

QUARTERLY REPORT

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



www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/ipr

Third Quarter 2013

IPR DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by *Constantin Severe, Director*



Henry Clay Miggins, a long-time CRC member known universally as Hank, passed away in his sleep on July 18 at age 78. After a long and distinguished career in the Air Force and with Multnomah County, Hank went on to serve

his community as an original member of CRC, serving for 10 years. Even after his service on the CRC ended, Hank served as Appeal Process Adviser, assisting community members with their appeals.

I've thought a lot about Hank in the months since his passing, particularly the role of community members in police accountability. In October, the Auditor introduced a package of police accountability reforms meant to implement several items in the settlement agreement between the U.S. Department of

Justice and the City, as well as address significant flaws in our current oversight system and provide greater transparency.

Key among the provisions are the ability for IPR to directly interview police officers during the course of our investigations, having CRC members serve on a rotating basis as members of the Police Review Board (PRB) in use of force cases, the introduction of a

discipline guideline in all cases where there is a finding that a PPB member engaged in misconduct, and the ability for community members to have greater information about cases that go to the PRB.

The code changes are premised on the idea that for a police accountability system to be credible it must have the faith of the community.

In August, IPR and CRC added four new faces: Assistant Director Anika Bent-Albert is a graduate of Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, and previously served as an Associate General Counsel at the New York City Department of Corrections. Complaint Investigator Erin Playman is a graduate of University of Wisconsin-Madison and previously worked as an investigator at Metropolitan Public Defender. Office Support Specialist David Nguyen is a graduate of University of Oregon and previously worked for the City of Beaverton and Commissioner Nick Fish. David is also fluent in Vietnamese and speaks Mandarin conversationally. CRC member Roberto Rivera is a graduate of Concordia University in Portland and has 6 years of experience working in nonprofit organizations serving at-risk populations.

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.



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CRC CHAIR'S REPORT

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

The CRC Chair's report will return next quarter.

CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE

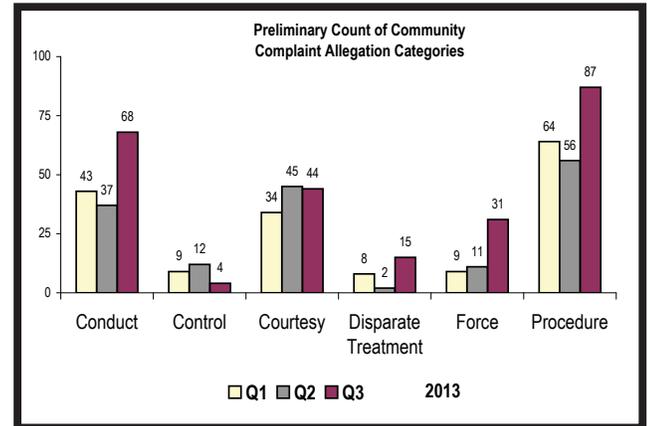
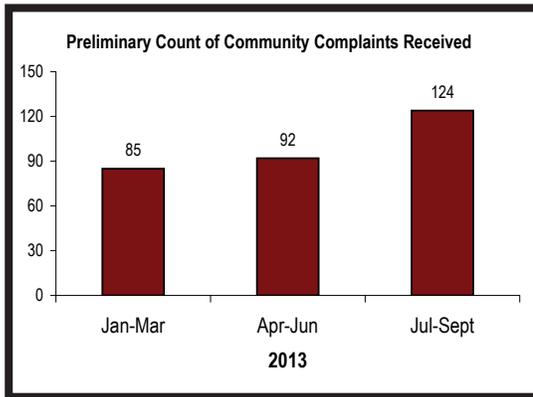
Community Oversight of Portland Police Bureau

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

- Officers were called to a downtown bar and grill to check on a man who was bleeding and seemed intoxicated. He was taken into custody and offered medical attention. The man contacted IPR several days later stating that the responding officers used unnecessary force and mocked his race and religion. The man is facing criminal charges and has legal representation, limiting the contact IPR can have for now.

