

IA processed 99 community complaints in 2013. Following initial assessments by IA supervisors, 46% were handled as Service Improvement Opportunities and 34% as administrative investigations.

Subject to IPR approval, IA declined to take further action on 19% for reasons explained in letters to the complaining parties.

Internal Affairs Case Assignment Decisions						
Assignment Decision	2011		2012		2013	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Service Improvement Opportunity	66	57%	65	53%	46	46%
Investigation	33	28%	40	33%	34	34%
Declined	17	15%	18	15%	19	19%
Total	116		123		99	

Officers were found to have committed at least one act of misconduct in 48% of the fully investigated community complaints reviewed in 2013.

Findings on Investigations of Community Complaints						
Completed Investigations	2011		2012		2013	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
All Non-sustained Findings	25	74%	21	55%	16	52%
One or More Sustained Findings	9	26%	17	45%	15	48%
Total	34		38		31	

The Police Bureau took corrective action against 36 officers as a result of complaints in 2013. Three additional officers resigned or retired while complaints were pending.

Discipline, Resignations, Letters, and Counseling			
Bureau or Member Action	2011	2012	2013
Termination	2	0	2
Demotion	0	1	0
Resignation or Retirement with Investigation Pending*	3	3	3
81+ Hours SWOP**	3	3	0
10-80 Hours SWOP**	7	9	7
Letter of Reprimand	5	15	7
Command Counseling	6	13	17
Total***	26	44	36

* 1 of the 9 resignations or retirements appears unrelated to the pending complaint.

** SWOP = suspension without pay

*** Counts include officers disciplined in Bureau, Community, or Tort cases only. Automobile collision reviews led to discipline for additional officers.

OUTREACH – PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

The IPR Community Outreach Coordinator (Coordinator) speaks at conferences, fairs, tabling events, chamber meetings, staff meetings, and in one-on-one conversation. CRC members also attend numerous outreach events with IPR staff. IPR offers to conduct complainant and witness interviews outside of City Hall.

The Coordinator met with leaders of African American, Hispanic/Latino, Slavic, Native American, Asian, immigrant and refugee and youth organizations – as well as leaders of groups advocating or providing homeless and mental health services. She also worked with various local chambers such as Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon.

The Coordinator and IPR host international civic leaders. In 2013, that included visitors from Moldova, France, Iraq, and various Latin American countries.

The Coordinator worked with numerous stakeholders in a culturally-inclusive recruitment that resulted in 53 applicants for the CRC and 26 new applicants for the PRB. She was recognized for her work with the Slavic/Russian-speaking Advisory Council to the Chief's Office.

OUTREACH – PUBLIC FEEDBACK

The Coordinator gathers concerns from community contacts and the IPR director publicly reports feedback at CRC meetings. These comments range from general police commendations to recommendations for improved policing. An IPR-related question on the Auditor's Annual Community Survey provides feedback as well.

Independent Police Review

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The full report and other reports produced by the Independent Police Review and the Citizen Review Committee are available on the Internet web site at: www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/ipr.

INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW

Executive Summary of the Annual Report 2013



LaVonne Griffin-Valade
City Auditor

Constantin Severe
IPR Director



Office of the City Auditor
Portland, Oregon

INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW

The Independent Police Review (IPR) is an impartial oversight agency under the authority of the independently elected City Auditor (Auditor). IPR was created to improve police accountability, promote higher standards of police services, and increase public confidence. IPR has five primary responsibilities:

- 1. COMPLAINTS AND COMMENDATIONS**
Receive community members' complaints and commendations about Portland Police Bureau (Police Bureau) officers.
- 2. ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS**
Conduct, oversee, and/or participate in administrative investigations regarding the conduct of Police Bureau officers.
- 3. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
Issue periodic reports about complaints and investigations, and recommend policy changes to reduce complaints and misconduct.
- 4. SHOOTINGS AND DEATHS**
Respond to incident scenes and participate in the policy reviews of officer-involved shootings (OIS) and non-shooting, in-custody deaths (ICD). Hire experts to review closed investigations, and report on policy and quality of investigation issues.
- 5. APPEALS**
Coordinate appeals filed by community members and officers who are dissatisfied with the outcome of administrative investigations.

Additionally, IPR conducts outreach to hear community concerns and build community trust; provides administrative and technical staff support to the Citizen Review Committee (CRC), an advisory body appointed by Portland City Council (Council); and coordinates mediations between community members and officers.

CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE

CRC was created (along with IPR) in late 2001 to help improve police accountability, promote higher standards of police services, and increase public confidence. In early 2014, Council voted to expand CRC from 9 to 11 members. These volunteers are appointed to:

- gather community concerns about police services;
- develop policy recommendations to address patterns of problems with police services and conduct;
- review and advise IPR and IA on the complaint handling process;
- and hear appeals from community members and officers, and publicly report their findings. CRC held six appeal hearings (including January 2014), challenging the Police Bureau's findings in five cases.

2013 CODE CHANGE EFFORT

In October 2013, the Auditor submitted to Council a package of police accountability reforms aimed at building upon the City's 2012 settlement agreement with the United States Department of Justice. In January 2014, Council unanimously approved the following reforms.

