



IPR Quarterly

Volume 1, Issue 1, Fall 2005

The Independent Police Review and Citizen Review Committee

IPR News



(left to right) Hank Miggins, CRC chair, with City Auditor Gary Blackmer

New IPR Director

Leslie Stevens replaced Richard Rosenthal as Director of the Independent Police Review (IPR) in July. Director Stevens came to IPR from the City of Salem, where she was an Assistant City Attorney experienced with local government, criminal prosecution, civil rights, labor and employment issues, and police issues generally.

Possessed of an upbeat personality, she has focused initially on building good working relationships with stakeholders, with an open door policy and good lines of communication.

Officer-Involved Shooting Report Released

In September, the IPR released the First Follow-up Report to the 2003 report on Portland Police Bureau (PPB) officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths.

The 2003 report made 89 recommendations for changes in the Portland Police Bureau's deadly force policies, tactics, and investigation and review practices. The 2005 report examined how the PPB responded to 28 of the 89 recommendations for changes.

The review found the PPB, under Chief Derrick Foxworth, has responded very positively to most of the 28 recommendations examined in this report. The PPB adopted several progressive policies on deadly force (for example, against fleeing felons, and firing at or from a moving vehicle). New recommendations this year involved policies for getting resistant people out of vehicles, and obtaining timely medical aid for those wounded in deadly force incidents.

To obtain copies of the reports or more information, go to the IPR website at www.portlandonline.com/auditor/ipr, or visit the IPR office in City Hall.

Welcome to Our First Issue!

The Independent Police Review and the Citizen Review Committee (CRC) work together to ensure police accountability to the public and provide the opportunity for fair resolution of complaints against the police. The goal of this publication is to keep the community and interested professionals informed about the work we do. We invite your questions, comments and suggestions.

Who We Are

The Independent Police Review is an independent, impartial oversight agency under the authority of the elected City Auditor. IPR staff receive commendations and complaints against PPB officers. We conduct preliminary investigations and monitor the handling of complaints. We maintain a database of all complaints for tracking and analysis, conduct policy reviews, and have one of the most active citizen-police mediation programs in the nation.

The Citizen Review Committee (CRC) is a group of nine citizen volunteers appointed by Portland City Council to hear concerns about police services, help IPR identify patterns of problems and develop policy recommendations, review how IPR handles complaints, and hear appeals of IAD investigative findings.

Together, IPR and the CRC work to improve police accountability to the public and ensure that action is taken to address complaints about police activities; that complainants and officers have an opportunity to appeal the results of investigations; and that policy recommendations are made to the PPB to help prevent recurrence of identified problems.

*Independent Police Review
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Room 320
Portland, Oregon 97204*

*Tel: 503 823-0146
Fax: 503 823-3530
www.portlandonline.com/auditor/ipr*

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Citizen Review Committee News

A word from the CRC Chair

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the IPR Quarterly, another step to keep the community up to date on the work we are doing in your name. We encourage you to join us at our public meetings, invite us to yours, and contact us or the IPR with questions and concerns. You may also contact me directly at 503 289-5626.

— *Hank Miggins, CRC Chair*



CRC meeting in Fire Station #12, Northeast Portland in August

2005 CRC Recruitment

The City is recruiting volunteers to serve on the Citizen Review Committee. The nine members of the CRC serve two-year terms, four of which end in December 2005. There is also one position currently vacant.

The duties of the CRC include making objective and impartial decisions in appeals of complaint investigative findings, participating on the Police Bureau's Use of Force and Performance Review Boards, attending mandatory orientation and training, advising on complaint handling, working with IPR staff on policy reviews, and gathering community concerns in public meetings.

Candidates must be Portland residents or business owners, who lack real or perceived conflicts of interest, and must be able to make a substantial time commitment, including monthly evening meetings of several hours. Members must also pass a criminal background check.

The application period has been extended beyond the original deadline of November 21, 2005, at least through December 15, 2005. They are available online on the IPR web-site at www.portlandonline.com/auditor/ipr.

If you are interested in applying or would like more information, call Michael Hess, IPR Deputy Director, at 503 823-0146.

Appeals to the CRC

Citizens and officers dissatisfied with the findings of complaint investigations may appeal to the IPR and CRC. Two new requests for appeals were filed in the third quarter. The CRC also heard the appeal of a complex case filed in the second quarter, with 14 allegations arising out of a domestic violence case. The complainant, who was the victim in the case, alleged that officers conducted an improper search, used profanity and unnecessary force, and made unnecessary threats. The Bureau sustained the improper search allegation. The CRC voted to challenge one of the PPB findings and affirm the others.

