



IPR Quarterly

Volume 2, Issue 2, Spring 2006

The Independent Police Review and Citizen Review Committee

New IPR Investigator

IPR welcomes new investigator Steve Morrow, who joined IPR in February. His duties include preliminary investigation of citizen complaints. Steve started out as a Multnomah County Deputy before joining the Portland Police Bureau in 1985. In addition to patrol, Steve helped to implement community policing, worked in the domestic violence unit, and in Internal Affairs, before retiring as a sergeant in 2002.

Director's Report by Leslie Stevens

I'd like to thank the CRC and members of the Mediation Workgroup (Gwenn Baldwin, Michael Bigham, and Marcella Red Thunder) for their hard work, excellent analysis, and thoughtful report on IPR's Mediation Program.

Workgroup members collectively volunteered 50 hours of their time to designing the study, carefully reviewing 45 files, and formulating their recommendations to improve the program. The final report, adopted by the CRC on March 21, 2006, made four major recommendations.

First, the report recommends IPR should do more to ensure complainants understand that if they agree to mediation but don't follow through, their complaints may be dismissed.

Second, IPR should make sure all complainants really want to mediate rather than take the word of a spouse or parent.

Third, IPR should double efforts to stay in contact with complainants so more mediations can be completed.

Finally, IPR should give both complainants the same leeway it gives to officers to reschedule at the last minute for legitimate reasons.

I'm pleased the workgroup found that citizens and officers were generally quite satisfied with the mediation process and that IPR is doing a good job selecting cases for mediation.

I'm working with IPR staff to implement the recommendations.



CRC meeting in Old Town in March.

PARC Preparing Second Follow-up Report on Portland Police Shootings

The Police Assessment Resource Center (PARC), consultants are preparing their second follow-up report on policy and training issues relating to PPB officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths. The City of Portland contracted with PARC to conduct an initial examination in 2003 of PPB policies and practices, and make recommendations for improvements.

The follow-up reports include review of more recent cases not included in the initial review, and how PPB has responded to previous recommendations. IPR has been busy coordinating the gathering of information and data for the report, and facilitating PARC's visit in April. Prior PARC reports are available on the IPR website.

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Who We Are

IPR receives and monitors complaints against Portland Police Bureau (PPB) officers. IPR may investigate, mediate or dismiss complaints, or forward them to the PPB for further review, investigation or resolution. We track and analyze complaints with the IPR database, and conduct policy reviews.

The nine citizen volunteers of the CRC are appointed by Portland City Council to hear appeals of IAD investigative findings, help IPR identify patterns of problems and develop policy recommendations, review how IPR handles complaints, and hear public concerns.

Together, IPR and the CRC work to improve police accountability to the public and help solve identified problems.

Citizen Review Committee News

CRC Members: Welcomes and Farewells

The CRC welcomes back three continuing members, and welcomes two new members, nominated by City Auditor Gary Blackmer after a competitive selection process.

Returning members are retired firefighter Loren Eriksson; Bob Ueland, a real estate broker with a long history of community involvement; and CRC Chair Hank Miggins, former Spokane City Manager and Multnomah County Deputy Auditor.



CRC members

New members are Theresa Keeney, a Criminal Justice senior at Portland State University and member of the Chickasaw Nation; and Irene Ogouma, originally from the Republic of Benin, and formerly with the United Nations Department of Peace Keeping Operations and High Commission for Refugees. They were sworn in February 21, 2006.

CRC Vice Chair Jerry Spegman did not seek reappointment, and Mediation Workgroup Chair Gwenn Baldwin resigned. They will be missed, but we wish them well.

Tow Hearing Coordinator to speak at May CRC Meeting in SW Portland

Marian Gaylord, Towing Coordinator for the City of Portland, will speak to members of the new Tow Policy Workgroup, the other members of the CRC and interested members of the public about the work of her office, the current towing process and issues, and recently proposed changes. A public discussion period will follow. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2006, 5:30 - 7:00 pm, at the Multnomah Center, 7688 SW Capitol Highway. The CRC meets regularly in community locations around the city, in order to be more accessible to the community and to hear local concerns.

Appeals to the CRC

Citizens and officers dissatisfied with the findings of complaint investigations may appeal to the IPR and CRC. In the first quarter of 2006, seven cases were eligible for appeal, but only one request was filed.

CRC Review of IAD Investigation Timeliness

CRC members raised concerns at a December appeal hearing about how long the IAD investigation took in the case – nearly two years. Two members were appointed to review the timeliness of investigations. These members met with IAD Captain Tellis, went over workload and management issues, and reviewed all cases that had been open more than 200 days. They reported that all were assigned to investigators with other high priority cases, three involved coordination with other jurisdictions, and in one case a key witness could not be located. Only one appeared to have “fallen through the cracks.” Reviewers felt the new internal processes implemented by Captain Tellis was adequate, but recommended occasional reviews.

