

QUARTERLY REPORT

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



www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/ipr

Third Quarter 2014

IPR DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Constantin Severe, Director



At its best government serves as a mechanism to accomplish what we as individuals cannot do by ourselves. It is with that in mind that IPR has spent the last year engaging with the community in a variety of venues to gauge what are the most pressing community

concerns when it comes to civilian oversight of police. One consistent theme has been a concern regarding the City's willingness to make needed changes.

IPR has made significant efforts to implement the changes outlined in the DOJ settlement agreement and the Auditor's 2013 police accountability reforms approved by City Council. The three investigator positions added to IPR to implement the reforms have allowed our office to conduct independent investigations for the first time in our history. Additionally, the extra resources have allowed us to conduct in depth policy reviews of systemic issues within the Police Bureau.

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.



INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW
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The expansion of the CRC to 11 members led to an expanded effort to recruit new members to the committee. Given that CRC serves as an appeal body for community complaints about police misconduct, it is important that CRC members reflect the many facets of our community. When its newest members are sworn in by Council in February, the CRC will be majority female for the first time in its history.

CRC CHAIR'S REPORT

by Rodney Paris, Chair



The CRC had a productive third quarter of 2014. Our members were busy with appeals/case file reviews, workgroups, and conducting community outreach.

At the July 2014 CRC meeting, the CRC heard a presentation from the Portland Police Behavioral Health Unit (BHU). The presentation focused on crisis intervention training for officers, the Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (ECIT) in which officers receive additional training, the Mobile Crisis Unit (MCU) which pairs officers with personnel from Project Respond, and the Service Coordination Team (SCT) which coordinates services to tackle complex issues. A Case File Review was also held at this meeting, with the appeal scheduled for August.

On August 5th and August 12th, the CRC partnered with Race Talks to hold community forums. These events were well attended and CRC received significant feedback on what citizens feel is working and what citizens feel could use improvement with regard to the Police Bureau and community policing, among other issues.

The August 2014 CRC meeting was focused on a citizen appeal and the CRC voted to challenge the bureau's finding on one of the allegations. That challenge was sent on to Chief Reese for review and a Conference Hearing will be held between the CRC and the Chief, or the Chief's delegate, at the November CRC meeting.

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CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE

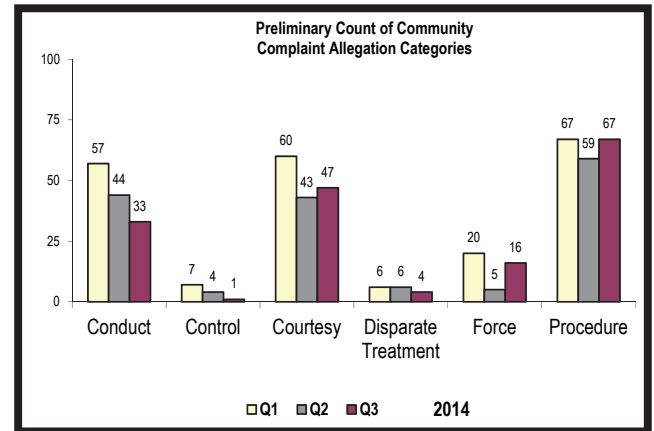
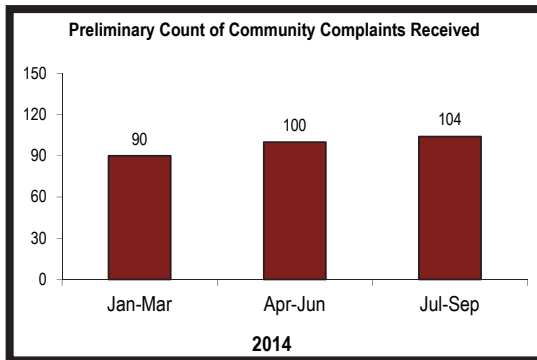
Community Oversight of Portland Police Bureau

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 e-mailed IPR upset about ‘condescending’ police response during a domestic situation (a dispute over rent between the woman and her sister). The IPR investigator reviewed audio from two 9-1-1 calls, checked the police reports, interviewed the sister, and made several attempts to contact the woman for an interview.

Status: *IPR dismissed the complaint as it determined it was quite unlikely that misconduct occurred and the original complainant was not following through.*

- An officer accompanied a woman on a civil standby to collect her belongings from an apartment. The other apartment resident was away at the time, but later complained to IPR that the officer knocked too loudly, for too long, and generally made a scene. An IPR investigator conducted interviews and visited the apartment complex. Witnesses described the officer as having a calm demeanor rather than an aggressive one.

