

QUARTERLY REPORT

Independent Police Review (IPR) — Citizen Review Committee (CRC)



www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/ipr

First Quarter 2014

IPR DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by *Constantin Severe, Director*



2014 marks 13 years since the creation of IPR by City Council as a civilian oversight agency of the Portland Police Bureau. While IPR's core mission of being the intake point for community member complaints and commendations about Police

Bureau officers has not changed, there has been a significant shift in IPR's role in administrative investigations and reviews.

IPR now has the ability to conduct an independent administrative investigation whether or not a community member files a complaint, an IPR representative goes to the scene of every officer-involved shooting or in-custody death to monitor the Police Bureau's policy review, an IPR representative is a voting member on the Police Review Board, and IPR has gained subpoena power.

Each of the above changes has required Council approval and has been the product of a vigorous

debate of the nature of civilian oversight of police in Portland. In order for there to be an informed debate, the City has come to recognize that members of the public need to have access to information while balancing the confidential nature of many aspects of administrative investigations. In both the Auditor's 2010 and 2014 police accountability reforms, greater transparency was an important pillar that led to a requirement there be public reports of all

cases that go before the Police Review Board and that all Police Bureau fact finders use a discipline guide, available to the public, when an officer is facing corrective action.

As IPR further evolves with the implementation of the DOJ agreement, I'm looking forward to engaging with the community on the next steps of police oversight in Portland.

CRC CHAIR'S REPORT

by *F.G. (Jamie) Troy II, Chair*



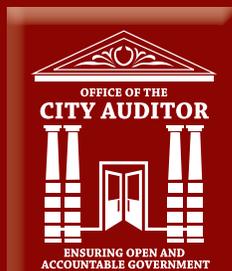
The first quarter of 2014 flew by. During our January meeting, the Committee doubled its efforts to ensure appeals are processed in a timely manner. We conducted an Appeal Hearing on one appeal and a Case File Review for a separate appeal both in our first meeting of the year. At the end of the appeal, the committee unanimously voted to challenge PPB, recommending the officer accused of unprofessional conduct while off duty be exonerated as it was clear to the Committee that the officer investigated was not the same person accused of this conduct. The Police Bureau later agreed.

In the Appeal Hearing held at our February meeting, we learned that medical records had been released to PPB as part of their investigation, but somehow had not been received. The appellant had copies of these records with him. There was also concern that some allegations had been investigated in relation to the wrong involved officer and that at least one obvious allegation had not

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OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR

The City Auditor's division of the Independent Police Review receives and screens complaints about officers of the Portland Police Bureau. IPR may dismiss, mediate, investigate, or refer complaints to the Police Bureau. IPR analyzes complaint patterns, conducts policy reviews, as well as oversees investigations.



INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW

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CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE

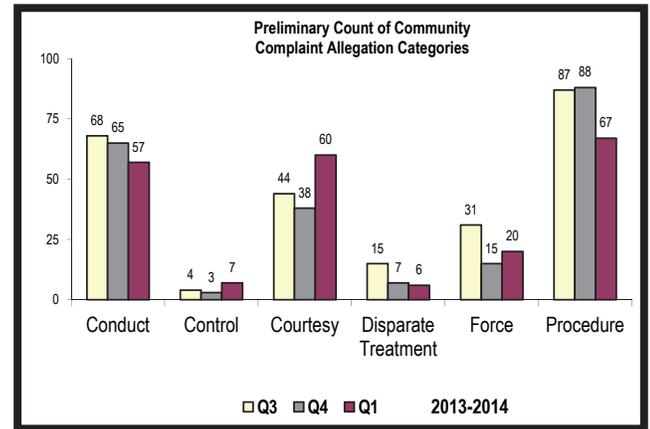
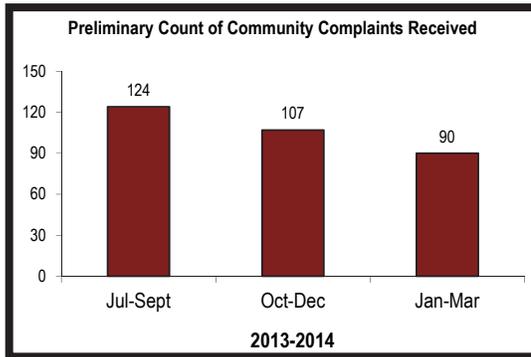
Community Oversight of Portland Police Bureau

As community volunteers, the nine members of the Citizen Review Committee are appointed by Portland to monitor and advise IPR, hear appeals, and receive public concerns.

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CASE STATISTICS

IPR records and tracks all community complaints. The following charts show the number of complaints received and the total allegations in each complaint category over the past three quarters. Most complaints contain multiple allegations, each classified and tracked separately, so allegations outnumber new cases.



IPR randomly selects a few new community complaints, completed investigations, and officer commendations from the reporting period to provide examples for the following sections.

NEW CASES

- A man called IPR to report that an officer had been rude to him during a traffic stop in outer SE Portland.

Status: IPR dismissed the complaint as minor with limited evidence, but forwarded the concern on to the officer's precinct commander for follow-up.

- An officer separated two men involved in a minor scuffle. He asked a few questions of each of the men and released them. Afterwards, one of the men complained that he had been assaulted, had stated that to the officer, and received an inadequate response and investigation.

Status: Handled as a Service Improvement Opportunity.

- A man was sick and 'shut in' for several days, but was annoyed when two officers came by to perform a welfare check at the apartment manager's request.