CRC Workgroups

**** Mediation Workgroup***

This workgroup concluded its work reviewing IPR handling of mediation cases, and presented its report to the full CRC on March 21. See story on page 1.

**** Appeal Process Workgroup***

Workgroup recommendations were presented to the entire CRC at the February meeting, where questions were raised regarding whether the same guidance should be provided to officers as to complainants in appeals. The workgroup is considering those issues now.

**** Community Advisory Council Workgroup***

CRC members sent out invitation letters to community groups to participate in the CAC and followed up with phone calls.

**** Tow Policy Workgroup***

A new workgroup has been formed to review current PPB towing policies.

Access Director Speaks in Old Town



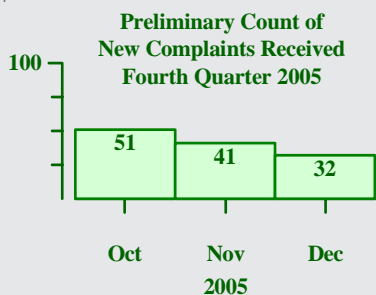
Access Program Director Samantha Kennedy spoke at the March 21, 2006 CRC about her program's services to those homeless people in the Old Town/downtown area with criminal histories, substance abuse and mental health issues. Working out of the City of Portland's

Office for Neighborhood Involvement, the program receives funding from the Portland Police, who hope to prevent crimes by getting chronic offenders into the services they need, but other agencies cannot provide.

Oversight Report

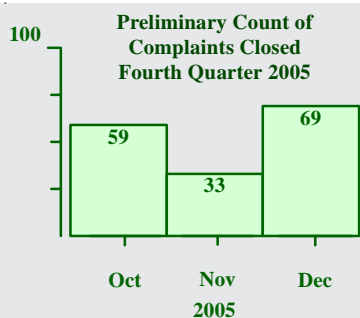
Report for Fourth Quarter 2005

The following charts show the number of complaints received, the number of allegations in each complaint category, and the number of cases closed, based on data from October through December 2005. (Complete figures are not yet available for the quarter just ended).



IPR records and tracks all citizen-initiated complaints. During the fourth quarter of 2005, citizens filed 124 new complaints with IPR. Staff closed 161 citizen-initiated complaints during the same period. October was the busiest month for new complaint intake. December was the busiest month for complaint closures.

Most complaints contain multiple allegations, each classified and tracked separately. Thus the number of allegations greatly exceeds the number of new cases for any period. Many of the new cases involved conduct, courtesy or procedure allegations.



Conduct complaints involve “behavior bringing discredit” to the police or the City. This category includes conformance with laws, professionalism, and truthfulness.

Courtesy complaints allege rudeness, disrespect, or offensive language or behavior (not including disparate treatment issues).

Procedure complaints allege that an administrative or procedural requirement was not met. This category includes evidence handling, identification, and reporting requirements

Fourth Quarter Case Descriptions

IPR randomly selects one citizen complaint and one commendation from each of the three months of the fourth quarter to provide examples of the types of cases received.

October

An armed security guard complained that the officer who responded to his complaint about some young white males who were suspected of throwing rocks at cars was “more concerned about not getting into a gunfight with the possibly armed subjects than with following proper police procedure.” The complainant alleged that the officer failed to take appropriate action and was unjustified for lecturing the complainant about gun safety.

A neighborhood leader commended a lieutenant for being consistently dedicated, committed, calm, pleasant and helpful.

November

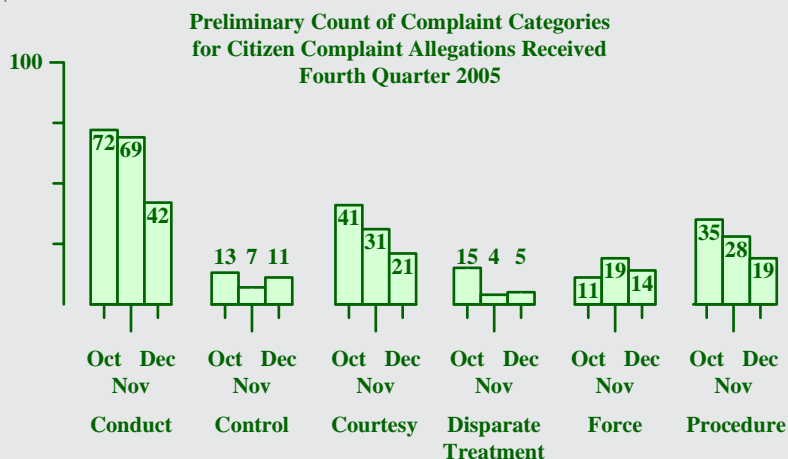
The complainant (the wife and mother of two participants in a domestic dispute) was arrested for interfering with a police officer. The complainant alleged she was falsely arrested, that the officers were rude and insensitive, that she was handcuffed too tightly, and that she was not read her Miranda warnings.

