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January 29, 2026

**Sent via email only to: [mkapaun@spokanecity.org](mailto:mkapaun@spokanecity.org)**

City of Spokane Ethics Commission  
Attn: Megan Kapaun, Staff Liaison, Assistant City Attorney  
Ethics Commission Staff Director  
City of Spokane – Office of City Attorney  
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201-3339

**Re: Sims v. Logue - Ethics Complaint  
Investigation Report and Findings**

Dear City of Spokane Ethics Commission:

Pursuant to the City of Spokane Municipal Code - Code of Ethics (SMC 01.04B), the City of Spokane Ethics Commission Policy and Procedures Manual (revised March 2025) Rule 4, the City of Spokane Code of Ethics Handbook (revised March 2025) referring to SMC 01.04B, and my appointment as the neutral fact-finding investigator under the same, please treat this letter as my final investigation Report, findings, and recommendations into the Ethics Complaint submitted by Complainant Mr. Evan Sims (“Complainant Sims”), dated and signed September 7, 2025 (the “Complaint” or “Ethics Complaint”), against City of Spokane Ombudsman Mr. Bart Logue (“Respondent Logue”, the “Ombuds”, or the “Ombudsman”). This Report is submitted in compliance with SMC 01.04B.160(C) and (D), SMC 01.04B.170, and Ordinance No. C – 36532 (as amended 6/24/2024).

The purpose of my investigation was to act as a neutral, third-party investigator, to conduct a fact-finding investigation to determine whether there is “reasonable cause” to believe that Respondent Logue violated the City’s Code of Ethics - SMC 01.04B - as alleged by Complainant Sims in his Complaint.

In analyzing the allegations of the Ethics Complaint and the Code of Ethics provisions cited therein, my investigation specifically examined whether the Ombuds engaged in prohibited acts and/or conduct per Section 01.04B.050: “commission of acts of moral turpitude or dishonesty” (01.04B.050.N). As discussed in greater detail below, the Complaint alleges that Respondent

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Patrick J. Cronin <sup>ID</sup>  
Darren M. Digiacinto <sup>ID</sup>  
Scott A. Gingras <sup>ID MT</sup>  
Michael T. Howard <sup>ID MT</sup>

Hannah M. Jonus  
Collette C. Leland <sup>ID</sup>  
Christine M. Meegan <sup>ID</sup>  
Anna K. O’Quinn  
Benjamin H. Rascoff <sup>ID</sup>

Dalton J. Reynolds <sup>ID</sup>  
Gabrielle C. Roth  
Elizabeth A. Telleson <sup>ID</sup>  
Christine Vogel <sup>NY</sup>  
Zachary M. Walls <sup>ID</sup>

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C. Matthew Andersen <sup>ID</sup>  
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Richard W. Relyea  
Jeffrey R. Ropp  
Lucinda S. Whaley

*All lawyers admitted in WA. Lawyers admitted in ID, MT, and NY as indicated.*

Logue violated the section of the City's Code of Ethics governing "moral turpitude"<sup>1</sup> or "dishonesty"<sup>2</sup> in a variety of ways, acts, manner, and/or conduct in the performance of his duties and responsibilities as the City Ombudsman. Complainant Sims also alleges in his Complaint a violation by Respondent Logue of the City of Spokane Code of Ethics provision SMC 01.04B.010<sup>3</sup> - the "purpose" statement of the Code of Ethics - based on the allegation that Respondent Logue used his Ombudsman title for personal gain.

Additionally, Complainant Sims' Complaint can further be reasonably read and/or interpreted to involve implications or allegations of, and therefore analysis of, potential violations of SMC 01.04B.050 provisions: (1) conflict of interest (01.04B.050.A)<sup>4</sup>; (2) certain prohibited private employment (01.04B.050.F)<sup>5</sup>; and (3) aiding others of prohibited conduct (01.04B.050.M)<sup>6</sup>.

Accordingly, my investigation and this Report will review those five identified provisions of the City of Spokane Code of Ethics for any potential reasonable cause violations by Respondent Logue<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Moral Turpitude is defined in the City of Spokane Code of Ethics as: "conduct that violates commonly accepted standards of good morals, honesty and justice; the application of this standard depends upon the collective conscience and judgment of the members of the Commission." *See* SMC 1.04B.020(X).

<sup>2</sup> Dishonesty is defined in the City of Spokane Code of Ethics as: "behavior that intends to deceive or cheat people; untruthfulness; untrustworthiness. It is not possible to be negligently 'dishonest.'" *See* SMC 1.04B.020(L)

<sup>3</sup> SMC 01.04B.010(A) states: "It is the policy of the City of Spokane to demand the highest standard of ethical conduct from all of its employees and City officers, whether elected, appointed or hired. All are required to demonstrate honesty, integrity, responsibility and fairness in carrying out their public duties and may never use public resources or their position for personal gain. The Ethics Commission functions to ensure that this policy, as codified in this Chapter, is enforced and that the standards set forth herein are reinforced through training and other initiatives."

<sup>4</sup> SMC 01.04B.050(A), the general prohibition against conflicts of interests, states: "In order to avoid becoming involved or implicated in a conflict of interest or impropriety, or an appearance of conflict of interest or impropriety, no current City officer or employee shall have an interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in a business or transaction or professional activity, or incur an obligation of any nature, that might be seen as conflicting with the City officer or employee's proper discharge of his or her official duties, the conduct of official City business or as adverse to the interests of the City."

<sup>5</sup> SMC 01.04B.050(F), the prohibition of certain private employment, states: "No City officer or employee shall engage in or accept private employment, or render services for, any private interest when such employment or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties or would tend to impair independence of judgment or action in the performance of official duties."

