



IPR Quarterly

Volume 2, Issue 1, Winter 2006

The Independent Police Review and Citizen Review Committee

IPR News

IPR joins Officers on Street Law Panel

IPR joined officers of Northeast Precinct in a panel presentation for Portland Night High School's Street Law Activity Night in December. Teens wanted to learn more about their rights, the dos and don'ts of interacting with police, how to prevent negative interactions, and what to do if they occur.



Lieutenant Harry Jackson (far right) at a panel presentation at Portland Night High School.

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Auditor Report on Citizen Satisfaction with City Services, Police and Police Oversight

City Auditor Gary Blackmer recently released the 15th annual review of the City's *Service Efforts and Accomplishments*. Each year a large number of randomly selected Portland households are surveyed about all major City services.

2005 results are mixed for the Police Bureau. Despite declines in reported crimes, and very high feelings of safety, the overall citizen rating of police services has scarcely budged from its lowest level. In 1995 about 70% of citizens rated overall police services as good or very good, while 9% rated them as bad or very bad. In 2005, only 63% rated them as good or very good, while 13% rated them as bad or very bad.

A new question was added last year that evaluates police oversight: "How do you rate the City of Portland's efforts to control misconduct by (continued on page 4)

Director's Report by Leslie Stevens

Shortly after becoming Director, I noticed a few complaints involving similar search and seizure issues. These cases suggested a need for additional training for PPB officers about their limited authority to enter a residence without a warrant in order to make a probable cause arrest. After sharing my concerns with the Bureau, the City Attorney's office prepared a roll call video clearly and forcefully explaining the law and issues. I hope my efforts and the training video will prevent future complaints in this area.

New IPR Analyst

Welcome to our newest IPR Analyst, Scott Warner, who joined IPR in November. Few civilian oversight agencies in the U.S. are lucky enough to have analysts. Scott manages the database used to track and analyze complaints, designs and conducts research and reviews to help the Police Bureau and IPR improve services.

Who We Are

IPR oversees the Portland Police Bureau (PPB), and receives and monitors complaints against 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.

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Citizen Review Committee News

ACCESS Program Director to Speak at March 21 CRC meeting in Old Town

Issues of homelessness, substance abuse and mental health are of special concern in the Old Town/ downtown area, with implications for policing. The ACCESS Program links clients with housing and treatment services. Director Samantha Kennedy will be speaking about ACCESS to the CRC and interested members of the public. A public discussion period will follow. Tuesday March 21, 2006, 5:30 - 7:00 pm, at the Port of Portland Building, 121 NW Everett street.



Mr. Roy Jay, guest speaker at the CRC November meeting at the Albina Youth Opportunity School in Northeast Portland.

Roy Jay speaks about Project Clean Slate at November CRC meeting in Northeast

Roy Jay was the guest speaker at the November CRC meeting in Northeast Portland. Jay was a leader in the collaborative effort to launch Project Clean Slate. This innovative program helps people with outstanding warrants for minor offenses to clear their records and get back on track with their lives. Clean records allow them to get driver's licenses, jobs, and housing. This in turn freed police and the criminal justice system to focus resources on more serious offenders. The project was originally expected to last one day and serve about 1200 people. Additional days were scheduled after more than 3000 people showed up, and many had to be turned away after long waits.

CRC workgroups

**** Reviewing IPR Mediation Cases***

A CRC workgroup is reviewing IPR mediation cases to evaluate whether the cases were appropriate for mediation, were handled according to protocols, and whether parties were satisfied with the outcomes and process. The final report is expected in March.

**** Improving CRC Appeal Process***

A CRC workgroup seeking ways to improve the appeal hearing process is now fine-tuning final recommendations. These are expected to include recommending improved communications with and explanations to appellants and officers. These recommendations will be brought to the full CRC for approval soon.

**** Creating a Community Advisory Council***

This workgroup is developing recommendations for a new advisory body to the IPR and CRC, to encourage public involvement from a range of community perspectives. The workgroup presented the CRC with a list of potential community groups to invite to participate on the new advisory council. The first meeting of the new CAC will be April 25, 2006, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Kaiser Town Hall, 3704 N. Interstate Avenue.

Appeals to the CRC

Citizens and officers dissatisfied with the findings of complaint investigations may appeal to the IPR and CRC. Ten cases in the final quarter of 2005 were eligible for appeal by complainants, but no requests were filed.

