



**SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE**  
**JUSTIN C. LUNDGREN**

**Strategic Initiatives**  
**May 2024 Report**



**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**May 2024**



**Excerpts of Commendations**  
**(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)**

I would like to give a great compliment to the SPD for responding last night to the Warehouse. [**Officers Devon Hill and Nathaniel Medellin and Lieutenant Jake Jensen.**] The response time was a pleasant reminder that they do truly care. There was a man along the north wall of the Warehouse Gym by Gonzaga pleasuring himself about 15 yards from the entrance. This was happening 10 minutes before 20 young girls from Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, and Oakesdale (13-16 years old) were about to get done with volleyball practice for the night. I called around 8:51 PM and within 5 minutes, three officers arrived, addressed the issue, and spoke with several of the mothers who also witnessed what went down. This all happened before our daughters were coming out of practice. The officer I spoke with confirmed that he was being arrested and taken to jail - Thank you for doing your part. Spokane Police Department, I want to thank you for your quick response last night and protection of our community, especially our young daughters, wives, and partners. I can tell you from my interaction with the Officer that I spoke with, you can see it on their faces that they do truly care about this community and last night proved it once again for me.

I am writing to praise one of your police officers, **Tuan Nguyen**. Yesterday, he pulled me over for a traffic infraction. He exhibited an extremely high level of professionalism, grace and understanding during the interaction. The City should be extremely proud to have such a wonderful officer under its employ. I did not want his high level of competence and aptitude for the job to go unrecognized. I have no doubt he has and will continue to make a positive impact on our community - he most certainly made a positive impact on me. Officer Nguyen deserves the highest level of praise.

I live just outside Spokane in Spangle. On Saturday, my good friend Ed and I were driving his truck and a horse trailer with horses inside, to go horseback riding at Fishtrap for the day. Unbeknownst to either of us, Ed's truck had mechanical issues, but we didn't find out until we were northbound on H 195 near Latah golf course. We were able to get over to the shoulder but not completely off the outside lane of traffic as his truck just died. We had the back wheel of the horse trailer still somewhat in the lane of traffic. Ed first thought it was a tire issue. I was out behind the trailer trying to keep traffic going into the fast lane, so we didn't have a collision with our horse trailer by unaware drivers. And this is where the hero of our story comes in!!! As I was trying to call in to the state to get some traffic help, I reached my husband to come and get the horse trailer and get them to safety. A city work truck pulls up behind us and offers his help on his day off. **Corporal John Tyler**, who works in traffic investigation, was so awesome. He stepped right in, helped change a tire that we thought was the problem, he helped to try and calm me down as I was so upset and worried about my horses being on the side of the highway, I was in full hyperventilation mode. We got the tire fixed and tried to leave. Nope wasn't the tire. It was the engine, and the truck wasn't about to go anywhere. John stayed and helped organize the WSP, the DOT to come and help guide traffic and he also helped my husband hook up the new horse trailer when it got there. He went above and beyond to help a few stranded motorists and our horses! I am forever thankful he stopped to help us! Out of thousands of passing cars that could have offered help, he saw us, turned around, came back, and offered his genuine help with a good heart and a smile! Thank you very much for helping us during what was an extremely stressful and scary situation for me.