CRC workgroups

** Reviewing IPR Mediation Cases*

The CRC regularly reviews IPR cases for quality control. One CRC workgroup is reviewing IPR mediation cases to evaluate whether the cases were appropriate for mediation, there was proper disclosure to participants, and parties were satisfied with the outcomes and process. The review is expected to take six months.

** Improving CRC Appeal Process*

Another CRC workgroup is looking for ways to make the appeal hearing process more satisfying to participants. The workgroup reviewed processes of other agencies, sought public input and advice from dispute resolution professionals, and is now fine-tuning final recommendations.

** Creating a Community Advisory Council*

This workgroup is considering creation of a new advisory body to the IPR and CRC, to encourage broad public involvement, and ensure input from a range of community perspectives.

** Identifying Policy Issues for Review*

The task of this workgroup is to identify potential PPB policies for review and recommendations.

CRC in North/Northeast Portland

The CRC met at the Albina Youth Opportunity School in North Portland on November 15, 2005. Our special guest was Mr. Roy Jay, speaking about Project Clean Slate, a program offering people an opportunity to clear outstanding warrants. The public was encouraged to attend and provide community input and discussion with the CRC during the first half of the meeting.

The CRC holds meetings in various parts of the city on a regular basis, in order to be more accessible to the community. In January 2006, the CRC will be meeting in St. John's.

Oversight Report

The following charts show the number of complaints received and closed, the number of allegations in each complaint category, and the number of new appeals based upon data from the quarter before last. **Readers are advised that these data may not represent the final figures for each month. Data are audited at the end of the year, therefore annual totals may vary.**

Case Descriptions from the Second Quarter

To give the community a sense of the kinds of complaints we receive, IPR used statistical software to randomly select one complaint and one commendation from each month in the previous quarter.

Citizen Complaints

The 14-year-old complainant was detained by store security for shoplifting. When police arrived, they handcuffed the complainant and took her to the Justice Center where she was placed in a holding cell, fingerprinted, and photographed. The complainant felt the police put the handcuffs on too tightly, and that being photographed and fingerprinted was inappropriate because of her age.

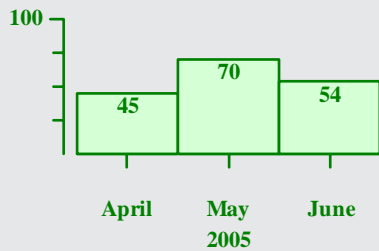
The complainant called the Telephone Reporting Unit to complain about a “scam” operating in her neighborhood. The female officer who answered the phone was rude, refused to identify herself, and hung up on the complainant.

The complainant was drinking alcohol with his friends when he was assaulted by a stranger. The complainant saw a passing police officer and “flagged him down.” Two additional officers were summoned to assist the first officer. The complainant had multiple complaints: that the two responding officers used profanity, failed to take further action to find his assailant, and used unnecessary force to escort him to the Hooper Detoxification Center.

Commendations:

A mother commended an officer for using an “emergency mental commitment” to help her son receive treatment and rehabilitation services. The mother was worried about her son’s increasingly

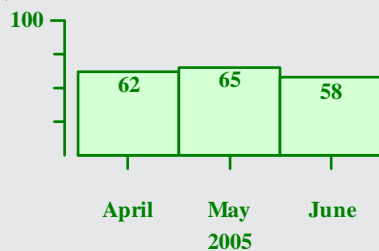
Preliminary Count of New Complaints Received Second Quarter 2005



IPR records and tracks all citizen-initiated complaints. During the second quarter of 2005, IPR received approximately 169 new citizen-initiated complaint cases and closed approximately 185 cases. May was the busiest month for opening new cases.

