



Complaints Related to EPD Response to May Demonstrations

Mark Gissiner,
Police Auditor

June 15, 2020 - Our office continues to receive complaints related to Eugene Police Department's (EPD's) response to recent demonstrations. The Civilian Review Board unanimously voted last week to review all complaints related to the demonstrations as a community impact case. In a community impact case, the CRB reviews the case before it is closed, and can order additional investigation if deemed necessary. We will continue to provide regular updates as the investigation progresses.

The incidents that have generated the most complaints are

- EPD response to journalists on scene after the curfew on May 31
- Apparent throwing of a tear gas canister towards a member of the media on May 31
- Use of aerosol deterrents and projectiles (sponge rounds) on May 29 and May 31

Leia Pitcher,
Deputy Police
Auditor

Our office will participate in the investigations of EPD's response to ensure the investigations are thorough, unbiased, and complete. We will bring transparency and accountability to these investigations to the fullest extent permitted under Oregon state law. Eugene is fortunate to have a robust civilian oversight system, including our office to investigate complaints, the Civilian Review Board's oversight of our office, and the Police Commission's input into EPD policies. We urge the public to utilize the oversight system to address their concerns. We are confident in the ability of our oversight systems to help our community through these difficult times, to a better and more equitable future.

Beatriz Otero-
Hernandez,
Community
Engagement
Coordinator

If you have complaint related to a specific incident during the demonstrations, especially if you directly witnessed something that concerned you, please contact our office via email, phone, or social media. We encourage the community to continue filing complaints. Our office is still closed to walk-in traffic due to the COVID crisis, but we will continue to take complaints by phone, our website, email, and/or social media. If you have video that you think may be useful, please include a link to it.

Vicki Cox, Senior
Program
Coordinator

Thank you for your assistance in these important matters.