

# **Salt Lake City Police Civilian Review Board**

## **Semiannual Report**

**January 12, 2004**

Cases completed since last semiannual report on October 20, 2003 (redacted copies attached)

C1 2003-0029

Allegation: Excessive use of force

Panel's recommendations: Officer should be exonerated.

C1 2003-0034

Allegations: Failure to file a police report. Failure to take police action.

Panel's recommendation: Officer should be exonerated.

C1 2003-0039

Allegation: Excessive use of force.

Panel's recommendation: Complaint should be sustained.

C1 2003-0046

Allegations: Personal contacts. Obligation to obey the law.

Panel's recommendation: Complaint is unfounded.

C1 2003-0056

Allegation: Excessive use of force.

Panel's recommendation: Officer should be exonerated.

C1 2003-0059

Allegations: Failure to abide by the law. Personal contacts.

Panel's recommendations: Failure to abide by the law complaint is unfounded. The personal contacts allegation should be sustained.

The Police Department concurred with all the panels' recommendations.

Three additional cases have been completed, but no panel meeting has been convened because the Administrator has not received the Internal Affairs case file.

### Statistics

Six investigations have been completed since October 12. Panels have recommended two of the six (33%) be sustained. Three of the cases contained allegations of excessive

force. Panels recommended that one of the three excessive force complaints be sustained (33%).

Trends and Patterns

The following trends or patterns have been noted by panels of the Police Civilian Review Board.

Some of the investigations conducted at the Division level could be improved. Cases have been reviewed where the sergeant conducting the investigation did not appear to have adequate training. In some cases interviews of more than one person were conducted in one session. There have been case reviews where significant questions were not asked of witnesses and officers.

Allegations against police officers do not always appear to be consistent. Under very similar circumstances there was an allegation of failure to abide by the law against one officer and not another. The Police Department may want to consider having one person responsible for reviewing the circumstances of each Category 1 complaint and determining what the allegation(s) should be.

Other Recommendations

In the opinion of the Board the form letter sent to complainants from the Police Department does not contain adequate information so the complainants understand the rationale for the final disposition. It is likely, therefore, that complainants are not satisfied with the form letter. The Board recommends that a better explanation be provided to complainants in the Department's form letter.

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Brent Ward, Chair

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Date