<sup>6</sup> SMC 01.04B.050(M) states: "No City officer or employee may knowingly aid or assist any City officer or employee in the violation of any provision of this Code of Ethics."

<sup>7</sup>My investigation and this Report only pertain to allegations made against and directed specifically at Respondent Logue by Complainant Sims. Complainant Sims' Complaint makes additional allegations of wrongdoing against other individuals, including the SPD Officers involved, and the Commission's Staff Liaison Assistant City Attorney. Regardless, the scope of my investigation is exclusive to Respondent Logue and Complainant Sims' allegations against him, and therefore I make no specific findings or recommendations concerning any other individual named or referenced in the Ethics Complaint.

## **1. Scope, Methodology, and Process of Investigation**

In summary, the Ethics Complaint filed by Complainant Sims asserts that Respondent Logue engaged in multiple forms of alleged ethics misconduct in connection with the Spokane Police Department Internal Affairs Department's ("IA") investigation C24-046, and Office of Police Ombuds ("OPO") certification thereof, arising from a purported physical incident that Complainant Sims was involved in at the Spokane dining establishment commonly known as the Park Inn (the "PI").

The PI incident took place in or around March of 2024 and was originally investigated by City of Spokane Police Officer Garth Craigen as a result of a police contact made by an employee of the PI. Complainant Sims was then interviewed as part of that initial police investigation, which ultimately resulted in a formal police report being drafted issued by that SPD Officer in the end of March, 2024.

Complainant Sims then filed his OPO/IA citizen Complaint on or about June 10, 2024, which was assigned IA number C24-046, and OPO number 24-26. This was the first of two IA Complaints filed by Complainant Sims regarding the PI incident and subsequent investigations. As noted in the summary report of that original IA complaint, Complainant Sims *"states that he was injured in an assault and wanted to file a police report and press charges. When he received the report that responding officer wrote, Mr. Sims stated that the report was filled with inaccuracies. After reviewing the BWC footage, Mr. Sims observed that Officer Craigen told the assailant that Mr. Sims had a developmental disability and that he admitted to biting his ankles."*

In short, Complainant Sims alleged there, and continues to contend here in this Ethics Complaint, that he was the victim in the physical event that took place at the PI in March of 2024, but that Officer Craigen's original police report of the incident was inaccurate and untruthful in various aspects, and that Officer Craigen failed to properly perform his job duties and responsibilities as the responding and investigating Officer to obtain certain and specific evidence relating to the PI incident – namely alleged video surveillance footage captured by the PI of the event in question. The investigation of Complainant Sims' first IA Complaint C24-046 was determined by the IA investigator (and those involved in the IA process) to be "unfounded". As such, the allegations of misconduct against Officer Craigen were "disproven", and the matter "closed."

Moreover, Respondent Logue "concurred" that the matter was properly classified as closed and unfounded. As part of the OPO process, the Ombuds certified that he reviewed the preliminary investigation of IA, and determined that it was "completed through a timely, thorough, and objective process." Complainant Sims was then provided the findings and result of his IA Complaint and the Ombuds certification of the "unfounded" determination, after which the instant Ethics Complaint against Respondent Logue was filed. Complainant Sims also filed a second IA complaint directed at the underlying IA investigator, IA supervisor, and the then acting Assistant Chief of Police.

Specifically, Complainant Sims contends now in this Ethics Complaint that Respondent Logue acted dishonestly, and engaged in moral turpitude, by certifying the IA investigation as thorough and complete, despite what Sims characterizes as material deficiencies in evidence collection and

review processes. Complainant Sims further alleges that Respondent Logue failed to ensure the timely preservation of the potentially critical surveillance video footage from the PI, which Complainant Sims reasonably asserts could have corroborated his version of those events. The video footage was ultimately overwritten before retrieval efforts occurred (during the IA investigation stage, and not the underlying original police investigation by Officer Craigen).

In addition, Complainant Sims claims that a supplemental statement (i.e. his own statement) or additional materials he claims to have provided were not properly included or considered in the original IA investigative file, thereby compromising the integrity of the investigation and Respondent Logue's certification thereof.

Complainant Sims also alleges that Respondent Logue engaged in retaliatory conduct by facilitating, encouraging, or at least allegedly knowing about a purported referral for potential criminal prosecution against him following his Complaint.

Complainant Sims also alleges that Respondent Logue improperly used his position and title as Ombudsman for personal financial gain through outside consulting activities, alleging conflicts of interest, and misuse of authority/title in the same.

Again, collectively Complainant Sims maintains that these actions and conduct of Respondent Logue violated the City of Spokane's Code of Ethics, including provisions relating to dishonesty/moral turpitude, misuse of position/title, conflicts of interest, and allegedly aiding others of prohibited conduct.

***a. Witness Interviews-***

Based on the allegations of Complainant Sims in this Ethics Complaint, in accordance with the SMC 01.04B, I, as the appointed neutral investigator, contacted and conducted the interviews of witnesses. These interviews were all conducted to determine whether there is reasonable cause to believe that the subject of Complainant Sims complaint – Respondent Logue – committed any violations of the above-identified City's Code of Ethics provisions. My witness interviews were as follows:

- (i) On December 5, 2025, I conducted an in-person interview of Complainant Evan Sims;
- (ii) On December 8, 2025, I conducted an in-person interview Respondent Bart Logue;

I then contacted and interviewed the following additional witnesses who were identified by both Complainant Sims and Respondent Logue as individuals with purported knowledge of the potential facts and evidence pertaining to the allegations in the Ethics Complaint:

- (iii) On December 12, 2025, I conducted a telephone interview of Ombuds Commission Member (and Chair at that time) Ms. Jenny Rose;
- (iv) On December 15, 2025, I conducted a telephone interview of Ombuds Commission Member (and former Chair at that time) Mr. Luc Jasmin III;

- (v) On December 29, 2025, I conducted an in-person interview of the original IA investigator of Complainant Sims first IA complaint - Sergeant (SPD) Mr. Matthew Rose; and
- (vi) On December 30, 2025, I conducted an in-person interview of the original IA Supervisor over Complainant Sims first IA complaint - Lieutenant (SPD) Mr. Sean Wheeler<sup>8</sup>.

