

Community Comments on COCL's Q1 Report

Commenter	Comment	COCL Response
Copwatch	COCL report does not mention race in use of force analysis.	As noted by Copwatch, the primary focus of the settlement agreement is on mental health. We will be doing an outcome assessment on use of force data for our Q2 report and will include a racial breakdown.
Copwatch	COCL did not provide an example of an instance where “numerical superiority” can be a form of de-escalation. (p 33)	We have updated our report to provide an example
Copwatch	Suggests COCL use “less lethal operators” instead of militaristic terms like “grenadiers” to help influence PPB to do so as well. (p 56)	Because these terms are used in policy, we have elected not to change them at this time to avoid any confusion in our communication with the PPB and the DOJ. However, we will take PCW’s suggestion and attempt to influence PPB to use less militaristic terms going forward.
Copwatch	COCL continues to give a pass to the Unity Center even though it is not functioning as a drop-off/walk-in center. (p 100)	As we have stated in the past, the Unity Center accepts drop-offs as well as walk-ins and therefore satisfies the requirements of the Settlement Agreement.
Copwatch	COCL does not compare ECIT officers with their peers for use of force like they do for arrests and hospital admissions. While there is not enough data per quarter there are 309 cases overall. (p 115)	We have recognized the fact that, on a semi-annual basis, PPB does not have a sufficient number of uses of force against persons in mental health crisis to conduct analysis. However, we recommended PPB quantitatively evaluate these cases over a longer timeline in order to draw statistical inferences. They did this in 2021 (see our 2021 Q2 report) and we will continue to recommend they do so in the future.
Copwatch	COCL is supportive of the Service Coordination Team even though people are rejected if they have not committed a crime. (p 131)	Individuals who have not committed a crime are eligible for other community-based services whereas the SCT is designed to reach those individuals with high levels of addiction and high criminality, a population that is oftentimes ineligible for other community-based services.
Copwatch	COCL gave a substantial compliance rating the Par. 123 even though the city is not developing a plan to fix missed deadlines for investigation accountability cases.	The PPB continues to provide action plans for reducing delays in investigations that go over 180-days as well as for individual stages, regardless of whether the case goes over 180-days.
Copwatch	COCL needs to provide more details when calling the PRB hearings reasonable yet not giving a substantial compliance rating. (p 161)	The COCL cannot provide more details without potentially violating the confidential nature of the hearings.
Copwatch	COCL did not review Par. 169 for holding officer accountable. (p 167)	The COCL has historically not included Par. 169 in our assessments.

Copwatch	COCL did not separate out Bureau-initiated cases with civilian complaints in the analysis of accountability data. (p 171)	COCL did provide a breakdown of Bureau- vs citizen-initiated allegations and allegation types based on initiation point. Only 14% of allegations were citizen initiated.
Copwatch	The names of the officers who had high numbers of complaints against them should be released in the interest of community safety. (p 172)	COCL does not receive officers names and, even if we did receive names, it would be inappropriate for us to release such information.
Copwatch	COCL gave a substantial compliance rating for Par. 150 despite Copwatch and other community members repeatedly raising concerns over the way PPB presents its Annual Report. (p 194)	We have been critical of PPB in the past (giving Partial Compliance) but they have finally met the terms of the Settlement Agreement for Par. 150. However, we have incorporated the recommendations of Copwatch and other community members about the methods of community engagement around PPB's annual report. The burden is now on the City and others to respond to these additional recommendations, not the COCL.
Comments and Questions at PCCEP Town Hall		
Celeste	For Par. 23, can you explain the issues around de-escalation and use of profanity, and why there is no "hard and fast" definition of de-escalation? Is there a cultural problem here that needs to be measured?	The COCL acknowledged that sometimes officers' use of language might help them bond with a community member and thus contribute to de-escalation, but we are opposed to the general use of command and control techniques that rely on authority and threat of use of force to gain compliance. We have clarified our definition of de-escalation to the City and PPB on several occasions. The PPB culture should be measured periodically for progress on these issues.
Dan	The COCL encourages the Bureau to track how their training leads to new outcomes on the street, saying you can't change something if you don't measure it [p. 83]. However, the PPB has been measuring traffic stop data for 20 years and the numbers have not changed significantly. Tracking has to come with a commitment to change.	Tracking behavior is only the first step. Systems must be in place – from training to performance evaluations – that shape the behavior of individual officers on the streets.
Dan	The legal updates are great and we encourage COCL to continue those so the public can be informed.	Thank you. We will continue these.

Kevin	Can you define “Partial Compliance” and “Substantial Compliance”?	COCL’s new reports in 2022 included definitions, but the Settlement Agreement, Par. 178(a) also states that “Substantial compliance is achieved if any violations of the Agreement are minor or occasional and are not systemic.” Thus, COCL looks for systemic problems.
Debbie – League of Women Voters	The contact survey proposed by the COCL is a great idea and has been suggested many times. Perhaps PCCEP can recommend this to the City.	Thank you. The COCL has made many proposals to improve the PPB and public safety in Portland over the past 7 years, but the strong support of the community is critical to achieve implementation of plans that are not required for compliance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement. COCL will provide a more specific proposal for a contact survey this year as technical assistance to the City.
Elizabeth	Does COCL have a compliance problem with the Equity training?	No, we are satisfied that PPB is making a good faith effort to provide a range of new equity trainings, with community engagement, but at times, these can be challenging for some officers. We will continue to monitor these trainings because we consider them especially important for changing police culture and reducing various forms of bias.