

# QUARTERLY REPORT

INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW AND CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE



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THIRD QUARTER 2010

## IPR DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Mary-Beth Baptista, Director

I was pleased to present the Citizen Review Committee (CRC) Report on the Structure of the Independent Police Review (IPR) division to City Council with CRC Chair Michael Bigham and former CRC member Mark Johnson Roberts in July. This event represented about two years of hard work and is yet another example of positive outcomes achieved through IPR and CRC collaboration. City Auditor LaVonne Griffin-Valade and representatives from the Office of Independent Review (OIR Group, the outside experts hired by the Auditor to review the closed investigations regarding the 2006 in-custody death of James Chasse, Jr.) also presented their report to Council. The discussion focused on the Portland Police Bureau's (Police Bureau) investigations of the events surrounding Mr. Chasse's death and substantive recommendations for change.

IPR and the Police Bureau have been working to ensure that the recently reported changes to the IPR Ordinance are being fully implemented. One of the changes involves the creation of the Police Review Board (Board), which serves as an advisory board to the Chief of Police (it replaced the Performance

Review Boards and the Use of Force Boards). The Police Bureau's selection committee (a community member and peer member who served on the former Boards, a Commander, and I) chose three facilitators for the Board. The Auditor, an IPR staff member, and a Lieutenant interviewed community members to serve two-year terms on the Board. Selected volunteers were then approved by Council.

Several members of IPR staff, CRC members, and I attended meetings of the Police Oversight Stakeholder Committee. The stakeholders worked for several months to examine IPR and CRC powers and duties, and make recommendations for improvement.

## CRC CHAIR'S REPORT

by Michael Bigham, Chair



CRC heard one appeal and supported the Police Bureau on all findings for case 2009-X-0007. Although the number of appeals declined during the third quarter, CRC members found themselves very busy.

Lieutenant Robert King from the Police Bureau Training Division made a presentation to the Citizen Review Committee members about upcoming training for them and the Police Review Board members.

Outreach efforts centered on meetings with community groups and planning for our second public forum. CRC members' outreach included: Ayoob Ramjan and Lewellyn Robison met with the National Association of Colored People; and Rochelle Silver and Loren Eriksson met with the Oregon Native American Chamber. In addition, the Outreach Workgroup members finalized arrangements for the community public forum — to be held on October 28 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Kaiser Town Hall (3704 North Interstate Avenue, Portland, OR 97227).

On July 15, IPR Analyst Derek Reinke and I presented the Police Assessment Resource Center (PARC) report to Council. On July 29, Rochelle Silver and I commented to Council on the release of the OIR report regarding the death of James Chasse, Jr.

CRC Vice-chair Jamie Troy and I participated in the Police Oversight Stakeholder Committee which issued its final report on September 21.

### OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR

*The City Auditor's division of the Independent Police Review (IPR) 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

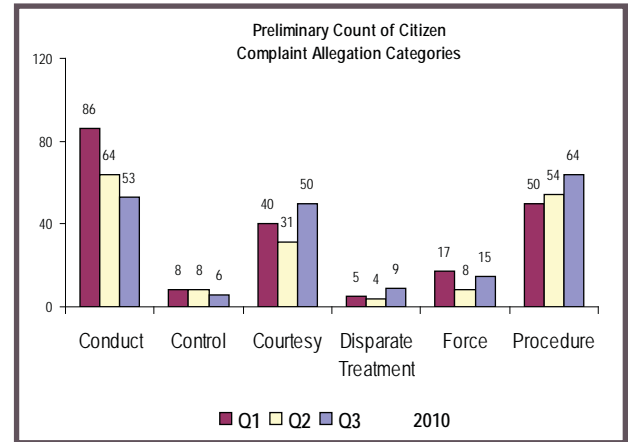
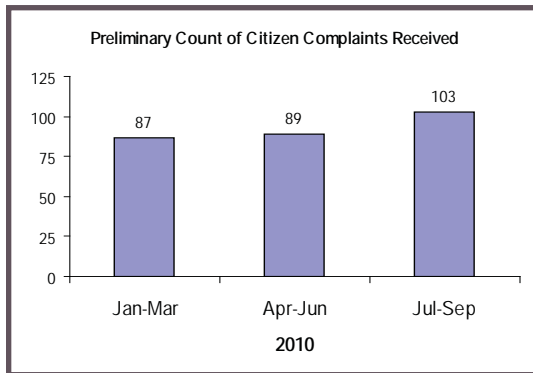
*Community Oversight of Portland Police Bureau*

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

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## CASE STATISTICS

IPR records and tracks all citizen-initiated 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 citizen complaints, completed investigations, and community commendations from the reporting period to provide examples for the following sections.

## NEW CASES

- A woman videotaped an argument that her neighbors were having in front of her house. When the involved parties realized that they were being videotaped the situation escalated and 911 was called. Upon arrival, the involved officer contacted both parties. The woman stated the officer said that filming her neighbors while they were arguing was akin to the actions of the paparazzi which made her feel like she was a "criminal."

*Status: Referred to Internal Affairs Division (IAD) as a Service Improvement Opportunity.*

- A community member reported being assaulted by several officers.

*Status: Referred to the Detectives Division for criminal investigation.*

- A mother suspected that a stranger had attempted to kidnap her child at the SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Walmart. The mother returned to her home; however, the next evening she called the police about the incident. She felt the officer who answered her call was dismissive and rude.

*Status: Referred to IAD as a Service Improvement Opportunity.*

## 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.

In the third quarter, IPR had four mediation requests. In the first case, the complainant called minutes before the mediation session was to begin and cancelled. The second case was mediated successfully and the other two cases are scheduled for mediation in the next quarter. A case from the second quarter was also mediated in this quarter.



