a traffic citation. The Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process.
2. Saturday, June 25, 2011: An **Inadequate Response** complaint was received by the Internal Affairs Unit on April 20, 2011. The Complainant called police advising they had located their reported stolen vehicle. The Complainant advised that the police did not respond to the call for 4 or 5 hours and after responding they took no action. The vehicle had two vehicle identification numbers and was determined to be a civil matter by police. The vehicle was then reported stolen for a second time from the person in possession. The Ombudsman confirms that the investigation was completed through a timely, thorough and objective process.

DECLINED CERTIFICATIONS

There were no declined certifications during the reporting period.

INTERVIEWS

- **Internal Affairs, Officer Interviews: 11**
- **Internal Affairs Complainant Interviews: 1**
- **Internal Affairs, Witness Interviews: 3**

- **Office of Police Ombudsman, Officer Interviews: 1**
- **Office of Police Ombudsman, Complainant Interviews: 4**
- **Office of Police Ombudsman, Witness Interviews: 0**

- **Closing (Complaint Closure) Interviews: 0**

OTHER DUTIES

Critical Incident Responses: No Critical Incidents were reported/ responded to during the reporting period.

Cases Resolved Through Mediation: No complaints were resolved through the mediation process during the reporting period.

Recommendations: No recommendations were made during the reporting period

NEXT STEPS

- Recruitment of an Assistant to the Ombudsman.
- Recruitment of second student intern.
- Evaluation of Ombudsman duties in response to the July 11, 2011 Arbitrator's decision.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Tuesday, July 12, 2011: Bemiss Neighborhood Council Meeting, OPO Presentation by Assistant to Ombudsman (6p-7p)
- Wednesday, June 29, 2011: Riverside Neighborhood Council Meeting (515p-7p)
- Tuesday, June 28, 2011: Human Rights Commission Meeting, OPO Presentation (530p-730p)
- Monday, June 27, 2011: Spokane City Council Meeting (6p-730p)
- Friday, June 24, 2011: The NATIVE Project (1p-230p)
- Friday, June 24, 2011: House of Charity (9a-1030a)
- Wednesday, June 22, 2011: Neighborhoods Matter Community Café Meeting at the East Central Community Center (6p-8p)
- Tuesday, June 21, 2011: East Central Neighborhood Council Meeting, OPO Presentation (645p-930p)
- Monday, June 20, 2011: Spokane City Council Meeting, OPO Presentation regarding PSC Monthly Meeting (6p-7p)

OTHER

- Monday, July 11, 2011: A decision was issued in the matter of arbitration between the City of Spokane and the Spokane Police Guild. The arbitrator ruled that the City of Spokane violated its agreement with the Guild when it unilaterally placed into effect on July 31, 2010 Ordinance C-34609, adjusting the duties of the Office of Police Ombudsman, without bargaining the effects.
- Saturday, July 2-Monday, July 18, 2011: The Ombudsman was on vacation.
- Friday, July 1, 2011: The OPO was requested to reopen a closed Obstructing a Law Enforcement Officer and Conduct Unbecoming of an Officer complaint based on inaccurate information.
- Thursday, June 30, 2011: The OPO was requested to reopen a closed Excessive Force complaint based on additional information provided by the Complainant through the Center for Justice.
- Tuesday, June 21, 2011: A Complainant was referred to the Internal Affairs Unit due to the one-year statute of limitations on complaints received by the Office of Police Ombudsman.

2011 OVERVIEW

Complaints Received: Since January 1, 2011, **33** complaints have been received by the Office of Police Ombudsman and forwarded to Internal Affairs. The complaints include:

- 8 Demeanor
- 1 Discrimination
- 2 Excessive Force
- 5 Harassment
- 13 Inadequate Response
- 1 Perjury
- 1 Records Request/Driving
- 1 Records Request
- 1 Racial Bias

Complaints Referred: Since January 1, 2011, **14** complaints have been referred to the following agencies:

- **11** complaints have been referred to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.
- **1** complaint was referred to the Okanogan County Sheriff's Office
- **1** complaint was referred to the Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Office
- **1** complaint was referred to Crime Check

ATTACHMENTS

None