



Seventh OIR Report on Officer Involved Shootings and In-Custody Deaths

Few things have more consequential effects on our community than when Portland police officers fire their weapons and kill or injure someone. The effects ripple through families, streets, and neighborhoods. Police shootings create immediate anguish, alter lives, and may lead to pain and grief that lingers years after a such a profound incident occurs.

This is the [seventh OIR Report](#) on the Portland Police Bureau since 2003 and covers seven officer-involved shooting or death in custody incidents from May 2017 to November 2018. Below are the names of the people involved in those incidents and the dates of the incident:

- Michael Grubbe (May 28, 2017)
- Jesse Brockner (August 30, 2017)
- Chase Peebles (October 27, 2017)
- Sarah Brown (March 8, 2018)
- John Elifritz (April 7, 2018)
- Patrick Kimmons (August 30, 2018)
- Richard Barry (November 22, 2018)

This report takes a deep dive into each of these critical incidents and reviews issues with communication and planning, tactical decision-making, efforts to de-escalate and make use of all available tools and equipment, and the effectiveness of supervisors to manage and direct resources and control the scene. These efforts focus heavily on the Bureau's internal investigations and multi-level review process to evaluate how well they identify concerns with officer decision making and performance that may fall below Bureau expectation and standards and, more broadly, systemic issues that may affect future use of deadly force incidents. The OIR Group provided the Police Bureau with 29 recommendations, including that the Police Bureau:

- Develop a standard practice of meeting with family members and convening a community meeting within days of an officer-involved shooting or other critical incident to listen to concerns and explain the investigative processes.
- Emphasize alternative ways to approach an armed or possibly armed subject, as well as options for improving cover and explore these issues in the review of the investigation.



- Direct all staff to refrain from opining about the appropriateness of the use of deadly force in any forum, including grand jury proceedings, until that administrative determination has been made by the Bureau.
- Modify officer-involved shooting protocols to require routine discussion and analysis regarding any decision by officers not to call or wait for backup before tactically engaging a subject.
- Change officer-involved shooting protocols to require all officers who use deadly force are interviewed before the end of their shifts.

The full report is available online at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/ipr/article/766203>

Below are bios of the members of the OIR Group that created the report. There is more information on OIR at their website: <https://www.oirgroup.com/>

Michael Gennaco is a founding principal of OIR Group and a nationally recognized expert on law enforcement reform and accountability systems. Prior to starting OIR Group, Michael was the chief of the Civil Rights section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California. He also was a civil rights trial attorney with the Justice Department in Washington, DC, for 10 years.

Robert Miller is a founding member of OIR Group and previously served in a number of roles dedicated to law enforcement accountability, including the Los Angeles County Office of Independent Review and the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General.

Julie Ruhlin has been a principal with OIR Group since 2006 and has deep experience advising law enforcement agencies about officer-involved shootings, investigations, policy development, and oversight systems. Julie also worked as an attorney in the Los Angeles County Office of Independent Review.