

QUARTERLY REPORT

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



www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/ipr

Second Quarter 2014

IPR DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by *Constantin Severe, Director*



One of the pillars of police accountability is engaged community involvement. In Portland one of the bridges between the wider community and the City's oversight structure is the Citizen Review Committee (CRC). CRC serves as an advisory

body to IPR and the Chief of Police and its members are appointed by City Council. The Committee was recently expanded to 11 members to allow CRC members to serve on a rotating basis on use of force cases heard by the Police Review Board. One of the most important tasks of CRC is to hear appeals of investigated community complaints of officer misconduct. Significantly, all CRC meetings are open to members of the public.

Over the next several months, IPR will be recruiting new CRC members to serve three-year terms. We are actively seeking new

members who are representative of Portland's diversity, open-minded and impartial, and willing to serve our great city. New CRC members will receive training on police procedures and relevant city code provisions.

The importance of CRC to civilian oversight of the Police Bureau cannot be overstated. CRC serving as a complaint appeals body has improved the quality of investigation and increased the transparency of the

process. Several PPB policy changes such as a prohibition on the use of profanity and the clarification of towing procedures have had their start as CRC recommendations. CRC members are currently examining issues around PPB's use of deadly force and crowd control tactics, and conducts public forums to hear from the community on policing issues.

Applications for membership on CRC will be accepted until October 30, 2014.

CRC CHAIR'S REPORT

by *Rodney Paris, Chair*



CRC had a busy and productive second quarter of 2014. Our members were busy with workgroups as well as conducting community outreach and planning two community forums to be held in partnership with Race Talks in August.

At the April 2014 meeting, CRC heard a presentation from Suzanne Hayden and Tory Campbell from the Training Advisory Committee (TAC) which is a community representative to the PPB Training Division. CRC looks forward to a close partnership with the TAC. During this monthly meeting CRC also heard a Case File Review and scheduled the appeal for the June meeting. CRC also held its annual elections and I was elected Chair, David Denecke was elected Vice-Chair, and Bridget Donegan was elected Recorder, all by unanimous vote.

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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.



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CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE

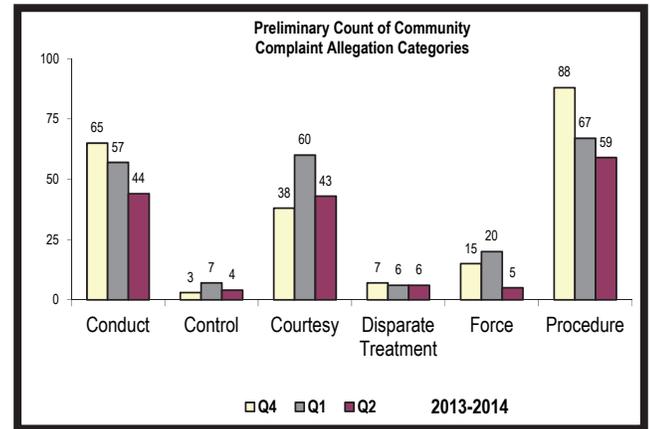
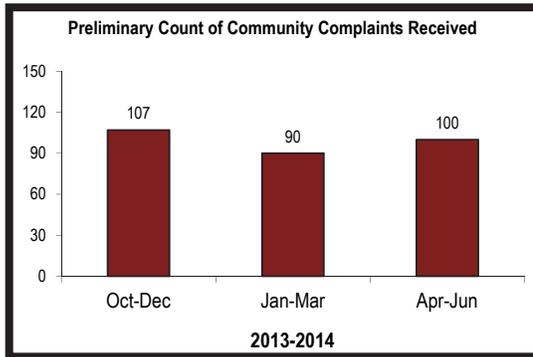
Community Oversight of Portland Police Bureau

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 woman contacted IPR to report that two officers had used excessive force to place her in the back of a patrol car and into a holding cell. Their reports describe her as combative and possibly intoxicated.

Status: IPR referred the complaint to Internal Affairs and is closely tracking the resulting investigation.

- An officer contacted a man stalled on a downtown bridge who had run out of gas. The officer apparently used profanity during their initial contact.