The CRC held one pre-hearing of an appeal in November, and decided to hear the appellant's appeal in a full hearing in December. The complainant alleged he was unnecessarily arrested and taken to the precinct, then released. A secondary issue arose of whether the arrest was properly documented.

When the complainant failed to appear in December despite multiple attempts to reach him, the CRC voted to decline the appeal, but to consider potential policy issues in the case. The CRC was able to hear from an involved officer, the precinct commander who made the findings in the complaint, and Internal Affairs. CRC and police representatives raised concerns about how long the investigation took, and the role played by inadequate staffing and resources of the Internal Affairs Division to manage their case load in a timely manner. The CRC appointed two members to review the timeliness of investigations.

CRC in North Portland

The January 17 CRC meeting was at the St. Johns Community Center in North Portland. Our special guest was North Precinct Neighborhood Officer Jason Christensen, speaking about current collaborative community problem-solving efforts in North Portland.

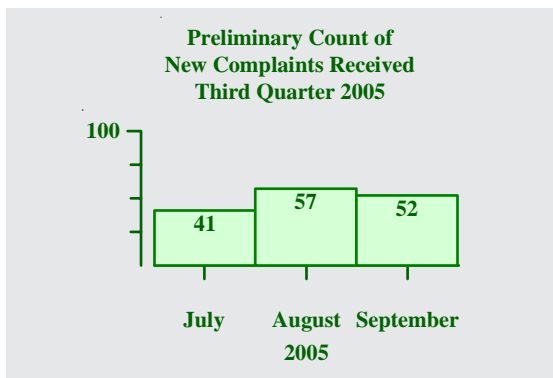
The CRC holds meetings in various parts of the city on a regular basis, in order to be more accessible to the community.

Oversight Report

Report for Third Quarter, 2005

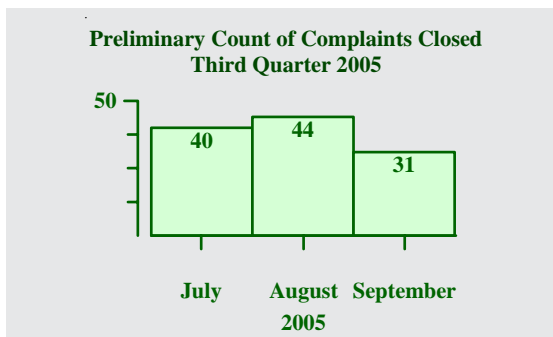
The following charts show the number of complaints received and closed by IPR, and the number of allegations in each complaint category, based on data from July through September, 2005. (Complete figures are not yet available for the quarter just ended).

IPR records and tracks all citizen-initiated complaints. During the third quarter of 2005,



citizens filed 150 new complaints with IPR. Staff closed 115 citizen-initiated complaints during the same period. August was the busiest month for both new complaint intake and complaint closures.

Most complaints contain multiple allegations, each classified and tracked separately. Because of this, the number of allegations greatly exceeds the number of new cases for any period. Many of the new cases alleged police conduct and procedural violations.



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

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

Case Descriptions from the Third Quarter

IPR randomly selected one citizen-initiated complaint and one commendation from each of the 3 months of the third quarter to provide examples of the types of cases received.

July 2005

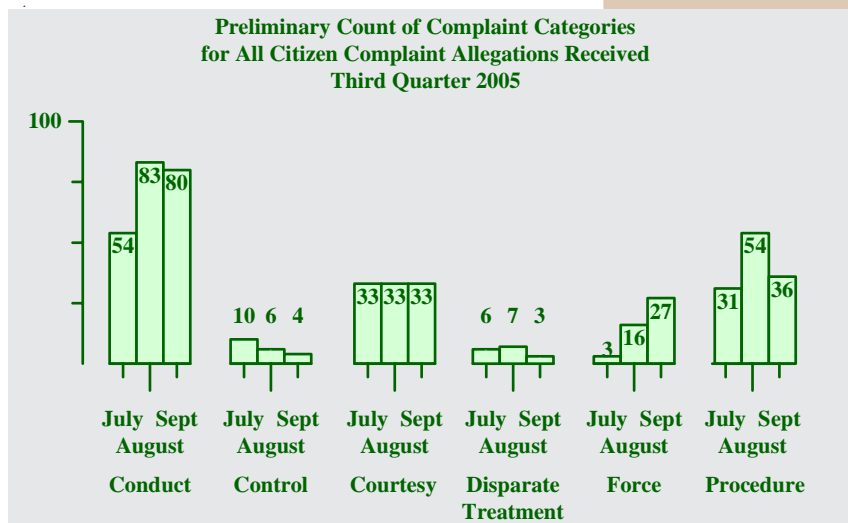
After engaging in a self-described "stare-off" with a police officer, the complainant was pulled over and cited for a traffic violation. The complainant felt that the bail amount set by the state on his traffic citation was excessive. The complainant alleged racial profiling, false traffic charges, and false accusation.