***b. Document/Evidence Review-***

In addition to the interview of those witnesses, I also sought to obtain, and did in fact obtain and evaluate documentation and electronic evidence in this matter, both from Complainant Sims and from the City of Spokane Police Department/OPO.

This collection and review of documentary evidence was also done in an effort to determine whether reasonable cause exists to believe the subject of Complainant Sims Complaint – Respondent Logue – committed any violations of the above-identified City’s Code of Ethics provisions. The following is a summary of the documentary and other electronic evidence I received and reviewed in this matter:

- (i) The Office of Spokane City Attorney Memo of September 11, 2025, from Megan R. Kapaun, Staff Director, to the Ethics Commission, regarding the Revised Complaint Against Ombuds Bart Logue;
- (ii) The City of Spokane Ethics Commission Ethics Complaint of Evan Sims, Dated September 7, 2025;
- (iii) The Agenda Sheet for City Council, the Finance and Administration Committee, dated 06/03/2024, including the Committee Agenda Sheet for May 23, 2024;
- (iv) Spokane Municipal Code Title 01, Chapter 01.04B;
- (v) Ordinance No. C – 36532, as amended 6/24/2024;
- (vi) The website of the City of Spokane Office of Police Ombuds;
- (vii) Office of the Police Ombuds Monthly Report of October 2025;
- (viii) Office of Police Ombudsman Complaint Flow Chart, Updated 08/01/2011;
- (ix) Student Guide to Police Practices Prepared by the Police Ombudsman and Spokane Police Department, dated August 2013;
- (x) The NACOLE Code of Ethics as adopted by the City of Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman;
- (xi) The OPO Non-Binding Resolution No. 2013-0033;
- (xii) The City of Spokane Ethics Commission Handbook, dated 03-25-2025;
- (xiii) The City of Spokane Ethics Commission Policy and Procedures Manual, dated 03-25-2025;
- (xiv) The December 3, 2024, letter from Bart Logue to the Office of Police Ombuds Commission RE: Secondary Employment of Bart Logue and Luvimae Omana;

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<sup>8</sup> At the time of my interview of Lt. Wheeler he was no longer assigned to the SPD IA Department. Lt. Wheeler moved out of IA in February of 2025, and is currently a Training Director within SPD. Lt. Wheeler indicated that his transfer and/or move from IA to the Training Department was not in any way related to Complainant Sims and/or his various complaints and allegations in this matter.

- (xv) The Private Employment Agreement dated and signed December 3, 2024, by and between Bart Logue and the Office of Police Ombuds Commission;
- (xvi) The Private Employment Agreement dated and signed December 3, 2024, and December 9, 2024, by and between Deputy Police Ombuds Luvimae Omana and the Office of Police Ombuds Commission, including the Secondary Employment Final Audit Report of Christina Coty regarding the history of the document signatures, also dated December 9, 2024;
- (vii) Records, documents, and evidence obtained from the Spokane Police Department including:
  - i. Three (3) Axon Body Videos, dated 04-08-2024, containing video and audio of Mr. Sims initial interview by Officer Craigen;
  - ii. An audio recording file, labeled 251016\_1000, containing the audio interview of October 16, 2025, of Complainant Sims by IA investigator Lt. Mike Schneider;
  - iii. The Spokane Police Department OPO Citizen Complaint Report file of IA No. C25-049<sup>9</sup>, entitled “C25-049 -Open”, including all documents, records and evidence included therein;
  - iv. An audio file recording of an interview by Spokane Police Sergeant Trevor Nollmeyer of witness “Tom” to the PI event, dated 10/17/2025, file number 251017\_1124;
  - v. The Spokane Police Department OPO Citizen Complaint Report file of IA No. C24-046, entitled “C24-046 Closed”, including all documents, records, and evidence included therein;
  - vi. An audio file recording of a telephone call from Christina from OPO to Complainant Evan Sims of June 10, 2024, confirming receipt of complaint form and seeking clarification on the complaint;
  - vii. An audio file recording of a 911 call made by a PI employee Tim regarding Mr. Sims of Monday March 25, 2024, with file number “911 Call 2420056065\_2420056050\_1”;
  - viii. An audio file recording of a second 911 call made by a PI employee Tim regarding Mr. Sims of Monday March 25, 2024, with file number “911 Call 2420056065\_2420056050\_2”;
  - ix. An audio file recording of a June 27, 2024, phone call from IA investigator Sgt. Rose to Complainant Sims, to IA complaint C24-046;
  - x. An audio file recording of an updated phone call interview by IA investigator Sgt. Rose of witness Marcus in IA complaint C24-046, with the file 240701\_0749, and requesting surveillance video from the event at the PI; and

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<sup>9</sup> Again, it is my understanding that there was a second IA/OPO Complaint filed by Complainant Sims, and a second IA investigation conducted. This is the IA/OPO complaint wherein Mr. Sims alleges a violation of supervisory roles by Lt. Wheeler and Assistant Chief Singley of IA investigator Sgt. Rose, all relating to the first IA/OPO investigation of IA Complaint No. C24-046. As of the date of this Report, it is my understanding in reviewing the evidence that the second IA Complaint has also been recommended to be closed by that IA investigator, with findings of no evidence of wrongdoing. However, unlike the first IA Complaint at issue here, the second IA Complaint was not sent to the Office of Police Ombuds for review and certification due to the conflict caused by this Ethics Complaint filed by Complainant Sims against Respondent Logue.