Status: IPR dismissed the complaint as the officers did not appear to engage in any misconduct. The evidence shows they were dispatched to the scene, do not force entry, and left quickly after finding the man was not in danger. The complainant's frustrations mostly involve the apartment manager.

MEDIATIONS

Mediation allows community members and officers to voluntarily come together to discuss their concerns in a respectful, constructive manner; an impartial, professional mediator facilitates the session. Both parties are heard in a confidential and neutral setting with the goal of gaining a better understanding of one another's perspective about the incident.

Unfortunately, no cases were mediated in the first quarter of 2014. One case 'fell out' of the process as either the complainant or involved officer declined participation. Such cases are returned to IPR for a new case-handling decision.

INVESTIGATED CASES

Senior Police Bureau management reviewed 22 completed misconduct investigations during the quarter. Many of the complaints involved more than one officer and alleged several acts of misconduct.

Commanders recommended at least one sustained finding in 13 of the 22 cases, and suggested an officer debrief in six of the nine 'non-sustained' cases.

INVESTIGATED CASE EXAMPLE AND FINDINGS

■ EXAMPLE:

Two officers were off duty and exploring sites in downtown Portland with their families when a man confronted and taunted them. The officers pursued the man, used physical force to stop him, and detained him until on-duty officers could arrive and make an arrest. Both officers are now facing discipline as the Review Board voted that they violated policies on the use of force and off-duty responsibilities.

COMMENDATIONS

A downtown office worker wrote to commend four officers who responded to call regarding a distressed woman who had wandered in with a knife and was making threats. They were able to calm the woman and resolve the situation without incident.

A man was very impressed with the patience and compassion displayed by two officers conducting a welfare check on a neighboring apartment unit.

A couple in NW Portland wrote to acknowledge the professional service they received from two officers who responded to conduct a hit-and-run investigation.



Panel discussion at the City Club of Portland in February 2014. Pictured are (left to right): Portland State University Professor Dr. Brian Renauer (moderator), IPR Director Constantin Severe, Portland City Auditor LaVonne Griffin-Valade, and Portland Police Chief Michael Reese.

CRC WORKGROUPS

Use of Deadly Force

Use of Deadly Force Workgroup is reviewing the Police Bureau's policies and training regarding the highest levels of physical force. The Workgroup met once during the first quarter and has a meeting planned with Project Respond in April.

Crowd Control

The Crowd Control Workgroup began assembling information and feedback received from community members and experts into a report on the crowd control policies and tactics of the Police Bureau.

Outreach

CRC member Rochelle Silver served on the Outreach Workgroup for five years. IPR would like to thank her for her service on the CRC and on the Outreach Workgroup. The Outreach Workgroup is reenergizing with new CRC members and planning a forum for later in the year.

Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion

The Recruitment, Retention and Promotion Workgroup is reviewing the Police Bureau's policies and procedures in those critical personnel areas. The Workgroup is currently on hold pending additional members.

Recurring Audit

The Recurring Audit Workgroup is completing a report on the handling of complaints dismissed by IPR. The Workgroup did not meet during the first quarter.

IPR OUTREACH UPDATES



Irene Konev

IPR OUTREACH UPDATES

April was volunteer appreciation month and IPR staff would like to thank CRC members for their volunteerism in civilian police oversight.

During the quarter, networking took place at the following:

- PDX Women in IT
- Gang Violence Task Force Meeting
- Portland Connect
- Fix-it Fair
- Multiple Chambers of Commerce Mega Mixer
- Race Talks
- Center for Intercultural Organizing
- 2014 Annual Governing for Racial Equity Conference
- Slavic Advisory Council
- Leadership, Cultural Identity and Professional Empowerment Women's Conference

Welcome New CRC Members

City Council appointed five new CRC members (to three-year terms): Bridget Donegan, David Green, Mae Wilson, Jean E. Tuller, and James Young. The City is very fortunate to have such a diverse and enthusiastic group of community members willing to serve on CRC.

IPR Staff Training

In commitment to ongoing equity/diversity training, IPR staff received a 90-minute Transgender 101 training presented by the staff of Basic Rights Oregon.

CRC/PRB training sessions

The Professional Standard Division facilitated a series of training sessions each Thursday from January 16th to February 20th. The training was aimed at providing Police Review Board (PRB) members with the necessary information and background to serve on the PRB. As a result of the DOJ settlement agreement and the recent code changes, CRC members will

serve as rotating PRB members in use of force cases. Videos of the training can be found online at: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/322489>

IPR Announces New Review

IPR is conducting a review of PPB's policy and procedures regarding its interactions with hip hop events and venues. IPR staff is gathering feedback from community members. Once the review is complete, a report will be drafted and made available to the public.

CHAIR'S REPORT

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been investigated. The Committee voted for additional investigation and returned the matter for those issues to be addressed. We later provided written thoughts on allegations to be investigated. We also voted to hold a Conference Hearing in March on an appeal conducted months ago for which we had not yet received a response from Chief Reese.

As part of our ongoing outreach efforts, we held our March meeting at the Multnomah Arts Center in SW Portland. We welcomed five new members to the committee. PPB was not prepared to conduct the Conference Hearing, so that agenda item was postponed. We discussed various aspects of the DOJ settlement agreement and our renewed efforts to modify the agreement to allow more time for our appeals. We also discussed updates about gaining remote access to PPB files for our hearings.

It has been my great honor to chair CRC these past three years, but the time has come for new leadership. I chose not to seek re-election, but look forward to continuing my work with this great group of dedicated folks.

CRC Public Meetings Schedule

CRC meetings are held at 5:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month either in City Hall or at various locations in the community. Check our website for more details.