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DON CASIMERE, DIRECTOR

April 11, 2005

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City Council  
Sacramento, CA

Honorable Members in Session

**SUBJECT:** Office of Public Safety Accountability (OPSA) Annual Report

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:** Citywide

**RECOMMENDATION:** This report is for City Council information.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Donald L. Casimere, Director of OPSA  
Phone: 808-5704

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** April 19, 2005

**SUMMARY:** This is the fifth Annual Report published by the City Manager's Office. This report covers a period from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004 with highlights in the Executive Summary of activities and accomplishments. In 2004, at the direction of the City Manager and with approval from City Council, the responsibilities of the Office of Police Accountability were broadened to include oversight of the Sacramento Fire Department (SFD). The name was changed to the Office of Public Safety Accountability. Additionally, the City Manager recommended and the City Council approved, two full time equivalent staff positions in the OPSA to ensure it is able to serve its internal and external customers as efficiently as possible. Currently there are 676 sworn police officers and 519 sworn firefighters.

The number of citizen complaints regarding SPD personnel has continued to decline in the past five years. The OPSA attributes this to greater levels of training and supervision, as well as internal and external accountability efforts. There has also been a constant trend of officers with less than five years of experience receiving the largest number of complaints. As the SPD increases the number of new officers by an unprecedented 67 officers, it is anticipated that this trend will continue. The OPSA and SPD recognize the importance of supporting, training and supervising these new officers.



## **BACKGROUND:**

Highlights of the attached fifth Annual Report are as follows:

*Background.* The Mayor and City Council established the OPSA for the purpose of monitoring the investigations of citizens' complaints pertaining to public safety employees.

The Office specifically tracks and monitors high profile or serious complaint cases to conclusion, reviews completed investigations, and advises the City Manager of any deficient investigations. The Office is under the direction, control and supervision of the City Manager. The City Manager has the authority to extend the Office's scope and review responsibilities to other departments in the City.

*OPSA Outreach.* The OPSA puts emphasis on establishing and maintaining credible relationships in the Sacramento community. This will remain a primary and ongoing commitment of the OPSA. Additionally, the OPSA has established relationships with other jurisdictions, educational institutions and devotes time to participating in community forums, seminars and professional organizations.  
**The OPSA Director participated in over 45 outreach measures in 2004.**

*Relationship with the SPD.* It is critical that the OPSA enjoy a professional and mutually respectful relationship with members of the SPD. Since its existence, many steps have been taken to ensure that such a relationship exists and continues to be maintained. In 2004, the OPSA Director participated in roll call appearances, ride alongs, made presentations at the SPD academy and met with individual staff as requested. The Sacramento Police Officers Association (SPOA) continues to demonstrate its support for the OPSA.

*Relationship with the SFD.* As with the SPD, the importance of a positive working relationship between the OPSA and the SFD is imperative. The OPSA has held introductory meetings with executive staff and Sacramento Area Firefighters Local 522 leadership to discuss the operations of the OPSA and protocol issues. The Director has gone on numerous ride-alongs throughout the City, toured facilities to become acquainted with the operations of the SFD and attended a fire prevention officers staff meeting.

*City Manager Directed Activities.* The City Manager may direct the OPSA to specifically track and monitor high profile or serious complaint cases to conclusion, review completed investigations, and advise him of any deficient investigations.

*Recommendations Made to the City Manager, SPD and SFD.* The OPSA Director will continue to make recommendations to the City Manager, SPD and SFD based on complaints, critical incidents, investigations and audited cases, as well as complaint trends.

*SPD Critical Incidents and SFD High Profile Incident Notification Call-Up Lists.* In addition to receiving complaints, the OPSA Director is on the Critical Incident Call-Up List for the SPD and the High Profile Incident Notification Call-up List for the SFD and will be notified when incidents occur. The Director has the option of responding to any and all such incidents. Additionally, the Director shall have the authority to monitor interviews of subject employees, employee witnesses and citizens immediately following such an incident.

*Audited Investigations Involving SPD and SFD.*

*SPD* - The Director of OPSA audits formal and informal investigations, which are performed by Internal Affairs. In 2004, the OPSA Director performed 11 formal audits and 80 informal audits.

