

## Independent Police Review Division

The mission of the City Auditor's Office is to promote open and accountable government by providing independent and impartial reviews, public access to information, and service for city government and the public. In an effort to improve police accountability, and promote higher standards of police services, the Portland City Council created the Independent Police Review Division (IPR) within the Auditor's Office and the Citizen Review Committee (CRC).

### The IPR's powers and duties include:

- Receiving, tracking, monitoring, investigating, and reporting on the disposition of citizen complaints against members of the Portland Police Bureau (PPB). Explaining appeal options to complainants and scheduling hearings before the CRC and Council.
- Distributing complaint forms in languages and formats accessible to citizens, educating them on the importance of reporting complaints, and holding public meetings to hear general concerns about police services.
- Recommending policy changes to the Chief.
- Hiring an expert to review closed investigations pertaining to officer-involved shootings and deaths in custody on an ongoing basis.

### The CRC's powers and duties include:

- Conducting public meetings.
- Participating in community meetings to hear concerns about police services.
- Helping the IPR Director identify specific patterns of problems and participating in the development of policy recommendations.
- Reviewing methods for handling complaints and advise on criteria for dismissal, mediation, and investigation.
- Hearing appeals of investigation conclusions.
- Advising and assisting the IPR Director to disseminate information about IPR and Committee activities.



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For a full version of the report:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/ipr>

The Portland  
Police Bureau:  
Officer-involved  
Shootings and  
In-custody Deaths

Prepared by  
the Police  
Assessment  
Resource  
Center

For the  
Independent  
Police Review  
Division

PARC Report  
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EXECUTIVE  
SUMMARY



## Executive Summary

In the second follow-up report to its 2003 Report on Portland Police Bureau (“PPB”) officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths, the Police Assessment Resource Center (“PARC”) examines how the PPB has responded to certain recommendations in the 2003 Report and also reviews 10 officer-involved shootings that occurred in 2002 and 2003.

In an effort to ensure that the PPB’s policies and practices relating to officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths were up-to-date and consistent with good practice, the Independent Police Review Division of the Office of the Portland City Auditor retained PARC in 2002 to examine those policies and practices. PARC’s original report made 89 recommendations for changes in the PPB’s deadly force policies, investigation and review procedures and practices, tactics, and information management. Our First Follow-Up Report in 2005 looked at the PPB’s and City’s responses to 28 of the original 89 recommendations.

This Second Follow-Up Report finds that the Police Bureau, under the leadership of both current Chief Rosie Sizer and former Chief Derrick Foxworth, has responded very positively to most of the 25 recommendations examined this year. Those 25 recommendations involved the PPB’s internal processes for reviewing officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths and the Bureau’s management of records and information. Moreover, Chief Sizer has indicated a laudable willingness to further consider the possibility of implementing a good number of the relatively few of PARC’s recommendations relating to the review process that have not thus far been adopted by the PPB. With several changes that the Chief has said will be studied, the PPB’s already-vastly-improved review process would be fully in accord with national good practices.

Much of this report is devoted to the policies and procedures of the PPB’s new Use of Force Review Board which provides the Bureau with an effective and credible review process to identify and learn the appropriate lessons from officer-involved shooting and in-custody death incidents. The review process, which was formerly conducted solely by members of the PPB’s command staff, now includes two civilians and two Bureau peers among the nine members for the board. Presentations to the new board are far more complete and rigorous than was the case under the former process. Procedures have been implemented to ensure that all cases that should be reviewed are in fact reviewed. Training needs and other lessons are routinely identified in the current creditable review process.

As anticipated, our examination of the 10 officer-involved shooting incidents from 2002 and 2003 (only one of which post-dated our original report) raised many of the same issues we identified in the 2003 and 2005 reports. Nonetheless, we do briefly note some of the major tactical and quality of investigation issues raised by those cases.

Our Third Follow-Up Report, to be issued in 2008, will examine the PPB’s progress on the remaining 36 recommendations from the original report, which deal with tactical and risk management issues and the quality of deadly force investigations, in the context of the files from the officer-involved shootings that occurred in 2004 and 2005—after the release of the original PARC Report.

PARC values its continued long-term working relationship with the Portland community and the PPB, together seeking to improve the Bureau’s policies, procedures, and practices relating to the awesome power of the police to use deadly force.

## Police Assessment Resource Center

The **Police Assessment Resource Center (PARC)**, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to strengthening effective, respectful, and publicly accountable policing. PARC serves as an “honest broker,” working in cooperation with law enforcement executives, civic and government officials, civilian oversight professionals, and other interested constituencies to improve police performance. Based in Los Angeles and New York, PARC provides direct services to jurisdictions throughout the United States and serves as a national resource center specializing in the formulation and dissemination of model policies and procedures to manage and reduce the risk of police misconduct.

Through its direct services, PARC assists officials in individual jurisdictions as they develop and strengthen oversight systems. PARC conducts reviews of police policies and practices; evaluates external and internal oversight mechanisms; collects and analyzes relevant data; performs accountability audits; and helps police leaders develop and implement management strategies that promote accountability.

As a national resource center, PARC performs research on issues of concern among law enforcement professionals and community members, and provides guidance regarding policing practices and oversight of the police. PARC publishes a monthly newsletter, *Police Practices Review*; maintains an informational website; sponsors forums on issues and trends in the field of policing; conducts and publishes independent research on emerging issues and enduring challenges in policing; and catalogues model policies and procedures.