Left to right: Michael Bigham (CRC Chair) and Derek Reinke (IPR Senior Management Analyst) presenting the PARC Report to City Council. July 2010

## INVESTIGATED CASES

Senior 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 a sustained finding for a least one allegation in nine of the 15 cases. Six of those cases were bureau-initiated and three were initiated by a community member. Additionally, commanders recommended officer debriefings in three of the six cases with all non-sustained findings.

*Examples include:*

- For a two-year time period, a Police Bureau member engaged in a relationship with a police cadet while on duty.

*Finding: Sustained.*

- A Police Bureau member was untruthful, when answering questions about his continued use of alcohol.

*Finding: Sustained*

## COMMENDATIONS

The Police Bureau receives commendations – thanking specific officers for their exemplary work. Copies of a commendation are sent to the officer and his/her supervisor, and are retained in the officer's history file.

*Examples include:*

- Two officers were commended for the arrest of a juvenile gang member and the seizure of his high capacity firearm. Their initiative and commitment to proactive police work likely prevented multiple shootings.
- A woman said a person damaged her parked car and left without providing insurance information. She called for help and the officer assured her he would get the problem solved, which he did. She expressed that the Police Bureau is organized, keeps its word, and handles even small incidents with professionalism.



*The City Auditor, IPR staff members, CRC members, and Portland Police Bureau staff members (along with Portland community members, other interest groups, and City representatives) participated in several Police Oversight Stakeholder Committee meetings in the 2010 third quarter.*

## CRC WORKGROUPS

### 1. Appeals

The Appeals Workgroup proposed Protocol 5.11 regarding Case File Reviews was discussed, amended, and approved by the full CRC at its August 11 meeting. The Protocol was subsequently adopted by the Auditor and is now in full force and effect. The members have prepared a draft Protocol 5.03 regarding Appeals Procedures and have distributed that draft for final review in anticipation of it being voted on at the October CRC Meeting. The workgroup has approximately five more protocols to review and suggest changes on in order to complete its review and updates of all appeals related protocols.

### 2. Outreach

The Outreach Workgroup members advanced their efforts on the outreach action plan and have scheduled additional work on that plan. They continued planning for the next Community Public Forum – to be held on October 28, 2010. The summary of the previous Community Public Forum is posted on the IPR/CRC website for public viewing.

### 3. Protocol

The Protocol Workgroup was very active during the last quarter revising protocols: 5.04 Communication Guidelines; 5.07 Public Comment; 5.12 Work Group; and 5.14 Request for Reconsideration of CRC Decision. The workgroup reviewed possible changes to other protocols that may be affected by the IPR Structure Review and Bias-based Policing Workgroups' reports. Also, it is reviewing the Police Oversight Stakeholder Committee's recommendations as to what impact they may have on current protocols.

### 4. Recurring Audit

The Recurring Audit Workgroup began its case file review of 21 recently closed Service Improvement Opportunities (SIOs). The workgroup reviewed SIOs to identify any process improvements. It looked at six months of SIO data to determine if IPR and the Police Bureau were following policies when community members felt mistreated or poorly serviced by the Police Bureau. The workgroup is in the final stages of publishing its findings and recommendations to IPR, the Police Bureau, and CRC.

### 5. Taser/Less-lethal Force

The Taser/Less-lethal Force Workgroup has started reviewing case files to determine issues and trends in taser/less-lethal practices and policies. Police Bureau training personnel attended a workgroup meeting this quarter and provided members an overview of training issues. They also answered questions by workgroup members.



Left to right: F.G. (Jamie) Troy II (CRC member), Mary-Beth Baptista (IPR Director), Charles Pratt (of Calgary, Alberta), and Irene Konev (IPR Community Outreach Coordinator) — at the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Conference in Seattle, Washington. September 2010



## IPR OUTREACH UPDATES

Community Outreach Coordinator Irene Konev engaged IPR staff and CRC members in many outreach activities throughout the summer. Coordinated efforts include: presentations and connections made to Self Enhancement Inc., Immigrant Refugee Community Organization, Avel Gordley Healing Center, Albina Ministerial Alliance, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Young Women's Christian Association, Workers Rights Center, East Precinct Advisory Committee, St. Andrew's Legal Clinic, Cascadia Behavior Healthcare, and a public forum was held at the Urban League Senior Center.

Konev attended and networked at the Mentor Brokerage Fair, Say Hey Northwest, National Night Out at Fernhill Park, and attended the Grand Opening of the Gateway Center for domestic violence survivors.

She also coordinated and attended a sit along with the 911 operators — CRC members Jeff Bissonnette and Rochelle Silver participated as well.

Also, the 2010 CRC recruitment has been launched with dynamic outreach to the Portland community.

Through the World Affairs Council, IPR hosted international delegates from Latin America, China, Peru, Lesotho, Montenegro, Angola, Mozambique, Bahrain, and the Philippines to explain the powers and duties of IPR and CRC.

The continuous outreach to build strong relationships and eliminate barriers for community members has resulted in various organizations calling the IPR office for information or assistance. IPR investigators have also traveled to Portland neighborhoods to hear complaints in trusted spaces of community members.

### CRC Public Meetings Schedule

Second Wednesday Each Month  
(Subject to Change\*)

November 10	City Hall — Lovejoy Room @ 5:30 PM
December 8	City Hall — Rose Room @ 5:30 PM
January 12	City Hall — Lovejoy Room @ 5:30 PM