

# QUARTERLY REPORT

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



[www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/ipr](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/ipr)

First Quarter 2012

## IPR DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Mary-Beth Baptista, Director



Community Outreach Coordinator Irene Konev and I organized a three-part comprehensive orientation program for the three new and two returning CRC nominees. The first session covered the powers and duties of the Auditor's Office, focusing primarily on IPR. The second session was led by Lt.

Chris Davis of Internal Affairs (IA) and covered the structure of the Portland Police Bureau (Police Bureau) and the functions of its Professional Standards Division (including IA). The final session included CRC workgroup chairs who explained the focus and status of the current workgroups.

IPR Management Assistant Carol Kershner retired after 10 years of service. In addition to her duties as the IPR Office Manager, she was the CRC Liaison and was instrumental in improving the look and content of all of our publications, especially the Quarterly and Annual Reports. We wish her well and congratulate her on her retirement.

Fortunately we were able to fill both retired Assistant Director Pete Sandrock's and Kershner's position. Rachel Mortimer is the new half-time IPR Assistant Program Manager. Mortimer worked for the past five years as a juvenile dependency / delinquency attorney with a small local firm. Kelsey Lloyd is the new Management Assistant at IPR. Lloyd has been a legal assistant for the past six years at the Metropolitan Public Defender. She has extensive experience in case management, superior communication skills, and sound knowledge of police and criminal procedure, and criminal law. She also has participated in multiple diversity trainings and has provided continuous, direct support for clients.

### 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**  
1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 320  
Portland, OR 97204  
503-823-0146  
[ipr@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:ipr@portlandoregon.gov)

## CRC CHAIR'S REPORT

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



CRC had a productive first quarter in 2012. Chief Michael Reese joined our January meeting to discuss mutual aid agreements between the Police Bureau and outside law enforcement agencies. At our February meeting, Deputy City Attorney David Woboril followed up Chief Reese's discussion

and provided us with the city's perspective on the revised ordinance changes as they relate to our role in the citizen oversight of police in Portland. Also in February, we held a case file review where the Committee found no further investigation was needed on an appeal. We heard that appeal at the following meeting in March. At the end of our appeal hearing, the Committee voted to uphold the Bureau's findings. We also voted in the final appeals-related protocols in March, concluding a two-year process.

Our Outreach Workgroup orchestrated a community forum at the East Portland Community Center on January 26<sup>th</sup> where the Committee heard from interested community members about their interactions with the Police Bureau, including multiple comments from members of the Occupy Portland movement. Concerns related to crowd control and police response to peaceful protests and demonstrations were raised.

CRC is pleased to welcome our newest members, K.A. Lalsingh, David Denecke and Rodney Paris who were sworn in just prior to our February meeting. All three have joined us for the new period of service, a three-year term, and we look forward to their contributions and the unique perspective each will bring to our process.

### CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE

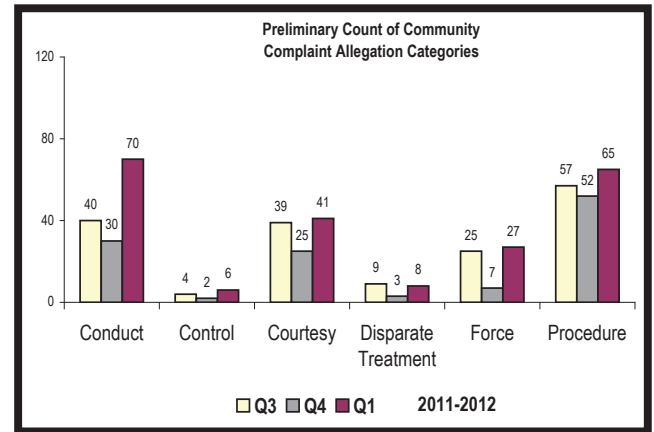
*Community Oversight of Portland Police Bureau*

*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.*

[crc@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:crc@portlandoregon.gov) Message: 503-823-0926  
[www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/ipr](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/ipr) Fax: 503-823-3530  
TTD: 503-823-6868

## 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

- Complainant was with her 6-year-old son and one of his classmates as they attempted to cross Rosa Parks Way near Chief Joseph Elementary School. A marked PPB patrol vehicle with lights and sirens on “came speeding up Rosa Parks at an estimated 50-60 mile per hour.” Complainant felt the patrol car was traveling too fast in a school zone and that it came close to hitting her and scaring the children who were accompanying her.

**Status:** Dismissed w/referral to precinct. IPR was unable to identify an officer, but a referral was made to the Commander of North Precinct.

While IPR was processing another complaint stemming from a January 25, 2012, Occupy Portland demonstration, we were made aware of an individual who was involved in a physical altercation with a Portland officer and was stated to have been subject to excessive physical force. The IPR Director made a decision to contact this individual and to open an administrative investigation.

**Status:** Pending Investigation.

## 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.

IPR received two mediation requests in the first quarter of 2012. The complainant withdrew in the first case that was held over from the fourth quarter of 2011; the second case was an incomplete mediation. The complainant withdrew in the first case that was filed in 2012; the second case is scheduled for mediation in the second quarter of 2012.