Status: Handled as a Service Improvement Opportunity.

- A man was upset after he was stopped and questioned by police because he loosely matched the description of a suspect. He contacted IPR quickly following what he termed a 'heated exchange'. A few

days later, he called IPR to withdraw his complaint. He said the incident was at the end of a very long day and that he did far more to escalate the situation than the officer.

Status: IPR dismissed/withdrew the complaint per the community member's request.

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.

One case was slated for mediation during the second quarter of 2014, but remains pending as of August.

INVESTIGATED CASES

Senior Police Bureau management reviewed 15 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 12 of the 15 cases, and suggested an officer debrief in all three 'non-sustained' cases.

INVESTIGATED CASE EXAMPLE AND FINDINGS

■ EXAMPLE:

The facilitator of a small, citywide training course was trying to cue the end of a break and start to a new session. She asked if someone could whistle loudly, or otherwise get the group's attention. An officer in attendance decided to activate his Taser as an audible signal, which many felt was out of line. The investigation resulted in sustained findings and minor discipline is pending.

COMMENDATIONS

Campus personnel wrote to commend officers who were able to intercept a distraught man in possession of two guns en route to a community college campus. The officers worked closely with the college staff and resolved the situation without incident.

Management at East Precinct were commended for their close work with the community and engaging presentations.

A woman wrote to commend a female officer who was very helpful, comforting, and supportive as she assisted her in completing a police report in the lobby of a precinct.



CRC members and City staff hear testimony from Latoya Harris at the May 2014 meeting. Photo by David Nguyen, IPR staff.

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 with Project Respond and a Deputy City Attorney who advises the Police Bureau during the second quarter and has a meeting planned at OHSU in early August.

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

The Outreach Workgroup planned CRC-Race Talks community public forums on community policing with the founder of Race Talks, Donna Maxey. The two forums are to be held at Jefferson High School and McMenamins Kennedy School in early August. CRC also promoted the CRC meeting at the Q Center.

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.

IPR OUTREACH UPDATES



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IPR OUTREACH UPDATES

During the quarter, networking took place at the following:

- 4th Annual Rob Ingram Youth Summit Against Violence
- Community Forum on Child Sex Trafficking
- Gang Violence Task Force Meeting
- Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center
- North Portland Public Safety Action Committee Meeting
- Mexican Consulate
- Say Hey Northwest
- Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce Annual Celebration
- East Portland Rotary Club
- Portland Pride Kick-Off Celebration
- Portland Police Memorial Ceremony
- Latino Conference Familias en Accion
- Slavic Advisory Council
- Oregon Area Jewish Committee Networking Event

Citizen Review Committee Recruitment

The 2014 CRC applications are available online and applications are now being accepted for three-year terms. Applications are due at the IPR office on Thursday October 30th at 5:00 pm. Applications are found on our website at: <http://www.portlandonline.com/Auditor/Index.cfm?c=27069&a=495050>

CRC Meetings in the Community

Once every quarter CRC meetings take place in the community, instead of City Hall. To promote the CRC meeting at the Q Center, IPR staff made specific outreach in North Portland, and made in-person contact with community members, business owners, and posted flyers at community centers, businesses, coffee shops, non-profit organizations, and at the Gang Violence Task Force Meeting.

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. IPR staff also attended a training on managing stressful situations when working with the public.

CHAIR'S REPORT

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The May meeting included my discussion of a ride-along I did with the PPB and the valuable insight it provided into police operation and issues they face. CRC also facilitated a discussion regarding PPB policy on the arrest and booking of minor children. The Committee formed a small group "strike force" to monitor PPB efforts in reviewing current policy in this area and report back to the broader committee periodically.

The June meeting was held at the Q Center on North Mississippi Avenue. This is part of the CRC's ongoing efforts to hold meetings in various Portland neighborhoods and gain more community participation and input. At this meeting, CRC heard from Capt. David Famous and Stephanie Prybyl of the PPB regarding the bureau's directive revision workgroup which is doing a comprehensive review of bureau directives. CRC also heard and voted on an appeal at this meeting and scheduled a Case File Review for the July meeting.

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.