

New Complaints and Commendations Overview:

26 complaints opened from January 1 to January 31, 2020:

- 11 Inquiries
- 10 Service Complaints
- 2 Policy Complaints
- 1 Allegation of Misconduct
- 1 Incident Review

28 Commendations received during this period.

City of Eugene



Police Auditor's Office

800 Olive St. Eugene, OR. 97401
541-682-5016



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New Complaints

We opened 26 complaints from January 1 to January 31, 2020: 11 Inquiries, 10 Service Complaints, 2 Policy Complaints, 1 Allegation of Misconduct, and 1 Incident Review; for a total of 26 complaints so far this year. (Our complaint total for January in 2019 was 53.)

As a reminder, the complaints we receive are a first step in a thorough investigative process. Like complaints filed in court, they represent only one side of an interaction. Prior to the investigation, we have no way to discern the accuracy of the information provided in the complaint. What you read here is not necessarily the truth of an incident; it is an introduction to an incident that will be thoroughly investigated. For the purposes of space, the complaint summaries are brief. In particular, inquiries are often used to begin an investigation when the information provided to us from a complainant is limited. Many times inquiries are reclassified.

If a complaint is received that alleges criminal conduct on the part of the employee, the police auditor forwards

the complaint and any associated information to the chief of police.

Inquiries:

- 1) RP reported that officers left water running in a motorhome after serving a search warrant.
- 2) RP was upset about a citation she received for harassment. **Dismissed: Alternative Remedy**
- 3) RP inquired into why an officer drove by her turned around and least 4 times.
- 4) RP reported that his truck had been towed and he had been issued a citation despite being told by another EPD officer that it was okay to do so.
- 5) RP reported an officer who put a woman in a choke hold during a welfare check. **Dismissed: Outside Jurisdiction**
- 6) RP was concerned that various police agencies kept contacting him demanding his phone number. He felt harassed since he is required to register as a sex offender and the info is available through those forms he fills out.



Inquiries Cont'd:

7) RP reported an officer failed to follow the law when he was cited for speeding. **Dismissed:**

Alternative Remedy

8) RP felt it was unnecessary for an officer to stop a woman who ran a red light on her bike and restrained her from leaving while checking for warrants. **Dismissed - Auditor.**

9) RP is frustrated with the non-help he is receiving from law enforcement concerning people using his phone to send messages to his brain. **Dismissed: Other**

10) RP reported issues with the Feds monitoring his movements and when he fights back, EPD jumps in to uphold the law and does nothing to help him. **Dismissed: Other**

11) RP felt an officer abused his power when he was arrested for getting cannabis ash on an officer. **Dismissed: Timeliness**

Service Complaints:

- 1) RP reported an officer who did 2 U-turns near her home in the middle of a busy road.
- 2) RP was dissatisfied that an officer left after telling him he would talk to other tenants regarding a molestation incident of a neighbor. Leaving immediately after talking to him makes it appear he was involved and other tenants are starting to question him.
- 3) RP is frustrated that an incident involving a bottle of cologne stolen by his caretaker in

September 2019 still has not been resolved.

- 4) RP was concerned that all of his calls to EPD did not appear to be in the call log.
- 5) A former EPD member shared a concern and suggestions for future EPD practices and better customer service.
- 6) RP was upset that a police report was never filed when his 12 year old and his ex's boyfriend had an altercation.
- 7) RP reported what he believed to be excessive force while being detained by an officer, which caused a visible bruise on his left arm.
- 8) RP reported excessive use of force while being arrested by an officer. She reported not being injured.
- 9) RP wrote to the chief about an issue with a dog bite from 2018.
- 10) RP reported an EPD vehicle driving erratically, running a red light, turning without a signal, and with no lights on in the rain.

Policy Complaints:

- 1) RP requested EPD implement training for officers to chose a lesser intensity of force to prevent citizen injuries.
- 2) RP was concerned with EPD officers blocking the exit/entrance to a store while conducting investigations. They believe it makes for an unsafe situation for both the business and citizens.

Allegation of Misconduct:

- 1) Internally reported incident involving an officer's failure to lodge evidence seized in a case in a timely manner.

Incident Review:

- 1) EPEA Board submitted a complaint that an employee acted inappropriately during a pursuit initiated by an outside agency.

New Commendations

There were 28 commendations documented, this reporting period for a 2020 total of 28 so far. Most commendations are made through EPD. The Auditor's office accepts commendations as well.

Commendations are listed on the Police Department website at:

<http://www.eugene-or.gov/2763/Commendations>

Closed Cases

16 complaints were closed in the month of January 2020: 4 Service Complaints, 10 Inquiries, and 2 Policy Complaints.

Closed Service Complaints:

1) RP reported an officer who did 2 U-turns near her home in the middle of a busy road with no turn signals.

Summary of Investigation: The officer was notified of RP's concerns, as she made very valid points about the traffic maneuvers he was performing in a non-emergency EPD Crime Prevention vehicle.

2) RP was concerned that all of his calls to EPD did not appear to be in the call log.

Summary of Investigation: A CAD Event History search on RP's phone number listed the original calls and a review of the call notes identified the missing calls. RP was notified and thanked EPD for their follow up.