Status: *IPR dismissed the complaint, but referred the matter to the precinct for management attention. IPR also sought clarification on officers’ roles during a civil standby. The complainant noted that she was satisfied with that resolution.*

- Security officers at Portland Meadows requested assistance in removing a man they described as intoxicated. The man later complained to IPR that the officer was unprofessional and rude. A witness and security personnel described the interaction differently. The man said he would drop the complaint if he was paid \$2,500 and the officer was fired.

Status: *Handled as a Service Improvement Opportunity.*

INVESTIGATED CASES

Senior Police Bureau management reviewed 13 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 10 of the 13 cases, and suggested an officer debrief in one of the 'non-sustained' cases.

INVESTIGATED CASE EXAMPLE AND FINDINGS

■ EXAMPLE:

A man witnessed one PPB officer (and an MCSO deputy) remove a passenger from a Trimet bus. The man was concerned about the interaction (believing the enforcement action was not necessary) and asked a few questions. He stated that the PPB officer was rude and failed to provide a business card upon request. The investigation resulted in sustained findings and Command Counseling as corrective action.

COMMENDATIONS

A community member contacted IPR to thank an officer who helped him complete an important errand after he was not allowed on a Trimet bus (because of his cart).

A couple in North Portland was impressed with the professionalism of three officers who responded to a call regarding a man in mental crisis and/or under the influence in their neighborhood. They reported that the officers were respectful and non-threatening - and resolved the situation without incident.

A woman wrote that she had witnessed 'countless examples' of one officer's 'exemplary police service'. She described the Central Precinct officer as a wonderful asset to the neighborhood and community.



IPR Assistant Director Anika Bent-Albert (left) and Investigator Eric Nomura (right) join City Auditor-elect Mary Hull Caballero at the NACOLE conference in September 2014.

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 the Director of Public Safety at OHSU in early August and began discussing a draft report.

Crowd Control

The Crowd Control Workgroup assembled information and feedback received from community members and experts into a draft report on the crowd control policies and tactics of the Police Bureau. The Workgroup delivered its draft report to PPB and CRC early in the fall, while PPB was inviting public comment on proposed revisions to the Crowd Control Directive.

Outreach

The Outreach Workgroup worked with the founder of Race Talks, Donna Maxey, to plan and hold two CRC-Race Talks community public forums on community policing in August. The Workgroup debriefed the forum, wrote the community feedback comments from the forum and will publish the comments on the IPR website later in the year. The Workgroup wrote a mission statement and researched meeting spaces for quarterly CRC meetings in the community to take place throughout 2015.

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IPR OUTREACH UPDATE

by Irene Konev, Community Outreach Coordinator



The primary outreach focus during the quarter was recruiting for new CRC members. Networking took place at the following:

- Lewis & Clark College Volunteer Fair
- Women in IT
- Fall Mega Mixer - multiple diverse chambers of commerce
- National Night Out Kickoff Party
- Mexican Consulate
- Say Hey Northwest
- Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce
- Slavic Festival
- Beaverton International Celebration
- Portland Metro's Equity Advisory Committee
- Office of Youth Violence Prevention
- Morrison Family Services
- Center for Intercultural Organizing Annual Celebration
- KBOO Radio presentation

CRC WORKGROUPS

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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.

Outreach

The CRC and IPR staff - in collaboration with Donna Maxey of Race Talks - held two community forums in August. One forum took place at the Center for Intercultural Organizing and one took place at McMenamins' Kennedy School. Over 100 community members attended, including several members of the Portland Police Bureau. Participants shared experiences and gave feedback on policing in small group dialogues and reported back to the full group at the end of each forum.

The IPR Director and staff reached out to David Douglas and Roosevelt High Schools where they talked to the staff and administrators. They also presented an overview of the IPR complaint and commendation process to several classrooms of students.

The IPR Director met with international delegates from Turkey and discussed the evolution of Portland's police oversight structure and the importance of community involvement. He also met with attorneys and journalists from Italy.

CRC CHAIR'S REPORT

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On August 11th, IPR Director Severe along with myself and CRC member Mae Wilson spoke on K-BOO radio to discuss IPR, CRC, and the recruitment for new CRC members.

The September 2014 CRC meeting included a summary from IPR Director Severe on the DOJ settlement with the City of Portland and CRC gave feedback on how that may impact CRC and the community.

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.