## Internal Affairs Unit Update

### January 1 through March 31, 2024, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received:   **Total: 48**

Complaints Received:       **Total: 25 (16 from community)**

**Closed Complaints: 7 (As of March 31, 2024)**

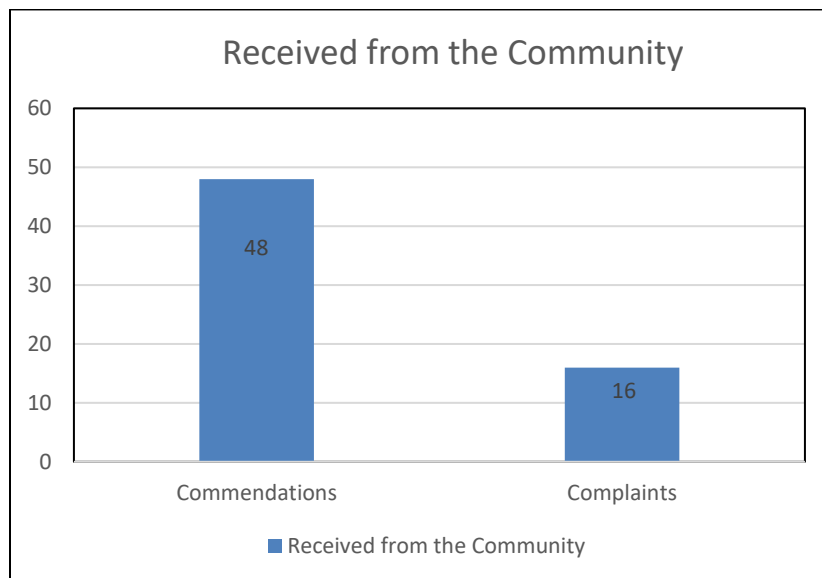
*An inquiry is an initial complaint about employee conduct which, even if true, would not qualify as a personnel complaint and may be handled informally by a department supervisor and shall not be considered complaints.*

### Source of Complaints—January 1 through March 31, 2024

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 10</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 15</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 9</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 16</b>

SPD maintains a process that allows us to assess the actions of our employees with the ultimate objective of improving service and holding our employees accountable. Complaints sometimes reveal the need to modify a policy or procedure or reveal a need for training. In 2023, complaints to SPD decreased 12% compared to 2022. Additionally, SPD continues to receive 3 times the commendations as complaints. In 2023, SPD saw a 12% increase in commendations compared to 2022.

The chart below shows commendations versus complaints from the community through March 2024.



## Deadly Force (Officer-Involved Shootings) Update

### 2024

From January 1 – March 31, 2024, there were four deadly force incidents.

- **Incident 2024-20019659 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2024-20019659 took place on January 31, 2024, in the area of Stevens and Cliff. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.
- **Incident 2024-20027093 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2024-20027093 took place on February 12, 2024, in the 1100 block of East Wellesley. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.
- **Incident 2024-20027307 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2024-20027307 took place on February 12, 2024, in the area of Howard and Riverside. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.
- **Incident 2024-20060204 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2024-20060204 took place on March 31, 2024, in the 1800 block of West Dean. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

### 2023

From January 1 – December 31, 2023, there were two deadly force incidents.

- **Incident 2023-20088146 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2023-20088146 took place on May 10, 2023, in the area of 5<sup>th</sup> and Browne. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.
- **Incident 2023-20238146 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2023-20238146 took place on December 3, 2023, in the 9200 block of Colton Street. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

### 2022

From January 1- December 31, 2022, there were five deadly force incidents.

- **Incident 2022-20012711 (Closed)**
- **Incident 2022-20134271 (Pending Prosecutor Review):** 2022-20134271 took place on August 3, 2022, in the area of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sheridan. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) completed the criminal investigation. The case is with the Prosecutor's Office.
- **Incident 2022-20156670 (Pending Administrative Investigation):** 2022-20156670 took place on September 4, 2022, in the area of 2900 E. Wabash Avenue. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor's Office rules the use of deadly force justified.
- **Incident 2022-20184192 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** 2022-20184192 took place on October 16, 2022, in the area of 100 S Cedar. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.
- **Incident 2022-20214924 (Pending Administrative Investigation):** 2022-20214924 took place on December 4, 2022, in the area of Morton and Illinois. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) completed the criminal investigation. The case is with the Prosecutor's Office. SPD is conducting an administrative investigation.





**Sector Updates**

Adam Sector (Northwest)

**SPD arrests 4 suspects for kidnapping and felony assault**

On 3-22-24 at 10:33am, SPD responded to the 1300 block of West Boone after 911 received a call of a woman screaming. Officers arrived on scene and contacted a female victim who had sustained serious bodily injuries from a physical assault. The victim also had part of her hair forcibly shaved off. SPD observed several subjects attempting to hide in one of the apartments at the location. Officers contacted and detained four adults. After conducting the initial investigation, the following were arrested and booked into the Spokane County Jail for 1st Degree Kidnapping and 2nd Degree Assault: Ashley A. Spencer (31); David P. Nieman (33); Thomas W. Fetzer (50); and Danielle E. Bednarcik (19). The victim was transported to a local hospital for treatment where she is in serious, but stable condition.