3) RP was upset that a police report was never filed when his 12 year old and his ex's boyfriend had an altercation.

Summary of Investigation: Given the length of time since the incident had occurred, there was no body cam or in car video available. The supervisor used CAD reports, and interviewed involved officers and RP. RP was advised that based on interviews with officers and details listed in the original incident, no crime was discovered and therefore there was no further follow up required.

4) RP wrote to the chief about an issue with a dog bite from 2018. **Dismissed: Previously reviewed**

City of Eugene



Closed Policy Complaints:

1) RP alleged she was injured and suffered a traumatic brain injury due to being thrown head first into the hood of a police car. RP requested EPD implement training for officers to chose a lesser intensity of force to prevent citizen injuries.

Summary of Investigation: The supervisor reviewed both officers' body-worn camera video and determined that RP was never hit or struck against a patrol car, as her body remained upright the entire time. Findings were shared with the RP.

2) Anonymous RP was concerned with EPD officers blocking the exit/entrance to a store while conducting investigations. They believe it makes for an unsafe situation for both the business and citizens. **Dismissed: Other**

Closed Inquiries:

1) RP reported that officers left water running in a motorhome after serving a search warrant.

Summary of Investigation: Supervisor reviewed footage of the warrant and spoke to involved officers who said a group of officers were standing in the driveway when suddenly water began pouring out of the travel trailer. Officers turned off the hose that was feeding water to the trailer so that it didn't continue to flood but said they were not in or near the trailer when the pipe broke and had no idea why it happened. Findings were shared with RP.

2) RP was upset about a citation she received for harassment. **Dismissed: Alternative Remedy**

3) RP inquired into why an officer drove by her turned around and least 4 times.

Summary of Investigation: Supervisor attempted to contact the complainant several times and the phone number went straight to voice mail. There was no way to confirm if this complaint was valid. Only two officers were in the area at the estimated time and body worn footage confirmed them doing a welfare check and traffic stop. Inquiry was closed.

4) RP reported that his truck had been towed and he had been issued a citation despite being told by another EPD officer that it was okay to do so.

Summary of Investigation: Supervisor reviewed footage of the event and contacted RP. RP was advised that their complaint should be directed towards City of Eugene Parking Control since the EPD officer was solely there to assist the Parking employee. Parking Control Unit is not associated to the police department and they have their own policies concerning citations and vehicle towing that may be different from EPD's policies.

The supervisor further assisted RP by giving him the Oregon Revised Statutes codes for parking and related exemptions and telling him how he can access EPD for public records requests. RP seemed satisfied with the contact and the assistance provided to him.

5) RP reported an officer who put a woman in a choke hold during a welfare check. **Dismissed: Outside Jurisdiction.**

6) RP reported an officer failed to follow the law when he was cited for speeding. **Dismissed: Alternative Remedy**

7) RP felt it was unnecessary for an officer to stop a woman who ran a red light on her bike and restrained her from leaving while checking for warrants. **Dismiss - Auditor.** BWC revealed officer had reasonable suspicion to detain for running a red light and that he gently grabbed her backpack to prevent her from leaving while checking for warrants.

8) RP is frustrated with the lack of help he is receiving from law enforcement concerning people using his phone to send messages to his brain. **Dismissed: Other**

9) RP reported issues with the Feds monitoring his movements and when he fights back, EPD jumps in to uphold the law and does nothing to help him. **Dismissed: Other**

10) RP felt an officer abused his power when he was arrested for getting cannabis ash on an officer. **Dismissed: Timeliness**

News Items

911 operators couldn't trace the location of a dying student's phone. It's a growing issue.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/02/22/student-died-911-call-location/>

Greyhound will not allow US Customs and Border Protection agents to conduct searches on its buses without warrants, the company announced.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/22/us/greyhound-bus-border-patrol-trnd/index.html>

Police shoot people less if they have the right training

<https://www.cpr.org/2020/02/07/police-shoot-people-less-if-they-have-the-right-training/>

Police offering drug recovery help: 'We can't arrest our way out of this problem'

<https://www.npr.org/2020/02/08/802318886/police-offering-drug-recovery-help-we-can-t-arrest-our-way-out-of-this-problem>

Coming Up

JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY



CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH

5:30PM - 8:00PM

EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY - BASCOM ROOM

CASE REVIEW: TBD

TRAINING TOPIC: TBD



About Us

The Office of the Police Auditor operates independently. We report directly to, and are funded by, the Eugene City Council. We are an independent, civilian entity Responsible for civilian oversight of the Eugene Police Department; neither our funding nor management overlap with EPD.



City of Eugene
Office of the Police Auditor
800 Olive St.
Eugene, OR 97401

Mark Gissiner,
Police Auditor

Leia Pitcher,
Deputy Police Auditor

Vicki Cox,
Senior Program Coordinator

Beatriz Otero Hernandez,
Community Engagement Coordinator &
Translation Specialist

Phone: (541) 682-5016
Fax: (541) 682-5599
Email: policeauditor@eugene-or.gov

Website:
<http://www.eugene-or.gov/policeauditor>
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/EugenePoliceAuditor
Twitter:
[@Eugene_IPA](https://twitter.com/Eugene_IPA)