The victim of a hit and run accident commended a responding female officer for caring and follow-through after the officer took the citizen's pregnant daughter to the hospital.

August 2005

Responding to neighborhood complaints about alleged improper garbage dumping and egg throwing, police officers arrested the complainant for stalking, criminal mischief, and harassment. The complainant lodged allegations of rude behavior (for the officer asking why he smelled like rotten garbage), harassment, false/inappropriate arrest, and unjustified behavior (for providing the complainant's neighbors with legal advice).

A citizen commended an officer for removing a drunken male sleeping on the citizen's front porch. The officer was "direct and courteous, both to me and the person he was removing."



Case Summaries (continued)

September 2005

After admittedly crossing a street against the light in a prostitution-free zone, the complainant was stopped by police officers. The complainant felt one officer made rude and degrading comments, accusing her of having engaged in prostitution. The complainant was also concerned about incorrect personal information (birth date and height) having been entered on the issued citation, and alleged failure to file an accurate police report.

A senior citizen commended two officers for helpfulness in recovering license plates stolen from the citizen's vehicle. The officers were "polite and understanding" and "went beyond their duty" to fix the problem.

Calls for Assistance Received by IPR

Call volume was up considerably in 2005. In the final 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.

2005 IPR Mediations to Date

The IPR Mediation Program is an alternative to the disciplinary process, a way for citizens and officers to meet, discuss, and resolve their issues directly with each other with the help of professional mediators.

The IPR Mediation Program received 7 new mediation cases and mediated 6 in the final quarter of 2005.

City Auditor Report (continued from page 1)

Portland police officers?" We now have two years of results.

"How would you rate the City's efforts to control misconduct by Portland police officers?"

	2004	2005	Change
Very Good or Good	35.0%	38.6%	3.6%
Neither Good or Bad	33.9%	35.1%	1.2%
Bad or Very Bad	31.1%	26.3%	-4.8%

There is positive change, but there is still not enough to draw any conclusions about trends in citizen satisfaction with oversight in Portland. We hope to have a better sense after a third year of results.

You can read more about police performance online at www.portlandonline.com/auditor.

Other News

New Office of Professional Standards Combines IAD, Early Intervention

On November 30th, Chief Foxworth announced creation of a new PPB Office of Professional Standards (OPS). The new office is part of an organization redesign that will combine three independent units:

Internal Affairs, which will continue it's current duties; Audit and Inspections, a unit that will audit PPB policies, practices and programs; and Early Intervention.

The new early intervention system (EIS) will be designed to help officers improve job performance and reduce problematic behaviors before they might lead to misconduct. An automated computer data system is being designed to "mine" data from a variety of existing databases within the Bureau, tracking such data as use of force, vehicle accidents, overtime usage, sick leave, discretionary arrests and citizen complaints.

Although EIS will monitor discipline, it is meant as a tool to improve employee performance by identifying early indicators of job stress. It can also help supervisors identify superior performers. Supervisors will also receive training on how to intervene successfully with employees who need help or support.

The new Office of Professional Standards is expected to be headed by current IAD Captain John Tellis.

Other Community Resources Citizen's Academy Graduates 23

Twenty-three community members graduated from the 2005 Citizens Academy in December. The 9-week training program about police work is meant to strengthen the partnership between citizens and police. The classes, which include patrol tactics, weapons systems, criminal investigations, and methods of Community Policing, provide more than 30 hours of hands-on and classroom training. For more information, visit the PPB website at www.portlandpolice.org

CRC Public Meeting Schedule

3/21/06 5:30 pm	Port of Portland Building 121 NW Everett
4/18/06 5:30 pm	Portland City Hall Lovejoy Room
5/16/06 5:30 pm	Multnomah Center 7688 SW Capitol Highway

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