Baker Sector (Northeast)

**Pop with a Cop**

Pop with a Cop is an event to celebrate our partnership with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families during National Social Work Appreciation Month. We are grateful to the social workers who serve our community!



**Male Arrested for 4 Counts of Assault in the First Degree, 1 Count of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm Following Shooting**

Shortly before 6am on Saturday March 23, 2024, Spokane police responded to a shooting in the 900 block of E Indiana Ave. Preliminary information has revealed two citizens were in that area when they





located a vehicle that they believed had been stolen from a friend of theirs. The vehicle had not been reported stolen. The friend and an additional person arrived and confirmed it was their vehicle. The four were standing in the vicinity of the vehicle trying to figure out how to remove it from that location.

33-year-old Levi Corker walked outside of an apartment in the area and confronted the group. After a brief verbal altercation, Corker retreated into his apartment and returned holding a firearm. The group retreated to their vehicle and began to flee. As they did so, Corker fired several rounds at the vehicle. While multiple vehicles were struck, fortunately no one was injured.

Corker is a 7-time convicted felon with prior convictions including Assault in the Third Degree, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and Possession of a Stolen Firearm. Therefore, he is prohibited from possessing firearms. Responding officers located Corker and took him into custody. Corker was booked into the Spokane County Jail for 4 counts of Assault in the First Degree and one count of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm Second Degree.

### Coffee with a Cop

Patrol and Chaplains enjoyed hosting a Coffee with a Cop at the Market Street McDonald's.



### Charlie Sector (South)

**After an injury collision, Spokane Police Officers arrest a woman for DUI / vehicular assault, no interlock device when required and driving while license suspended. In addition, the arrestee was charged with three charges of assault 3rd for assaulting nurses at the hospital.**

On March 9th at about 10:15 pm an officer observed a reckless vehicle East on Sprague Ave approaching Havana St. The car was traveling at a high rate of speed with no headlights on. Before the officer could begin to respond the vehicle collided with a car stopped at the red light preparing to go East on Havana



at the intersection. The victim driver had to be extricated from the car and was transported to the hospital with serious injuries. Although a child seat is visible in the back seat of the victim car, the child was fortunately not riding in the car at the time of the collision.

Cheyann L. Bailey (30) was processed for driving under the influence, driving without an ignition interlock device when required, vehicular assault and an additional three counts of 3rd Degree Assault for assaulting nurses at the hospital. Additional charges are pending, the investigation is ongoing.

### **SPD arrests male for malicious mischief after causing over \$10,000.00 dollars of damage to medical care facility, SPD Hostage Team negotiators respond to assist**

On 3-4-24 at 5:41pm, Spokane Police Officers responded to the area of 5th and Lincoln on the report of a disorderly male. The suspect male was discovered barricaded in a treatment room after being brought to the location for medical care. The suspect flipped a bed upside down and had broken off a piece of metal from the frame. The male made threats to injure himself as well as anyone that tried to enter his treatment room. While in the room, the suspect caused extensive damage to a bed, door, walls, and a security camera. Spokane Police Hostage Negotiators (HNT) responded to assist with the call. HNT spoke with the suspect male for an hour and a half before he surrendered and was safely taken into custody. Cody D. Harris (38) was arrested and booked into the Spokane County Jail for 1st Degree Malicious Mischief and Interfering with a Health Care Facility.

#### David Sector (Downtown)

### **SPD Arrests Multiple Suspects in Brazen Downtown Daylight Robbery**

On 3-26-24 at 6:24pm, Spokane Police responded to the area of 200 N Wall on a report of a robbery. Upon arriving, officers contacted two victims who had been pepper sprayed while sitting in a vehicle. The victims were an adult male and an adult female and their injuries were consistent with being sprayed with pepper spray or similar chemical agent. The male victim advised he had walked over to retrieve some money from an ATM while the female remained in the car. An unknown male tried to talk with the male victim after he obtained his money. Feeling uneasy, the victim quickly returned to his vehicle and got inside. A group of males chased the victim and pulled open the car door as he tried to close it.