The victim of a car theft commended the responding officer for helpfulness in completing the stolen vehicle report and eventual recovery of the automobile. He “took the time to make sure that I understood everything.”

December

The complainant had asked police to assist in recovering her son from a family member. Police responded and placed the child in protective

(continued on next page)



Other News

Case Descriptions (continued)

custody. Complainant alleged that officers wrongly placed the child in protective custody, displayed prejudice, and were rude, disrespectful, and threatening.

The Chief of Police of a neighboring community commended a Portland officer for playing the bagpipes in a memorial ceremony for an officer killed in the line of duty. The officer's participation "helped to show the family that their loved one will never be forgotten..."

Calls for Assistance Received by IPR

In the fourth quarter of 2005, IPR received 601 phone calls, for a total of 3,025 calls for the year. By comparison, in 2004 the IPR received 1,975 phone calls through the entire year.

Fourth Quarter Mediations

The IPR Mediation Program is an alternative to the disciplinary process, a way for citizens and officers to meet, discuss, and with the help of professional mediators, resolve their issues directly with each other. The IPR Mediation Program received seven new mediation cases and mediated six in the final quarter of 2005.

PPB Office of Professional Standards

PPB has begun implementation of the new Office of Professional Standards (OPS). The proposed plan for the OPS includes an Early Intervention System (EIS) to track employee performance and identify early indicators of potential problems. An Internal Audit Unit function will assess whether bureau programs and processes meet expectations and are consistent with policies and procedures.

The initial model of the EIS data system has been developed and will be tested on a limited basis in May at Central and NE Precincts before being rolled out bureau-wide later this summer. This system will track officers' daily activities including arrest information, complaints, use of force, commendations, police reports, calls for service, and other factors that will aid supervisors in monitoring performance and intervening if problems begin to emerge. Employees will also be able to see their own files to monitor their performance.

Pending final approval, development of the Internal Audit Unit will begin in July 2006.

CRC Public Meeting Schedule

5/16/06	Multnomah Center
5:30 pm	7688 SW Capitol Highway
6/20/06	Portland City Hall
5:30 pm	Lovejoy Room
7/18/06	Southeast Uplift
5:30 pm	3534 SE Main Street

PPB Community Survey Results Released

The Portland Police Bureau announced the release of their 2005 Community Assessment Survey. In the January "Community Policing News" updates, the Chief observed that PPB "has a lot of work to do to improve people's perception of ... police performance and fairness."

Survey results indicate crime victimization rates are steady, but people are reporting crimes less. Public fear and perception of crime levels has worsened since the last survey in 2003. This is the first year the survey included questions about the fairness of police stops in regards to race and ethnicity, and that African American and Latino community sub-samples were included and compared to the citywide results. Respondents citywide perceived police as generally fair, but less so in regards to race and ethnicity. African-Americans were most likely to perceive police as unfair. All three groups reported being stopped by police at about the same rate. The full report is available online at www.portlandpolice.com.

Changes to Exclusion Zone Ordinance

City Council voted March 15, 2006 to make significant changes to the City's Exclusion Zone Ordinance, redefining and expanding some drug-free and prostitution-free zones, and ensuring more safeguards and oversight for citizens.

Now officers can issue an exclusion from a zone only if they have also cited or arrested the individual. Instead of just hearing appeals, the City Hearing Officer will automatically review all exclusions, which will take effect only after this review. People with exclusions will be allowed limited entry to the zones as necessary to walk home, go to school, treatment, or work.

Portland's zones were established in 1992 in response to increases in street-level drug dealing, and the criminal justice system's inability to keep dealers off the streets. Those who violate exclusions can be arrested on trespassing charges.

Ready-Safe-Go: Public Safety Conference

The City's Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) Crime Prevention Program and the Portland Office of Emergency Management (POEM) sponsored a free community public safety conference April 29, 2006 featuring over 20 crime prevention and emergency preparedness workshops, such as ID theft, domestic violence, drug houses, and CPR. ONI hopes to make it an annual event.

Citywide Landlord Forum in May

A forum for Portland landlords is scheduled for May 25, 2006 at the East Precinct Community room, 737 SE 106th Avenue. This provides landlords the opportunity to share information and problem solve. Call East Portland Crime Prevention Office for more information (503) 823-4550.

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