

# **Report of West Linn Police Review and Recommend Committee**

To: The West Linn City Council and City Manager John Williams  
From: The West Linn Police Review and Recommend Committee  
Date: January 2025

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The Police Review and Recommend Committee (hereafter “the Committee”) reviews and makes recommendations to “the West Linn Police Chief, Human Resources Director, and City Manager in the following areas: the Police Department’s complaint, investigation, and discipline process, individual complaints, investigations, and disciplinary actions in the Police Department; Police Department policy and progress toward recommended reforms; and relevant trends and reports produced by the Police Department.” (West Linn Municipal Code 2.250) The Committee periodically issues public reports to review its work, make recommendations, and report on progress.

The Committee remains mindful of the historical and systemic injustices that gave rise to this review body, as well as public concern over past and recent investigations. A key aim of this Committee has been, and continues to be, to renew public confidence in the integrity of the West Linn Police Department (WLPD) and its officers, and to hold the Department and City accountable to their standards and ensure corrective actions. The Committee takes all complaints seriously and aims to ensure that West Linn is a safe, welcoming, and liveable community for all.

This report summarizes the Committee’s actions and discussions throughout the 2024 calendar year.

## **Membership**

Due to the staggered nature of Committee member terms, two terms ended and those members were re-appointed. One Committee Member resigned. In July, following an open recruitment, a new Committee member and alternate Committee member were appointed.

## **Reviewed Complaints**

The Committee reviewed six (6) complaints in 2024, one of which was rescinded by the complainant and one of which was closed because the complainant passed away. In nearly all circumstances, the nature of the complaint was related to an officer’s tone and demeanor, related to what this Committee refers to as “customer service” issues. Two complaints involved allegations of possible discrimination; the Committee did not find that such allegations of discrimination were supported in either case. In addition, the Committee provided a review to the City Council of the WLPD handling of the *Farley* case, which has been made publicly available on the City website.

In 2022-2023, the Committee had reviewed some cases in which a disposition letter had already been sent to complainants. In 2024, the Chief of Police responded to the complainant outlining the disposition of the complaint after the Committee had reviewed such complaints.

Two complaints are still pending and have not yet been reviewed by the Committee because of open criminal justice processes.

### **Review/Progress of Previous Recommendations**

While the Committee found that many reviewed cases did not rise to the level of formal discipline or even require informal intervention with the involved officer(s), we nevertheless acknowledged and wanted to note that many complaints seem rooted in a “customer service” deficiency. To a large degree, the Committee acknowledges that customer service considerations must take a backseat to officer safety and proper protocol. However, the Committee believes that WLPD officers may reduce such complaints by being cognizant of the power dynamics at play when officers are interacting with citizens, as well as by receiving regular reminders and training on customer service techniques.

### **Recommendations**

#### **WLPD**

One case reviewed was closed prior to significant review by the Committee due to the complainant passing away. The Committee had, and continues to have, discussions regarding what circumstances a complaint should be rendered moot. Some committee members have expressed an interest in continuing to evaluate this and other such complaints in the coming year, while other members have expressed concern about focusing on complaints with active complainants.

#### **Committee Procedure Improvements**

The Committee wants to reiterate the importance of the materials and transparency recommendations from the previous Committee report, acknowledging that receiving certain CJIS-restricted information in advance of meetings is not possible. We thank the City and WLPD staff for improvements to information provision.

The Committee had continued discussions concerning Committee independence, which is necessarily balanced against the reality of receiving materials from the WLPD and reviewing complaints through the lens of the WLPD investigators (except in cases in which an outside investigator is used). In the previous year, the Committee has held meetings exclusively outside of the WLPD building, and has been able to meet independently without WLPD or City staff present when needed.

The Committee has also discussed whether to implement formalized but confidential recordkeeping, in order to create a record of the Committee's conclusions. The discussion noted that while an established record may add value for future members of the Committee, there is some concern that confidential matters could be made public via discovery processes.



**West Linn Police Department**  
**1800 8th Avenue**  
**West Linn, Oregon 97068**



Date: 12/10/2024  
To: Chief Peter Mahuna  
From: Captain Oddis Rollins  
Subject: West Linn Police 2024 Annual Complaint Review pursuant to OAA 1.7.1(j)

I have completed the West Linn Police Department's 2024 annual complaint review, pursuant to OAA 1.7.1(j). During the calendar year of 2024, the West Linn Police Department received and investigated a total of six complaints. All six complaints were citizen-generated complaints. Seven West Linn Police employees were involved in the six complaints. *It should be noted that complaint 2023-3, while taken in 2023, was officially closed with a disposition in November 2024.*

Below is a summary table of all six complaints originating in 2024, including the internal WLPD complaint number, date received, available demographic information, complaint status and disposition with disposition date:

2024 ANNUAL COMPLAINT REVIEW								
DATE	COMPLAINT NO.	SEX	RACE	AGE	CLOSED/OPEN	DISPOSITION	ADDL INFO	DATE
03/13/2023	2023-3	ANON.	ANON.	N/A	CLOSED	EXONERATED	Anonymous	11/18/2024
01/23/2024	2024-1	Male	White	Unk	CLOSED	EXONERATED		01/03/2024
01/10/2024	2024-2	Male	White	Unk	CLOSED	N/A	Complainant Deceased	N/A
01/19/2024	2024-3	Male	White	58	OPEN	PENDING		N/A
05/01/2024	2024-4	Female	White	Unk.	OPEN	PENDING		N/A
07/29/2024	2024-5	Male	White	Unk	CLOSED	EXONERATED		08/07/2024
10/10/2024	2024-6	Female	White	Unk	CLOSED	EXONERATED		12/03/2024

In each complaint case in which a final disposition was determined, the complainant was notified of the disposition by Chief Peter Mahuna through certified letter.

<https://westlinnoregon.gov/police>  
Business: 503-655-6214 ----- Dispatch: 503-635-0238