The suspects demanded the victim's money. A struggle ensued inside the vehicle when one of the suspects sprayed pepper spray, striking both occupants. The victims begged the suspects to stop. Due to the violent actions of the crime, the victim handed over the money and the suspects fled on foot. Officers flooded the area searching for the suspects. A witness advised the suspects were wearing masks and hooded sweatshirts as they ran away. While in the Riverfront Park area, officers observed a group of subjects walking north who matched witness descriptions. Upon seeing the officers, the suspects began throwing items that appeared to be cash and a backpack into the river. Officers quickly detained four suspects with the help of Park Rangers after they ran in different directions.

Officers developed probable cause and the following suspects were booked into the Spokane County Jail for 1st Degree Armed Robbery: Rashaud A. Lightner (26); Jaeshon W. Farmer (18); and Chase A. Wilson (23). A fourth suspect (a minor) was booked into the Spokane County Juvenile Detention Center for 1st Degree Armed Robbery, Obstruction of a Law Enforcement Officer, and Minor In Possession of liquor. Officers recovered a canister of bear spray during the arrests.







**Drug Prevention and Awareness Event with Spokane Community College**

SCC's Drug Prevention and Awareness Event takes place on May 13, 2024, from 10 AM to 2 PM. The event will feature a SPD Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Officer and our Community Outreach Unit, along with Spokane County's Sheriff's Office.

**Outreach with Youth at Head Start**

Community Outreach officers visited the Head Start program at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. They read books and talked about safety with youth aged 3-5 years old. Below, Officer Michah Prim reads a story.





## Celebrating our Partnership with Lutheran Community Services Northwest

SPD Sergeant Mike Russo, Captain Tracie Meidl, and Victim Advocate Cheyenne Gillespie are with our partners at Lutheran Community Services Northwest for “Start by Believing” Day at Sweet Frostings.



## Community Outreach Officer in the News

Officer Jen Kerns played basketball for Washington State University and internationally in 41 countries before becoming a police officer with Spokane Police Department. She now volunteers as a coach. The Spokesman-Review featured Officer Kerns' career in the article below.

**'They need you on the street': How Jen Kerns harnessed basketball career to become a force for Spokane Police**

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2024/apr/03/they-need-you-on-the-street-how-jen-kerns-harnesse/>



## Youth & Police Initiative at NEWTech Prep

For the second year, SPD is partnering with Tommy Williams, who leads the Criminal Justice program at NEWTech Prep. Many SPD officers completed the Criminal Justice program at Spokane Community College (SCC). As the SCC program is no longer running, the NEWTech Prep program is critically important in preparing local young people for careers in law enforcement.



In the NEWTech program, Cadets work with personnel in the criminal justice and public service agencies, including Spokane Police Department, Spokane County Sheriff's Office, prosecuting attorney's office, local and state courts, juvenile justice department, Washington Department of Corrections and federal law enforcement agencies. Students also engage with guest speakers from these agencies, and experience classroom instruction involving representatives from multiple criminal justice agencies. Skills and competencies taught will include an overview of the criminal justice system, law enforcement, community policing, criminal acts and impacts on society, the U.S. Constitution, criminal codes, work-readiness, investigations, responding to mock scenes and interpersonal communication and problem-solving skills.



SPD Community Outreach officers teach students about law enforcement, with in-depth discussion, videos, and scenarios. They also lead the Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) program with the NEWTech Prep students. The YPI program builds trust and rapport with students through dialogue, role-play and sharing perspectives. The program is designed to meet students where they are and help them prepare for their future. YPI curriculum involves an honest discussion about peer pressure and positive decision-making. Students are asked to think about their choices at home, at school, with their peers, and in the community, and the long-term effects of those choices. The YPI graduation took place on March 29, 2024.



**Outreach – Empowering Young Women Summit**



Captain Traice Meidl recently presented at the Empowering Young Women Summit at Spokane Public Schools. She was one of several community leaders who spoke to high school juniors and seniors, sharing their experiences and advice for the next generation of women entering the workforce.

**Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Evaluation at All Saints School**



Captain Dave Richards and the Community Outreach Unit recently completed a CPTED evaluation at All Saints Primary School. At left, Captain Dave Richards; Officer Jen Kerns; Alli Bruno, Assistant Principal; Megan Drake, Mission Advancement and Operations; and Jen Lewis, Principal. SPD will do the CPTED for the All Saints Middle

School in late June.



*"Serving our community with Integrity, Professionalism, and Compassion"*