*SFD* – The OSPA Purpose, Authority and Procedures Statement was revised to include investigations conducted by the SFD. These procedures will be built upon as the SFD establishes and builds its Internal Affairs/Professional Standards Unit (IA/PSU).

*Year-end Complaint Statistics/Comparisons.*

*SPD* – The OPSA tracks statistical profiles on complainants, officers and complaints. This information includes details of when and where an incident occurred, in what council district it occurred, the alleged misconduct as well as other details. Following the City Council's recommendation, the OPSA also tracks the council district in which a complainant resides. The OPSA also tracks officer data such as age and years with the SPD.

*SFD* – This report does not contain statistical data regarding the SFD. These data collection procedures will be developed as the SFD establishes its IA/PSU. Future reports will present statistical data that document the number of complaints by category, the number of sustained complaints, and corrective action taken. Future reports will also analyze any trends and patterns of complaints.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:** None.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:** There are no financial considerations for this report.


**POLICY CONSIDERATION:** The OPSA supports and promotes the Mayor and City Council's adopted Strategic Plan and Strategic Goals.

Identified three year goals are:

- Improve and expand public safety
- Achieve sustainability and livability
- Increase opportunities for all Sacramento residents to live in safe and affordable housing
- Expand economic development throughout the City

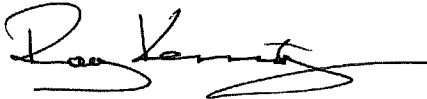
**ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:** None

Respectfully submitted,



Donald L. Casimere, Director  
Office of Public Safety Accountability

APPROVED:



ROBERT P. THOMAS  
City Manager

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Overheads (*Pages 5 through 21*)

2004 OPSA Annual Report ATTACHMENT

# **Mission Statement**

- To enhance relationships between the City of Sacramento's public safety employees and the community by independently accepting, monitoring and investigating complaints of misconduct

# **Responsibilities Extended**

## **2004 SFD**

- SFD Task Force
- Monitored SFD Hotline
- Policy and Procedure Statement Revised
  - High Profile Incident Notification Protocol Established

# **Responsibilities Extended**

- Handout/Brochure Revised
  - OPSA Information and Processes
    - Available to SPD
    - Available to SFD
      - (All Fire Stations)

# **Purpose of OPSA Outreach**

- **Community Interface**
- **Perspectives, Needs and Concerns of Sacramento Stakeholders**
- **Initiate and Build Community Partnerships**
- **Purpose and Role of OPSA**
- **Complaint Processes**

# **Relationship with SPD**

- **Roll Calls**
- **Ride Alongs**
- **SPD Academy Presentations**
- **Individual SPD Officers**
- **SPOA**
- **Police Executives**
- **IA/PS**

# Relationship SFD

- Ride Alongs and Facility Tours
- SFD Training
  - Ethics (Captains)
  - IA (Battalion Chiefs)
- Individual SFD Personnel

# Relationship SFD

- Local 522 Leadership
- Fire Executives
- SFD IA/PS
  - Set Up OPSA and SFD Protocol

# **City Manager Directed Activities**

- City Manager May Direct OPSA To Track and Monitor High Profile Cases
- Other Duties
  - SPD
  - SFD
  - Community Racial Profiling Commission
  - Inclusion Council