- xi. An audio file recording of a call of July 10, 2024, containing a phone call interview of witness Vivian in IA complaint C24-046, with file 240710\_1149.
- (viii) Records, documents, and evidence obtained directly from Complainant Evan Sims, including:
  - a. A zip folder entitled “documents\_bl”, containing the following:
    - i. A subfolder of “logue\_emails”, containing 21 emails;
    - ii. A letter from the Department of Navy dated September 4, 2025, with the subject of FOIA Appeal 2025-USMCAPPEAL-000167;
    - iii. A document entitled “Craigien\_letter”, which contains a letter sent by Complainant Sims to Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, Preston McCollam, Chief Criminal Deputy, dated May 4, 2025;
    - iv. Spokane Police Department Defensive Tactics Manual, dated revised June 2016;
    - v. A document entitled “Final response letter Sims”, which appears to be a letter from the United States Marine Corps to Evan Sims, dated July 11, 2025, regarding FOIA request 2025-USMCFOIA-005563;
    - vi. A file entitled “Logue\_black\_book\_FOIA”, which appears to be a letter sent by Complainant Sims to the FOIA office of the U.S. Marine Corps, making a FOIA request for certain Mr. Logue’s military service records;
    - vii. Another copy of the NACOLE Code of Ethics, as adopted by the City of Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman;
    - viii. Complainant Sims’ City of Spokane Citizen Commendation / Complaint Form dated May 4, 2025, entitled “Rose-complaint”;
    - ix. Complainant Sims’ City of Spokane Citizen Commendation / Complaint Form dated May 4, 2025, entitled “Singley-Wheeler-complaint”;
    - x. A file entitled “supplemental\_report”, which appears to be the document Complainant Sims refers to as his “supplement” to Officer Craigien’s original police report submitted;
    - xi. A file entitled “supporting\_evidence”, which Complainant Sims states to be a document that supports his claims they pertain to the Ombudsman;
    - xii. A file entitled “sweeping\_changes”, containing the Spokane Police Department, Spokane Police Department Policy Manual page 72, Policy 308, dated “Copyright Lexipol, LLC 2025/06/02”;
  - b. A zip folder entitled “syncope”, containing:
    - i. An audio/video file entitled “Clinical\_Syncope\_video” – containing a video;
    - ii. A file entitled “seizure\_like\_activity”, containing a three-page written document by Complainant Sims; and
    - iii. A medical journal article of T. Lempert, MD, and M. Bauer, MD, and D. Schmidt MD, dated and copyrighted 1994 by the American Neurological Association, entitled “Syncope: A videometric analysis of 56 episodes of transient cerebral hypoxia.”

At this time, I hereby certify that I have now conducted and completed all interviews of relevant witnesses, and have reviewed all other evidentiary evidence and documentation received in my investigation noted above, and hereby prepare this investigative Report detailing my “reasonable cause” findings, and including an ultimate recommendation to the Ethics Commission on Complainant Sims’ Ethics Complaint.

I further hereby certify that this investigation Report is submitted to the Ethics Commission, by and through Assistant City Attorney and Staff Liaison Ms. Megan Kapaun, within the time allowed to complete the investigation pursuant to City Municipal Code SMC 01.04B.160(D), and the time permitted by the thirty (30) day extension granted to me by the Commission on December 17, 2025, with a deadline date of January 31, 2026.

## **2. Summary of Allegations and Events**

Again, Complainant Sims’ Ethics Complaint alleges dishonesty, suppression of evidence, retaliation, misuse of City resources, and improper financial benefit related to outside consulting activities by Respondent Logue. Regarding those allegations, the following is a summary of my interviews of the witnesses in my investigation identified above, their relevant witness statements, as well as my corresponding review of the documents and other evidence received concerning the allegations and events described in the Ethics Complaint:

- Complainant Sims stated that his Ethics Complaint originated from a police response at the PI in Spokane in approximately March 2024 involving SPD Officer Craigen. Complainant Sims described the circumstances leading up to the police response, including interactions between himself and staff, and the subsequent interview he did with Officer Craigen. Complainant Sims stated his belief that multiple surveillance cameras were positioned throughout the PI property and that he believed key portions of the interaction were recorded, including areas near the lobby and exterior walkways.
- Complainant Sims asserted that Officer Craigen did not make any effort to request, review, or preserve surveillance footage at the time of the incident. He stated that he later learned from staff that the system retained footage for a limited period before automatically overwriting older recordings. Complainant Sims believes this failure resulted in permanent loss of evidence that could have objectively shown what occurred.
- Complainant Sims explained that he filed a formal IA Complaint shortly after the incident in June of 2024, alleging improper conduct by Officer Craigen and deficiencies in the initial investigation and the Officer’s police report generated. He described participating in interviews with IA investigators during mid-2024. Complainant Sims further stated that he later submitted a supplemental written statement providing additional factual details, clarifications, and concerns about missing evidence.
- Complainant Sims stated that when he later obtained public records related to the IA investigation, he believes that his supplemental statement was intentionally not included in the IA file reviewed by the Office of Police Ombudsman. Complainant Sims asserted that this omission contributed to what he viewed as an incomplete and biased investigation.



However, none of the documentation received or reviewed confirmed or verified any intentional omission of a supplemental report or statement. I was also able to verify and see in the records that the second IA Complaint investigation did include expressly within the files, records and documents, the purported Sims' supplemental report.