Left to right (back to front): CRC member (former CRC Chair) Michael Bigham, re-appointed CRC Recorder Jeff Bissonnette, re-appointed CRC Chair F.G. (Jamie) Troy II, new CRC member David Denecke, new CRC member Rodney Paris, new CRC member K.A. Lalsingh, and CRC member Dr. Rochelle Silver – February 8, 2012

## INVESTIGATED CASES

Senior Bureau management reviewed 20 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 20 cases, and suggested an officer debrief in six of the 10 'non-sustained' cases.

### INVESTIGATED CASE EXAMPLE AND FINDINGS

- IPR received a letter from a Lieutenant at a neighboring county's sheriff's office stating that a Portland Officer entered a local courthouse armed while on personal business, violating an order of the county's Presiding Judge allowing only law enforcement on official business to enter the courthouse armed. When made aware of the Presiding Judge's order, the officer stated he was on official business contradicting a statement made moments earlier stating that his purpose at the courthouse was to visit his wife.

- **Findings:**

**Officer A misrepresented his reason for being at the courthouse as official business: *Sustained.***

**Officer A engaged in unlawful conduct by entering County Courthouse on personal business while armed: *Sustained.***

## COMMENDATIONS

The Police Bureau and IPR receive commendations — thanking specific officers for their exemplary work. Copies of a commendation are sent to the officer and his/her supervisor, and are retained in the officer's history file. *Examples include:*

A caregiver and advocate wrote to commend an officer's "professional" and "compassionate"

response to one of his client, a homeless man with mental health challenges.

An officer responding to a home burglary was called, "one of the most respectful police officers I have encountered in our city."

A community member who witnessed the police response to a large protest near a SE Portland park lauded the officers' restraint and calm demeanor in the face of "inflammatory" chants from the crowd.

## CRC WORKGROUPS

### Appeals

The Appeals Workgroup met twice in January to complete its work on appeals-related protocols. After Council voted to amend the Ordinance, the Workgroup revisited Protocol 5.03 (Appeals Procedures) to address some technical issues that needed reworking. The Workgroup also completed work on Protocol 5.16 (City Council Protocol for CRC Appeals) to both comply with the new Ordinance provisions and to clarify the role CRC and IPR, among others, will play in these appeals before Council. After discussion, both protocols were approved by vote of the full CRC in March.

As the work this Workgroup was created to address is complete, the Appeals Workgroup will likely be disbanded and replaced by a new group during the CRC's retreat in April. The currently inactive Protocol Workgroup may also be officially disbanded or given new projects at the retreat.

### Outreach

The Outreach Workgroup is strengthening the CRC connection to the community through forums and engaging community organizations. Currently the Workgroup is working on a few community events as well as working with cultural specific community organizations to increase our ability to reach community members. The Workgroup is planning a meeting with the Kennedy School Race Dialogues planning committee. CRC members are planning to present information about their work providing community oversight of the Police Bureau at the next community forum. The Workgroup is also working on increasing ways to hear community input about police services.

(continued on page 4)



(continued from page 3)

### Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion

This Workgroup was formed to assess the Police Bureau's policies for recruiting, retaining, and promoting its members. The Police Bureau submitted review materials and gave a presentation to the Workgroup on its recent recruitment efforts. As the first quarter wrapped up, the Workgroup began to focus on the retention and retraining of current Bureau members. The Workgroup has an ongoing dialogue with the Community and Police Relations Committee determining if a joint project is feasible.

### Recurring Audit

The Recurring Audit Workgroup continues to review closed dismissal cases, assessing if correct classification and policies were followed. The Workgroup hopes to complete a draft report by the end of next quarter and begin to take up additional audits on other issues.

### Taser/Less-lethal Force

The Taser/Less-Lethal Workgroup has finished its inquiries and has produced a draft report which has been sent to IPR and IA. The Workgroup plans on submitting the report to the full CRC during the second quarter of 2012.

## IPR OUTREACH UPDATES



Irene Konev

Community Outreach Coordinator Konev secured a two-year contract for facilitation of CRC Community Public Forums with Resolutions Northwest to hold biannual forums on police accountability. She promoted, supported and attended the first forum of 2012.

Networking and presentations took place with the following:

- Police Bureau Awards Ceremony
- Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
- Say Hey Northwest
- Portland State (PSU) Vagina Monologues Production
- Reynolds Learning Academy
- Rafael House of Portland
- Community Youth Action Grants Awards Ceremony
- Citywide Public Involvement Network
- Black History Month Proclamation - City Council

### CRC and IPR Attendance at Outreach Events

- Community and Police Relations Committee
- Fix-it Fair at Rosa Parks School
- Fix-it Fair at Jefferson High School
- Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services
- Gang Violence Task Force meeting

Konev and CRC members attended the Department of Justice Community Public Forum at St. Johns' Community Center; heard community concerns about policing from Portland's public.

New CRC member Lalsingh, who is a PSU professor of Black Studies and African American Women in the U.S., invited IPR Assistant Director Constantin Severe and Konev, to present to students on the powers and duties of IPR/CRC and to answer any questions on the commendation/complaint process.

### CRC Community Public Forum on Police Accountability



CRC members, IPR staff members, and Portland community members participating in the Community Public Forum on Police Accountability at the East Portland Community Center on January 26, 2012.

### CRC Public Meetings Schedule

First Wednesday of each month  
(Subject to change\*)

Wed., June 6      Portland Building – 2nd Floor @ 5:30 PM

Thurs., July 5      City Hall – Lovejoy Room @ 5:30 PM