## **Complaints Received Trends**

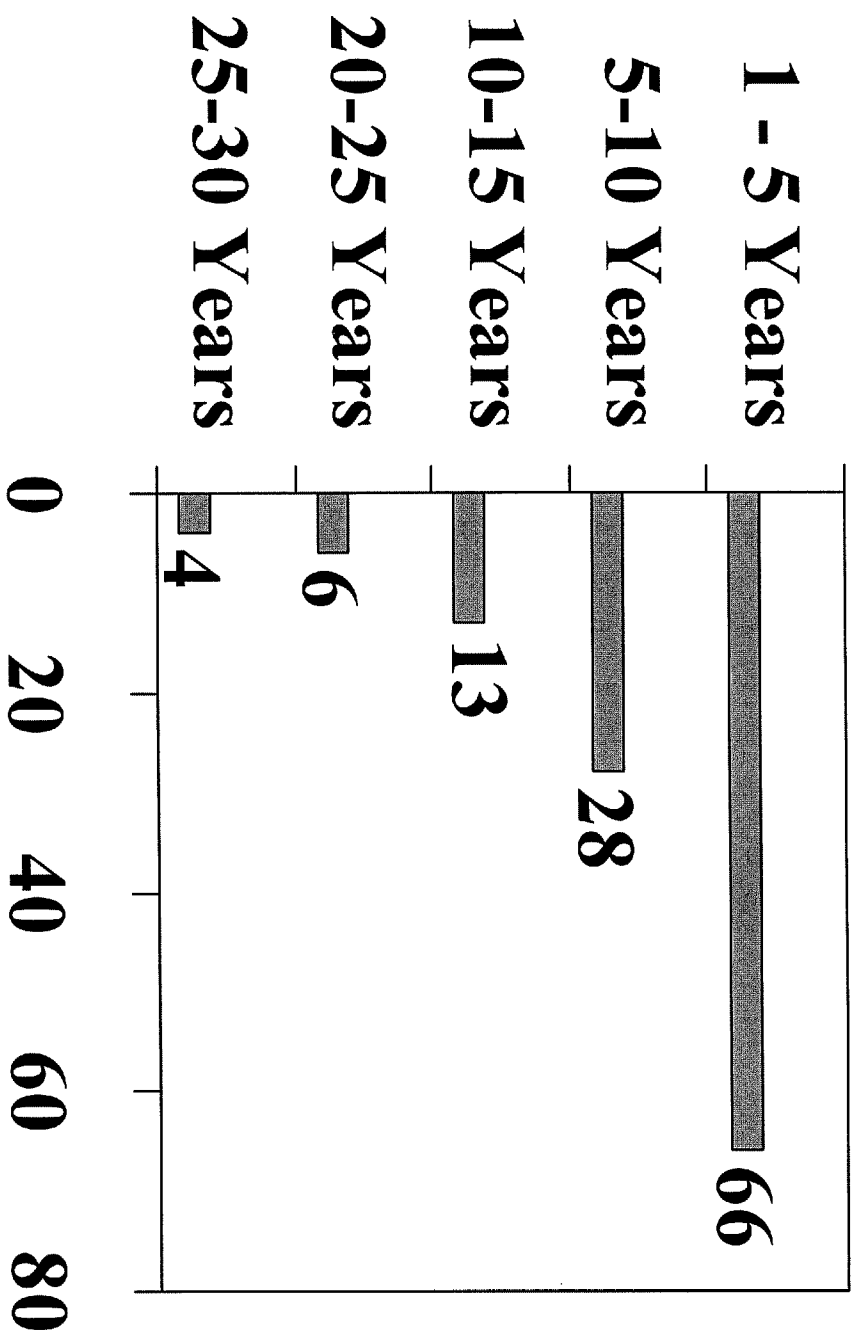
- 2004 Complaints 117
- 2003 Complaints 159
- 2002 Complaints 174
- 2001 Complaints 184
- 2000 Complaints 219

## **Force Complaints**

• 2004	23
• 2003	45
• 2002	33
• 2001	39
• 2000	65

# Complaints By Officer Experience

- 2004



# **Disposition of Cases Formally Investigated (IA Statistics)**

- Sustained 29**
- Not Sustained 3**
- Exonerated 4**
- Within Policy 1**
- Unfounded 4**
- Pending 23**

# **SPD Discipline Imposed (IA Statistics)**

- **Suspension** 4
- **Documented Counseling** 5
- **Salary Reduction** 1
- **Letter of Reprimand** 17
- **Release from Probation** 2

# **Citizen Contact Information**

- 2004 308
- 2003 238
- 2002 290
- 2001 310

# **Agency Comparison Complaints Received 2004**

- Sacramento 117
- Oakland 130
- Long Beach 269
- Fresno 97
- Sac County 254

# OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTINGS 2004

- Sacramento 2
- Oakland 9
- Long Beach 11
- Fresno 9
- Sac County 8

# **OPSA INFORMATION**

**Don Casimere, Director**

**Office of Public Safety**

**Accountability**

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