- Complainant Sims further alleged that after the first IA investigation concluded, he became aware of what he believed to be a referral to the prosecutor's office for potential criminal charges stemming from the same incident. He stated that he perceived this referral as retaliatory in nature and intended to discourage him from continuing to challenge SPD and OPO.
- In addition to the IA-related allegations, Complainant Sims asserted in his interview that Ombudsman Bart Logue engaged in improper conduct by using his official position to secure outside consulting contracts with other jurisdictions. Sims stated that he believed Logue leveraged his title and reputation to obtain paid work and that such consulting created conflicts of interest with his oversight role.
- Complainant Sims subsequently provided emails, public records responses, videos, medical journal articles, and other documentation and personal written statements in support of his allegations, though he acknowledged that he did not possess direct proof of intentional ethical wrongdoing, but believed the totality of circumstances reflected unethical conduct by Respondent Logue.
- Respondent Bart Logue stated that he has served as the City of Spokane's Ombudsman and oversees the Office of Police Ombudsman, which independently reviews Internal Affairs investigations conducted by SPD. Respondent Logue explained in detail that IA is responsible for fact-finding, evidence collection, and policy analysis, while OPO evaluates whether the investigation was thorough, objective, and in compliance with SPD procedures.
- Respondent Logue stated that in the Sims matter/complaint, IA conducted the investigation in mid-2024 and provided a complete investigative file to OPO for review. Respondent Logue stated that he personally reviewed the file and concluded it met certification standards. In my subsequent receipt and review of the file, I do see and find that on August 7, 2024, Respondent Logue wrote in the IA investigation report:

*I concur that this is properly classified as Closed, Unfounded. I also concur that there is no indication of a violation of policy in this case that remains to be pursued by Internal Affairs. All pertinent evidence that could be attained is attached to this case file. While the complainant does state inconsistencies in the written report, the BWC footage of the interview with the complainant as well as the follow up phone calls were all properly annotated as belonging to the case file properly, further evidenced by the Complainant's receipt of the BWC footage along with the report. Officers are not asked to write verbatim police reports but should strive to be factual even if there are conflicting narratives from the involved parties. It is clear that the threshold of probable cause for an arrest was not reached in this incident but the incident was still properly documented by the responding officer. The additional investigation by the IA investigator further confirmed what was*

*documented in the police report. I concur with IA's assessment of Closed Unfounded in regards to the allegations in this case.*

*Therefore I, Bart Logue, have reviewed the completed preliminary investigation and determined that it was completed through a timely, thorough, and objective process.*

*Bart Logue, Police Ombudsman, City of Spokane.*

- Regarding the PI surveillance footage, in his interview for this investigation Respondent Logue acknowledged that the responding SPD Officer did not retrieve video footage at the time of the incident. Respondent Logue stated that IA later attempted to obtain the footage but learned it had been overwritten pursuant to routine retention practices. Logue denied any intentional delay or suppression of evidence and stated OPO has no authority to conduct independent evidence seizures.
- Respondent Logue stated he was not aware of any supplemental statement being improperly omitted and explained that OPO reviews what IA provides in the investigative file. He also denied any retaliatory conduct and explained that OPO has no involvement in prosecutorial decisions.
- Regarding his outside consulting work, Respondent Logue acknowledged engaging in outside consulting work. Respondent Logue stated that in or around 2023 he disclosed his intent to engage in consulting work to the Ombudsman Commission. He explained the nature of the consulting work, potential time commitments, and safeguards to avoid conflicts. Respondent Logue stated that the Commission approved the activity with clear conditions that he does not use City resources/time and that the work not interfere with Ombudsman responsibilities. He stated that he conducted consulting work on personal time, frequently using accrued vacation leave, and denied using his official position improperly.
- I then interviewed OPO Commissioner Jenny Rose. She stated that she has served on the Ombudsman Commission for over a decade and currently (at that time) serves as Chair. She explained that the Commission oversees the Ombudsman's performance, conducts annual reviews, and addresses administrative matters. Commissioner Rose stated that she was generally aware of Sims' dissatisfaction with the IA investigation but did not personally review the IA file.
- Commissioner Rose stated and corroborated that Respondent Logue disclosed his intent to engage in outside consulting work prior to accepting any paid engagements in approximately 2023. She described Logue as being very transparent and proactive in addressing potential conflicts. She stated that she personally questioned Respondent Logue about whether consulting work could interfere with his Ombudsman duties or involve City time or resources. She stated that Logue assured her safeguards were in place. Commissioner Rose recalled that the Commission discussed the matter in meetings and ultimately approved the consulting activity with restrictions. She stated that approval was documented by written letter agreement, which I obtained, reviewed and verified.