Of the new cases received, many were complaints about police conduct and procedural violations. Police conduct accounted for approxi-

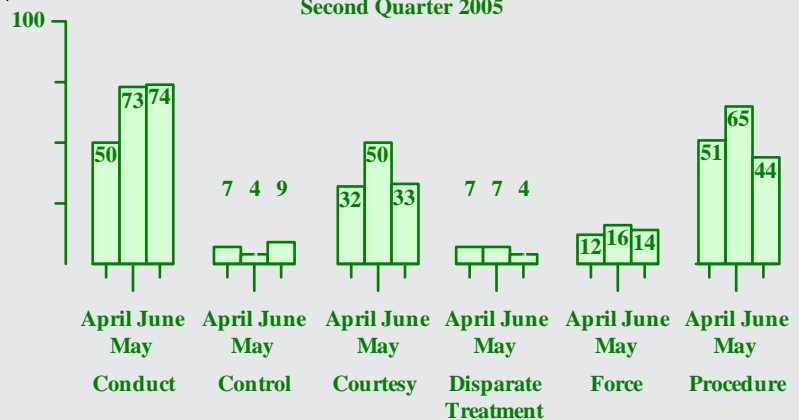
Preliminary Count of Complaints Closed Second Quarter 2005



mately 197 allegations. Police procedure accounted for approximately 160 allegations.

The IPR received three requests for appeals of investigative findings in the second quarter.

Preliminary Count of Complaint Categories for All Citizen Complaints Received Second Quarter 2005



Other News

City Auditor Finds Low Clearance Rates for Police Investigations

In July 2005, City Auditor Gary Blackmer released an audit report finding that, compared to similarly-sized cities, Portland detectives' rate of clearance ("solving" cases) for serious person crimes (murder, rape, aggravated assault, and burglary) ranks in the bottom half. While Portland has a small number of detectives, each with a high caseload, the report suggests more detectives might not ensure a higher clearance rate without also improving the case management system, establishing clearer investigative objectives and standards, and providing detectives with adequate resources. The full report is online at www.portlandonline.com/auditor.

A New IAD Captain

Best wishes to Rod Beard, former Captain of the Internal Affairs Division (IAD). He has accepted a promotion to Commander assigned to the Detective Division. And welcome to the new Captain of IAD, Captain John Tellis. Captain Tellis was previously assigned to the Chief's Office. The IAD Captain meets regularly with the IPR Director to discuss issues and cases.

Other Community Resources

ONI Crime Prevention Program

October was National Crime Prevention Month, but prevention is the year-round job of the Neighborhood Crime Prevention program of the City's Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI). Staff work with community and police partners to address neighborhood livability issues, including prostitution, drug houses, gang activity, prisoner re-entry, graffiti, problem drinking establishments, car prowls, and burglaries. Recently, they helped mobilize the community to assist police in the "Tired of Tweakers" anti-meth initiative. ONI honored community volunteers in October. For more information, check out their website at <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni>.

CRC Public Meeting Schedule

12/20/05 5:30 pm	City Hall, 1221 SW 4 th Avenue Lovejoy Room 2 nd Floor
1/17/06 5:30 pm	St. John's Community Center 8427 N Central Avenue

erratic and "combative" behavior. He believed people were "coming out of the walls," and that "little men in his head" were telling him to do things to himself and others. The mother feared that something would happen to her son, or that her son would harm others, so she was thankful for the officer's help and concern.

A social worker at a local hospital emergency department commended an officer for helping an elderly gentleman with an "acute mental illness." The man was from San Diego and was taken to the emergency room for an assessment. The officer showed "genuine care and concern." The officer "followed-up with a phone call later that day, and then offered to assist in getting the man to the airport the following day." The man's family was "deeply grateful and expressed how much they appreciated that their brother was treated with respect and kindness."

Seven officers received commendations for arresting a suspect on burglary, kidnapping, and domestic violence assault charges. The officers responded to a disturbance call, but when they arrived at the scene, the mother of the suspect claimed it was "just a verbal argument and no one was hurt." While talking to the mother, officers learned that the suspect had fled to another location. The officers went to this second location and discovered that the suspect had broken into a residence, and had assaulted and kidnapped a woman. The suspect fled on foot, but police were able to apprehend him.

Calls for Assistance Received by IPR

Call volume is up considerably in 2005. In the Third quarter of 2005, IPR received 709 phone calls, for a total of 2,424 calls for the year so far. By comparison, in 2004 the IPR received 1,975 phone calls through the entire year.

2005 IPR Mediations to Date

The IPR Mediation Program is a national model that provides the opportunity for citizens and officers to meet face to face, and to discuss and resolve their issues directly with each other with the help of professional mediators. Mediation is an alternative to the disciplinary process, where the matter is handled entirely by third parties.

The IPR Mediation Program received 41 mediation cases and mediated 21 in the first three quarters of 2005. By comparison, 49 cases had been assigned for mediation and 26 mediated in the first three quarters of 2004.

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