- 1. Changes to IPR**
 - Ability for IPR to directly interview all Police Bureau employees.
 - IPR jurisdiction over civilian supervisors of sworn Police Bureau employees.
 - Il investigations of excessive force will be subject to full and completed investigations, unless IPR has clear and convincing evidence that dismissal is warranted.
 - IPR must receive notification from the Police Bureau prior to the termination of any misconduct investigation.
- 2. Changes to CRC**
 - Expand CRC from 9 to 11 members
 - Have a rotating pool of CRC members serve on the Board for use of force cases
- 3. Post Investigation and Police Review Board (PRB) Code Changes**
 - Implement a discipline guide for Police Bureau fact finders and the PRB, when an officer is facing corrective action.
 - Recommended format for all PRB public reports, including final discipline imposed by Chief.
 - In OIS and ICD incidents, the public report will provide a more detailed public report than current practice.
 - When the Chief's and Police Commissioner's final discipline is outside of the recommended range of the discipline guide, requirement that there be an explanation provided.

COMPLAINTS

Complaints may be filed in person, by telephone, fax, mail, e-mail, or through to IPR website. Most complaints are filed by telephone. There were 409 community complaints received in 2013.

The most common allegation among community complaints in 2013 was action or assistance that complainants felt was inadequate. It was followed closely by rude behavior or language, which was most common in many previous years.

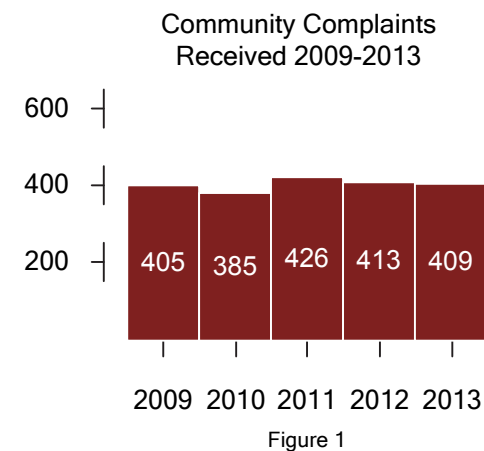


Figure 1

ALLEGATIONS OF USE OF FORCE

In 2013, 41 community or bureau complaints contained at least one allegation that an officer violated the Police Bureau's use-of-force policies.

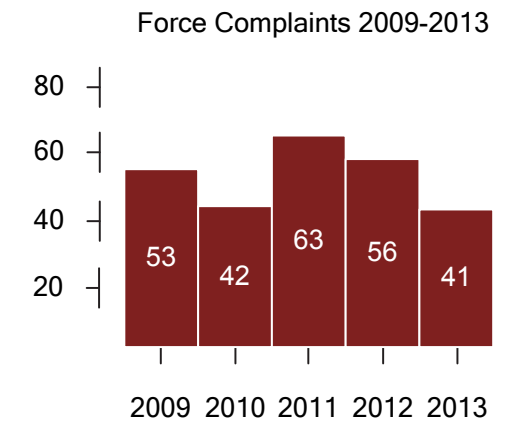


Figure 2

OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS AND IN-CUSTODY DEATHS

There were two OIS incidents in 2013 – both were fatal. An additional incident (a high-speed vehicle ramming) was similarly reviewed as a use of deadly force.

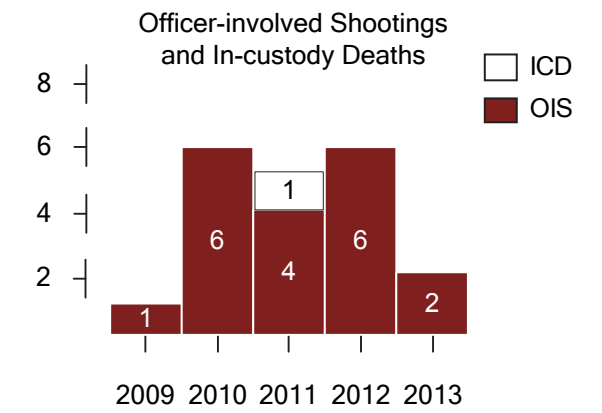


Figure 3

WHAT HAPPENS TO COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS

IPR received 409 community complaints in 2013. Following preliminary investigations, IPR referred 22% to IA. IPR dismissed 76% of the complaints reviewed; half were dismissed because the complaining parties described police conduct that was consistent with Police Bureau policy (not misconduct).

Intake Decision	2011		2012		2013	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Dismissed by IPR *	268	71%	323	77%	256	76%
Referred to IAD	102	27%	85	20%	75	22%
Pending or Completed Mediation	4	1%	6	1%	7	2%
Resolved at Intake	1	<1%	3	<1%	-	-
Referred to Other Agency	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total**	375		417		338	

* IPR subsequently referred 53 of the 256 dismissals to precinct commanders or division captains for information.

** IPR makes case-handling decisions after completing preliminary investigations. The number of decisions made in a given year will typically differ from the number of complaints received because of this lag time.