- Commissioner Rose also stated that she has personally observed Respondent Logue using vacation time for consulting, and that she has never personally observed (or suspected) misuse of City resources or authority or time by Respondent Logue. She stated she has never had concerns regarding Logue's honesty or ethics, and has never had an occasion that she found or believed that Respondent Logue was ever working on his private consulting business work with Pivot on or during his work time as the City Ombuds.
- I then interviewed OPO Commissioner member Luc Jasmin. Luc Jasmin stated that he previously served as Chair of the Ombudsman Commission and worked closely with Respondent Logue during that period. Commissioner Jasmin also recalled and corroborated that Respondent Logue disclosed his intention to engage in consulting work before accepting any paid engagements. He stated that he recalled the Commission discussed whether the consulting could create conflicts of interest or interfere with Ombudsman duties, and ultimately approved it in principle. Commissioner Jasmin stated that no Commissioners, to his recollection, expressed ongoing concerns, and that safeguards were established.
- Like Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Jasmin stated that he was not aware of any misconduct by Respondent Logue in relation to the Sims IA investigation and expressed confidence in Logue's professionalism and ethical conduct. He also could think of no time or occasion where he questioned whether Respondent Logue was working or misusing his City Ombuds time for outside consulting work services.
- I then interviewed the IA investigator and IA investigation supervisor of Complainant Sims' first IA complaint, SPD Sgt. Matthew Rose and Lt. Sean Wheeler. Sgt. Matthew Rose stated that he was assigned to investigate Complainant Sims' first IA Complaint in mid-2024. He described the IA process including intake, interviews, evidence gathering, drafting reports, supervisory review, and submission to OPO. Sgt. Rose stated and acknowledged that Officer Craigen did not retrieve surveillance footage at the time of the PI incident. Sgt. Rose stated that during the IA investigation he attempted retrieval (at the physical site at the PI) but that the footage had been overwritten by that time.<sup>10</sup> Sgt. Rose stated that IA lacks subpoena authority for private businesses and relies on cooperation.
- Lt. Sean Wheeler stated that he supervised the IA investigation and reviewed Sgt. Rose's report. Lt. Wheeler stated that standard IA procedures were followed.
- Lt. Wheeler denied any suppression of evidence, interference, or retaliation by Logue, and described Logue as professional. Lt. Wheeler corroborated that surveillance footage retrieval was attempted but unsuccessful. Lt. Wheeler also stated that the investigation followed standard IA procedures and did not present issues warranting administrative discipline. Likewise, Sgt. Rose denied any interference from OPO or Respondent Logue,

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<sup>10</sup> During the IA investigation, the evidence and witness statement showed that Sgt. Rose personally contacted the PI owner and went to the location to attempt retrieval of the alleged surveillance video footage. Sgt. Rose reported that the owner provided a thumb drive to him that unfortunately was empty, and explained that the footage had likely already been overwritten pursuant to routine retention policies. In my investigation, I was provided with no evidence or witnesses to refute the same.

and stated that all investigative actions were documented. In my review of the IA and SPD files produced, I verified and corroborated that statement.

- Both Sgt. Rose and Lt. Wheeler described their working relationship with the Office of Police Ombudsman, and specifically with Ombudsman Bart Logue, as professional and collaborative. Sgt. Rose stated that he experienced and recalled no interference from OPO during the Sims investigation. Lt. Wheeler similarly stated that Respondent Logue did not direct alterations to investigative findings or interfere with IA operations. There is no evidence from either IA witness suggesting that Logue exerted undue influence over IA investigations or compromised their independence, or engaged in some type of conspiracy against Complainant Sims. The separation of roles — IA conducting fact-finding and OPO conducting review — appears to have been maintained in this case. The witness statements do not support claims of ethical violations that Logue improperly influenced IA outcomes or acted in a manner creating a conflict of interest, or somehow aided others in prohibited conduct.
- Both Sgt. Rose and Lt. Wheeler further stated that in their frequent and close working interactions with Respondent Logue over the relevant time period, and they could not recall any instances in which he failed to perform his Ombudsman duties in a timely and responsive manner, or in which he appeared to be conducting outside consulting work during his City work hours and/or services.

### **3. Authority and Findings**

Findings<sup>11</sup> by allegation and SMC provision:

1. SMC 01.04B.050.N (Moral Turpitude / Dishonesty): No reasonable cause. The evidence does not establish that Respondent Logue knowingly made false statements, certified information he knew to be untrue, or acted with intent to deceive.
2. SMC 01.04B.050.A (Conflicts of Interest): No reasonable cause. There is no evidence that Respondent Logue has an interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engaged in a business or transaction or professional activity, or incurred an obligation of any nature, that might be seen as conflicting with his proper discharge of his or her official duties as the Ombudsman, the conduct of official City business, or as adverse to the interests of the City.
3. SMC 01.04B.050.F (Certain Private Employment Prohibited): No reasonable cause. Respondent Logue disclosed his outside consulting work, obtained Commission approval subject to conditions, and there is no evidence of use of City time or resources or interference with official duties. With respect to his outside consulting work he is doing with Pivot, there is no evidence such is incompatible with the proper discharge of his official Ombuds duties, or would tend to impair his independence of judgment or action in the performance of his official Ombudsman duties.

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<sup>11</sup> My findings and recommendations herein would be subject to change based on the discovery of any new or additional evidence and/or witness statements.

4. SMC 01.04B.050.M (Aiding Other Prohibited Conduct): No reasonable cause. There is no evidence that Respondent Logue knowingly aided or assisted any City officer or employee in the violation of any provision of the City's Code of Ethics.
5. SMC 01.04B.010 (Purpose): No reasonable cause. There is no evidence that I have received in this investigation to date that establishes that Respondent Logue has not demonstrated honesty, integrity, responsibility and fairness in carrying out his public duties as Ombuds at all times regarding Complainant Sims, and there is no evidence to support or establish that Respondent Logue has used public resources or his actual position as Ombudsman for personal gain.

There is no dispute that IA conducted an investigation into the PI incident and the alleged misconduct raised by Complainant Sims in IA Complaint C24-046 concerning Officer Craigen's response and reporting. Sgt. Matthew Rose served as the primary investigator under the supervision of Lt. Sean Wheeler. I find that the IA investigation followed established procedures, included supervisory review, and was properly submitted to the Office of Police Ombudsman ("OPO") for independent certification.

It is also undisputed that the PI surveillance video was not retrieved by the responding Officer at the time of the March 2024 incident. The evidence credibly establishes that during the subsequent IA investigation, Sgt. Rose attempted to obtain the footage but learned it had been overwritten pursuant to routine retention practices. No witness statements or documentary evidence corroborates any allegation of intentional delay, suppression, or concealment of evidence by IA, OPO, or Respondent Logue.

