

QUARTERLY REPORT

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



www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/ipr

Second Quarter 2013

IPR DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by *Constantin Severe, Director*



This has been an eventful quarter for IPR. Investigators Mike Hess and Steve Morrow retired in June after 13 and 7 years respectively at IPR. Hess played an instrumental role as Portland's police accountability system evolved from the Police

Internal Investigations Auditing Committee (PIIAC) to IPR. His versatility (fluent in Spanish, conversational in Vietnamese) and general approachability made him a valued member of our team. Morrow's good cheer and strong investigative skills made him irreplaceable and he will be missed at IPR.

IPR Director Mary-Beth Baptista left after five years at the helm. Her strong leadership and vision prompted IPR's shift to a more proactive role in police accountability in Portland. While at IPR, she led the charge in an effort that culminated in IPR being given the authority

by City Council to review and approve all investigations, commander's findings, and IPR became a voting member on the Police Review Board. Additionally, through Baptista's efforts, IPR now has subpoena authority and responds to the scene of all officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths.

IPR was very fortunate to be able to hire several new employees. We hired Casey Bieberich, Eric Berry, and Eric Nomura as

complaint investigators during the second quarter. All three have strong investigative backgrounds and have worked with vulnerable members of our community.

Finally, IPR filled three vacancies on CRC during the quarter; welcoming Teresa Baldwin, Pamela Dunham, and Keeble Giscombe.

CRC CHAIR'S REPORT

by *F.G. (Jamie) Troy II, Chair*



The second quarter saw CRC electing new officers, saying goodbye to old friends, and working on appeals.

At the April Meeting, CRC was briefed on communication with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Albina Ministerial Alliance to see if appeal timelines can be revisited under the settlement negotiations taking place in the agreement between the City and US Department of Justice (USDOJ). We rescheduled the appeal originally scheduled for this meeting at the Appellant's request. We also recommitted to our liaison process with the City Commissioners.

New CRC officers were elected at our our May meeting. Congratulations to our new Vice-Chair, Jeff Bissonette and Recorder, David Denecke. We conducted a Case File Review on this date. At the end of this process, five of seven members were concerned that IPR had

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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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CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE

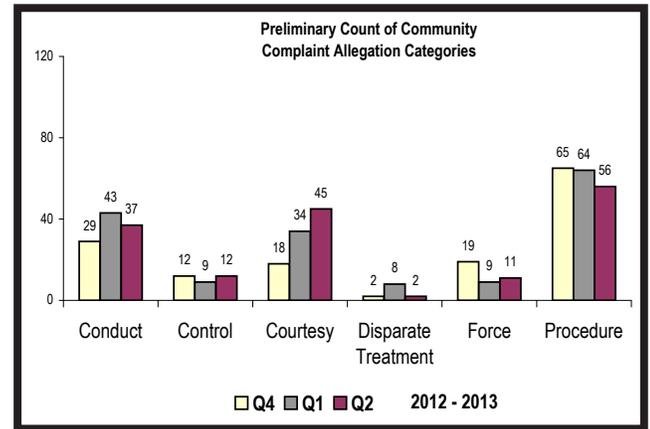
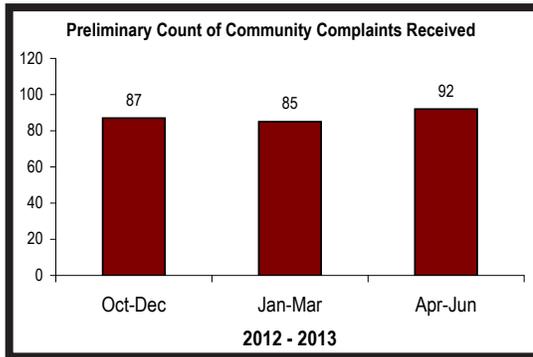
Community Oversight of Portland Police Bureau

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 man called IPR to report his concern that he was the subject of a racially motivated traffic stop in NE Portland. He was unable to provide evidence of his claim or articulate (beyond a 'gut feeling') how race played a factor.

Status: *IPR Dismissal.*

- A front desk worker at a downtown apartment building contacted IPR after an interaction with two police officers. The officers were trying to perform a welfare check on a recent resident at the request of his out-of-state mother (via 9-1-1). They asked the desk worker to confirm if a particular person still lived in the building and the apartment number. They apparently did not fully explain their request (other than stating they were police officers) and the worker cited privacy policies as he withheld the information.

Status: *Handled as a Service Improvement Opportunity.*

- A loss prevention officer with a second-hand store in SE Portland reported less than desirable service from a few different responding police officers over several weeks. The complainant felt some officers were dismissive and rude, and wanted shoplifting suspects arrested rather than cited-in-lieu.

Status: *Dismissed but issues referred to East Precinct management.*

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.