Status: *IPR dismissed the case with the offer to reopen once charges are resolved.*

- A babysitter reported that an officer was dismissive when she tried to report seeing a daycare provider slapping the hand of a child at a community center. By all accounts, the officer was attempting to explain the exceptions for modest corporal punishment. An initial investigation revealed that the officer followed procedures and was correct in his explanation, but could have delivered the message with more tact.

Status: *IPR referred the case to the precinct commander before dismissing.*

- A man was upset that responding officers failed to cite the other driver in an minor accident.

Status: *Dismissed as officers have discretion.*

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.

No cases were successfully mediated in the third quarter of 2013, but two possible mediations were pending - awaiting either response from the complainant or involved officers to confirm their participation.

INVESTIGATED CASES

Senior Police Bureau management reviewed 16 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 eight of the 16 cases, and suggested an officer debrief in five of the eight 'non-sustained' cases.

INVESTIGATED CASE EXAMPLE AND FINDINGS

■ EXAMPLE:

An officer transported a man to detox who was not handcuffed and was in possession of a small knife and possibly an alcoholic beverage. The officer's commander and the Police Review Board found some of the allegations to be sustained and discipline is pending.

COMMENDATIONS

Community and Bureau members alike praised the efforts of one Youth Services Division staff member who was integral in coordinating the Bureau's first annual Youth Summer Camp.

A woman submitted a written commendation to IPR that stated an officer showed patience and kindness when allowing her to continue sleeping on a park bench in the early morning hours.

One detective was singled out for his exceptional work with the FBI on bank robberies.

An officer in East Precinct was given a neighborhood award for his work in the community.



IPR staff tours the Right 2 Dream Too site in downtown Portland.

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 OIR Group (reviewer of Portland officer-involved shooting cases) the during the third 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 joined the meeting with OIR Group in July and pressed forward on a list of potential recommendations in meetings later in the quarter.

Outreach

CRC member Dr. Rochelle Silver regularly attends the Community and Police Relations Committee (CPRC) meetings and invites the CPRC members to attend CRC meetings. One member of the CPRC has attended a CRC meeting and plans to attend future meetings. After researching community partners to hold a community public forum with, the outreach

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IPR OUTREACH UPDATES



Irene Konev

IPR Community Outreach Coordinator Irene Konev and IPR staff worked with the community to expand awareness of IPR and CRC and recruited volunteers to serve on the Police Review Board (PRB).

Networking and presentations took place with the following:

- Outside In
- Say Hey Northwest
- Slavic Council to the Chief's Office
- Center for Intercultural Organizing
- National Night Out
- PDX Women in IT Happy Hour Networking Event
- Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce
- Philippine American Chamber of Commerce
- Gateway DV Center
- Right to Dream Too
- Gang Violence Task Force Meeting
- Hispanic Heritage Celebration
- Info 211
- Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs Annual Meeting

Media

IPR launched an advertising campaign in Spanish on KUNP TV Univision Portland. The Skanner newspaper interviewed IPR Director Constantin Severe about the PRB recruitment. Director Severe and was also featured in The Story on National Public Radio where he talked about Portland's police accountability system.

Police Review Board Recruitment

Konev solicited 26 applicants to serve on the PRB. Volunteer recruitment contact was made with elected officials, judges, attorneys, community-based and faith-based organizations, and other members of the community who have shown interest in serving on the PRB. Multiple

diverse media venues were used to announce and promote the PRB recruitment.

Media

International Visitors

Through the World Affairs Council, IPR staff presented on IPR/CRC powers and duties and Portland's police accountability system to international delegates of France, Latin America, and Iraq.

IPR is on Twitter follow us at <https://twitter.com/PortlandIPR>

CRC WORKGROUPS

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workgroup went forward with reaching out to community based organizations to expand awareness of IPR and CRC instead of holding a forum. Several meetings with organizations working with the homeless community have been scheduled.

Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion

The Recruitment, Retention and Promotion Workgroup is reviewing the Police Bureau's policies and procedures in those critical personnel areas. During the quarter, the Workgroup met with Lt. Jeff Bell who previously worked in Personnel. 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 and is preparing to start a review of closed investigations as its next project.

CRC Public Meetings Schedule

CRC meetings are typically held at 5:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month in City Hall.