The evidence further supports that Respondent Logue did not engage in dishonesty, retaliation, or intentional misconduct in certifying the IA investigation. There is no evidence that Respondent Logue knowingly certified false information, altered investigative findings, or acted with intent to deceive. Differences in interpretation of statements made during interviews, or strong disagreements with investigative conclusions, do not, on their own, establish dishonesty absent proof of intentional misrepresentation. I find no such proof in this matter. Rather, the evidence demonstrates that Complainant Sims was dissatisfied with the investigative process and outcome, but does not show that IA or OPO falsified records, denied services, or violated procedural standards.

While I agree that it would have been preferable—both for transparency and completeness—for the PI surveillance video to have been requested and preserved at the time of the original response by Officer Craigen, that missed opportunity occurred at the initial response stage and does not, standing alone, establish that Respondent Logue's later certification of the IA investigation constituted dishonesty or an Ethics Code violation.

With respect to Officer Craigen's written portrayal of Complainant Sims' statements regarding the alleged ankle-biting incident (as set forth in his police report), I concur that the report may not fully reflect the nuance of the exchange. While it is accurate that Complainant Sims stated the words "yeah," "yes, ok," and "*please document that I tried to bite his ankles ... let's see that on video*" after the allegation was relayed to him by Officer Craigen, the surrounding context, tone, and body language of Complainant Sims in that exchange reasonably suggest that Complainant

Sims was questioning the ankle-biting allegation rather than clearly admitting or denying it. Nevertheless, the statement could reasonably be construed as written from the Officer's perspective, and I do not find that Respondent Logue's certification of the IA investigation in this regard was dishonest, or part of any improper conduct, conspiracy, or furtherance of prohibited conduct.

The evidence further confirms that Sgt. Rose acknowledged the initial failure to retrieve the video footage and that later retrieval efforts were made but unsuccessful due to the PI's overwriting procedures. Lt. Wheeler corroborated this account. Both IA witnesses, Respondent Logue, and the documentary evidence consistently reflect that efforts to obtain the surveillance video were reasonable and documented, and that the loss of footage resulted from timing and retention policies—not intentional suppression or misconduct.

I likewise find no evidence of intentional exclusion of evidence from the IA process. Respondent Logue credibly stated that OPO reviewed all materials provided by IA and that investigative materials were fully documented in the IA reports. Nothing in the records contradicts this account. I also find no evidence substantiating Complainant Sims' allegation of retaliatory referral for criminal prosecution. My review of the records revealed no indication that Complainant Sims was ever actually referred for prosecution regarding the PI incident as he alleges, nor any involvement by Respondent Logue in such action (even if it were true, which I could not substantiate)<sup>12</sup>.

The evidence also confirms that IA followed the procedures outlined in the Complaint Flow Chart. Although Complainant Sims asserted he was entitled to a mandatory closing interview in the IA/OPO process, the Flow Chart expressly provides that such interviews are only "optional" upon request, not required. Accordingly, I find that this allegation is also unsubstantiated.

From an investigative standpoint, the consistency between Sgt. Rose's and Lt. Wheeler's statements regarding evidence handling, documentation, and supervisory review supports their credibility and aligns with Respondent Logue's account. I identified no material contradictions, gaps, or documentary evidence suggesting falsification, concealment, or procedural misconduct. From an ethics perspective, the evidence does not support findings of dishonesty, suppression of evidence, or intentional wrongdoing within the IA investigation by Respondent Logue.

Finally, Complainant Sims alleges that Respondent Logue improperly used his position as City Ombudsman to obtain consulting contracts through his company Pivot, asserting financial enrichment, divided loyalties, misuse of authority, and that he has not been truthful about his prior record/history before becoming the City Ombuds. Again, the evidence does not support these allegations of Complainant Sims.

The evidence shows that Respondent Logue disclosed his intent to engage in consulting work prior to doing so. Commissioners Jenny Rose and former Chair Luc Jasmin<sup>13</sup> both corroborated that the Ombudsman Commission discussed potential conflicts, imposed safeguards, and granted approval.

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<sup>12</sup> The evidence received in my investigation actually shows that the Spokane County Prosecutor's Office will not be moving forward with any matters concerning Complainant Sims.

<sup>13</sup> Of note in my investigation and the credibility of these witnesses, it is my understanding that the OPO Commissioners are not City employees or contractors; they are pure public/citizen volunteers on the Commission.

Commissioner Rose confirmed that approval was memorialized in a written agreement<sup>14</sup>, which I reviewed. Both Commissioners independently stated they had no knowledge, belief, or suspicion of misuse of City time, resources, or authority.

I find no evidence of time theft, concealment, dishonesty, or conflict of interest related to Respondent Logue's consulting activities. The consulting work was pre-authorized, transparent, and subject to oversight conditions. The evidence further reflects that Respondent Logue remained in compliance with those written conditions of the signed agreement, and that the consulting work did not interfere with his official Ombudsman duties.

In sum, I observed that the majority of Complainant Sims' allegations are grounded in dissatisfaction with investigative outcomes and perceived procedural shortcomings, rather than in direct evidence of Ethics Code violations by Respondent Logue. Many of the allegations are speculative and unsupported by documentary or testimonial evidence. In several instances, the evidence affirmatively establishes that Respondent Logue acted appropriately and within established procedures.

#### **4. Conclusion and Recommendation**

Based on my independent investigation, and as set forth above, *I hereby find that there is no reasonable cause* to believe that an SMC Ethics Code violation has occurred in this matter by Respondent Logue.