Two cases were successfully mediated in the second quarter of 2013. Two possible mediations are pending - awaiting either response from the complainant or involved officers to confirm their participation.

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 three 'non-sustained' cases.

INVESTIGATED CASE EXAMPLE AND FINDINGS

■ EXAMPLE:

Over the course of several hours, a number of officers were involved with a group of 20 or more juveniles in SE Portland. A set of three siblings were arrested. The eldest sibling and her mother reported the interaction to IPR. After a number of attempts were made to follow-up, the use of force allegations were dismissed. One officer made a demeaning and/or derogatory comment and that allegation was substained.

COMMENDATIONS

An employee of an area vision center submitted a commendation for an officer who responded to a shoplifting call. The officer "was compassionate and very committed to helping us resolve this incident."

A mental health professional commended an officer involved in the safe transport of clients to the hospital.

A woman wrote to commend officers who had recovered her stolen bike.

Two women commended an officer who helped resolve several issues related to an abandoned house in their neighborhood.



IPR's Irene Konev meets with Evelyn Liu (center) and Helen Ying (right) at a Say Hey Northwest event.

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 continues to focus on proposed changes in Use of Force Policies and the USDOJ/City of Portland agreement. The Workgroup met with the Police Bureau's Special Emergency Reaction Team and Behavioral Health Unit during the second quarter.

Crowd Control

The Crowd Control Workgroup continued to gather information related to the crowd control policies and tactics of the Police Bureau by speaking with community members and experts. The Workgroup met with the Police Bureau's Rapid Response Team during in the second quarter and reviewed materials from several national organizations.

Outreach

The Outreach Workgroup researched community organizations to identify potential co-hosts for the next community public forum slated for this fall. The organization that appears most likely to collaborate on a forum is Center for Intercultural Organizing, but no date or partnership has been solidified yet.

Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion

The Recruitment, Retention and Promotion Workgroup is reviewing the Police Bureau's

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policies and procedures in those critical personnel areas. During the quarter, the Workgroup met with a member of the Police Bureau who provided insight on the stresses of police work and challenges of retaining good officers.

Recurring Audit

The Recurring Audit Workgroup is completing a report on the handling of complaints dismissed by IPR and is preparing to start a review of closed investigations as its next project. They did not meet during the second quarter.

CHAIR'S REPORT

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not forwarded on for investigation an allegation of disparate treatment. The Committee requested IPR reconsider that decision. When that was quickly refused, CRC contacted the City Attorney's office and USDOJ officials seeking clarification of certain findings in the Federal settlement paperwork related to deciding allegations of police misconduct before investigating them. I also met with the Mayor's Policy Director, Baruti Artharee, discussing police oversight issues.

CRC held two meetings in June. On June 5th we were unable to hold our Appeal Hearing because PPB and IPR failed to coordinate having a PPB supervisor present to explain how the bureau made its decision in the case at hand. We reset the appeal to the following week needing to set it quickly so that we did not lose the vote of outgoing member and former CRC Chair, Michael Bigham, who is rotating off the group after 8 years of steadfast service (we will all miss Bigham's hard work and good humor). On June 11th, we held the Appeal Hearing. The case ended with CRC requesting additional investigation when one of the appellant's material witnesses provided new information. IPR and IA agreed to work together to form new allegations and conduct an additional investigation.

IPR OUTREACH UPDATES



Irene Konev

IPR OUTREACH UPDATES

This quarter was very busy and brought new staff and volunteers. IPR Community Outreach Coordinator Irene Konev worked with community to expand awareness of IPR and CRC.

Networking and presentations took place with the following:

- Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs
- Say Hey Northwest
- Slavic Council to the Chief's Office
- Multnomah County Family Violence Coordination Council
- Race Talks
- PDX Women in IT Happy Hour Networking Event
- PSU's Take Back the Night
- Russian Speaking Youth Leadership Conference
- Oregon Area Jewish Committee May Luncheon Lecture
- Association of Slavic Immigrants
- Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association Meeting

CRC Orientation

To prepare new CRC members for their powers and duties to serve in civilian police oversight, several orientations were held to explain IPR's formation, history, structure, complaint-handling process, and ordinances. The sessions also covered Internal Affairs' directives and investigation process and CRC goals, priorities, and responsibilities.

International Visitors:

Through the World Affairs Council, Konev and IPR Program Manager Rachel Mortimer presented on IPR/CRC powers and duties in police accountability to international delegates of Moldova working in Juvenile Justice and Police Reform. Chief Investigator of Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security met with outgoing IPR Director Mary-Beth Baptista to learn about police oversight in Portland.

CRC Public Meetings Schedule

First Wednesday of each month
(Subject to change*)

Wed., Sept. 11 City Hall – Lovejoy Room @ 5:30 PM

Wed., Oct. 2 City Hall – Lovejoy Room @ 5:30 PM