In summary, based upon all witness interviews conducted, as well as my complete review of all documents and evidence received from all sources to date, I find no actual or credible evidence to substantiate that Respondent Logue committed any violation of the City of Spokane Code of Ethics as alleged by Complainant Sims under any of the asserted bases or theories of prohibited conduct. Specifically, I find no reasonable cause to believe that Respondent Logue violated any of the following potentially applicable provisions:

1. SMC 01.04B.050.A – *General Prohibition Against Conflicts of Interest*;
2. SMC 01.04B.050.F – *Certain Private Employment Prohibited*;
3. SMC 01.04B.050.M – *Aiding other prohibited*;
4. SMC 01.04B.050.N – *Commission of Acts of Moral Turpitude or Dishonesty Prohibited*;
- or
5. SMC 01.04B.010 – *Purpose*.

While I find that Complainant Sims appears sincere in his subjective beliefs, and that his Ethics Complaint does not appear frivolous, groundless, or brought solely for purposes of harassment, I nonetheless conclude that, after a full and complete investigation, the allegations of Ethics Code violations against Respondent Logue are wholly unsubstantiated and unsupported by credible evidence sufficient to establish reasonable cause.

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<sup>14</sup> The written agreement is in the form of a signed "Private Employment Agreement" by and between Respondent Logue and the Office of Police Ombuds Commission. Through my investigation, and as of the time of this Report, I have received no evidence or even accusation by the OPO Commission that Respondent Logue has violated, failed to comply with, or otherwise breached the terms of that Agreement.

Despite Complainant Sims' sincerely held convictions, there is no credible evidence demonstrating that Respondent Logue, in the performance of his duties as Ombudsman, engaged in dishonesty, moral turpitude, or any other prohibited conduct under the Ethics Code in certifying the IA investigation conducted by Sgt. Rose and supervised by Lt. Wheeler. I further find that Respondent Logue's certification that the IA investigation was timely, thorough, and objective does not constitute a violation of any provision of the City of Spokane Ethics Code.

At its core, the Ethics Complaint rests on speculative conclusions and negative inferences drawn from Complainant Sims' dissatisfaction with the investigative outcomes, rather than on demonstrable evidence of misconduct. While the evidence does seem to reflect some deficiencies in the initial investigation conducted by Officer Craigen, particularly with the failure to obtain the PI surveillance video at the time, it does not establish any ethical violations by Respondent Logue in his job. Although certain administrative or procedural imperfections may have occurred, and different reasonable inferences could be drawn on what was (or was not) said or meant to be stated by Complainant Sims during his initial interview with Officer Craigen, such matters do not rise to the level of Ethics Code violations by Respondent Logue in his certification of IA investigation C24-046.

Conversely, the evidence demonstrates that a proper IA investigation was completed, followed by appropriate OPO review and certification; that Respondent Logue timely disclosed his outside consulting work; that such work received approval in principle by the Commission; and that there was no bad faith, improper motive, misrepresentation, or dishonesty by Respondent Logue regarding his past experience, qualifications, or background<sup>15</sup> prior to assuming the role of Ombudsman, as alleged by Complainant Sims.

In addition, concerning Respondent Logue's outside consulting work with his company Pivot I find no evidence to substantiate that such outside consulting work improperly uses the Ombudsman title (i.e. which in all actuality is simply Respondent Logue's legitimate resume, which necessarily includes his work experience, history, and background as the City Ombuds, which is truthful and accurate). I also found no evidence to suggest or establish by reasonable cause that the Ombuds is engaging in any time theft, or conflict of interest in his outside work with Pivot. I could not find that simply providing the outside consulting services in and of itself is a violation of City policy or Code, and in this instance, was actually properly approved and vetted by the OPO Commission prior to Respondent Logue's outside work. That is, both Commissioner witnesses described a process in which potential conflicts were discussed, safeguards were imposed, and approval was granted by the Commission.

I further have found no evidence that indicated that Respondent Logue's outside consulting work services were or have been concealed, hidden, lied about, undertaken without approval, or have allowed to interfere with official Spokane Ombuds duties, responsibilities or could create an actual conflict. The disclosure and approval process of that work mitigated potential conflict of interest concerns and reflects transparency and oversight. And, the evidence I have received and reviewed

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<sup>15</sup> The record evidence (letter) produced by Complainant Sims to support his contention of Respondent Logue's prior alleged misconduct history in his military records states plainly that it was "neither confirming nor denying" if any such records even existed at all. Complainant Sims appears to use this as some evidence or proof that Respondent Logue's past record must contain evidence of prior malfeasance, but again, it establishes nothing.



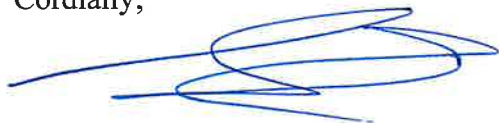
to date shows that Respondent Logue is in compliance with the terms and conditions imposed by the Written Agreement (i.e. by and with the OPO Commission) regarding time and resource use. There is also no evidence to suggest that Respondent Logue has used his "Ombudsman" title improperly, or that Respondent Logue performed consulting work during City hours, used City equipment, or leveraged City authority for personal/private benefit. Accordingly, no reasonable cause exists to believe Respondent Logue violated the pertinent SMC provisions on this issue.

Because I find that the evidence completely fails to establish that the subject of complaint – Respondent Logue – has committed any such prohibited conduct, pursuant to SMC 01.04B.170, I hereby recommend that the complaint be dismissed by the Ethics Commission.

With my findings and recommendation above, my investigation and duties and responsibilities are hereby complete and discharged, and this investigative Report and copies of all documents relating to my investigation are hereby forwarded to the Ethics Commission for a final decision on dismissal.

Thank you for the opportunity to conduct this independent investigation.

Cordially,



SCOTT A. GINGRAS

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