

DOWNTOWN

The Heart of a Safer Spokane



Now more than ever people are enjoying the heart of Spokane—living, working, and playing in downtown.

The Spokane Police Department (SPD) recognizes that we all have a stake in the safety and security of our downtown, ensuring it is safe and welcoming for residents, businesses, and visitors. Specifically related to the downtown corridor, SPD statistics show the crime rate is down more than 17% this year compared to 2018. While this is positive news, as a police department we will always continue to work towards decreasing those numbers. We know it is the responsibility of the entire community to create a safe and vibrant downtown, and thank you for your continued efforts and invaluable partnership. With our continued collaboration, we will continue to refine our efforts to best meet the needs of our downtown visitors, workers, and businesses.



What are we doing?



Increased Downtown Police Staffing

SPD's Downtown Precinct is currently staffed by 15 Officers: a Captain, a Lieutenant, a Sergeant, a Detective, 10 Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs), and a Desk Officer, plus one part-time crime analyst.

Between 2012 and 2018, dedicated Downtown staffing grew from two assigned bicycle officers to a 15-officer precinct.

An almost 50% increase in SPD's downtown staffing is slated for 2020, which includes five additional officers, one additional detective, and one additional sergeant.

The NROs blend the roles of a patrol officer and neighborhood resource officer in a manner unique to the Downtown Precinct. They take calls for service throughout their shift like patrol officers. However, in addition to those patrol duties, they engage in a variety of additional community policing duties more common to NROs like bike/foot patrols; engaging in problem oriented policing for long term problems; conducting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) evaluations; getting to know businesses, citizens and offenders throughout downtown; meeting with various partner agencies, etc.

Enforcing criminal laws consistently

SPD continues its efforts to target criminal behavior whether committed by individuals experiencing homelessness or committed by others. This is not criminalizing homelessness.

SPD consistently analyzes and identifies crime trends and locations in order to pinpoint crime hotspots and focus enforcement efforts.

Bar Patrol

Currently staffed by three officers and a supervisor on Friday and Saturday nights (between 8:00 PM and 3:00 AM), the Bar Patrol Assignment provides a presence in the downtown area and responds to disturbances typically involving bar patrons. This additional staffing is supplemental to on-duty resources and promotes a safe environment during times of peak weekend activity.

Community Court connects to necessary resources and holds accountable

A majority of misdemeanors are referred to Community Court, where the needs of the defendants are assessed, and then they are connected to necessary resources while also appearing for court weekly and performing community service in the downtown core.



Connecting with services and educating on available resources

SPD officers and team members from the City's Community, Housing and Human Services (CHHS) engage individuals within the unhoused population, connecting with them where they are located and collaborating with outreach groups and service providers to provide needed assistance. Service providers include SNAP, Hotspotters, Frontier Behavioral Health, House of Charity, Homeless Outreach, Goodwill, Downtown Spokane Partnership, Continuum of Care, STARS, and Salvation Army, just to name a few.

Additionally, four Frontier Behavioral Health clinicians are co-deployed with SPD officers through SPD's Community Diversion Unit. The teams help relieve other officers from mental health crisis calls and allows them to respond to other calls for service, as well as divert people from jail or the hospital. Through relationships with those in crisis situations, as well as mental health service providers, these teams also help to get those in crisis referred to services quickly and potentially reduce the number of repeat calls to the same location.

A new Mental Health Stabilization Unit is scheduled to open in 2020 and will provide an additional option for mental stabilization, detox, and/or diversion.

Give Help.
Call 311
give
REAL
change

• STOP PANHANDLING •

Need Help?
Call 211

Washington
2-1-1
Get Connected. Get Answers.
Washington Information Services 211

Give Real Change

Community members, in their desire to be compassionate and give to those who are experiencing homelessness or who are suffering, can sometimes fuel poor habits and addictions. The Give Real Change program connects individuals experiencing homelessness with the resources they need, making a real difference with lasting effects.

Give Real Change helps people look at giving in a different and better way. Orange meters have been placed around the City that accept cash or change donations. Street signs promote help for people needing services as well as those who want to help give when they see homelessness or panhandling on the streets. The Give Real Change program works with community-based service providers to administer coordinated shelter, outreach, job placement and training, and other services for people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

What can you do?

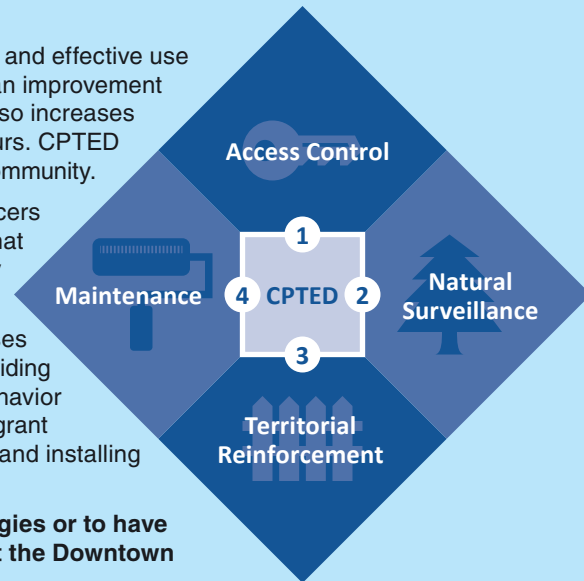
CPTED training, lighting and City funding

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is defined as “the proper design and effective use of the built environment that can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life.” CPTED works by decreasing a criminal’s ability to commit crime and also increases the chances that community members and residents will see and report the crime as it occurs. CPTED goes beyond traditional security methods by naturally integrating security measures into the community.

Currently, three of the Downtown Precinct NROs are advanced CPTED certified. These officers regularly perform evaluations of businesses and public areas resulting in a CPTED report that includes specific recommendations that can reduce a business or public area’s vulnerability to criminal conduct.

Additionally, several years ago Mayor Condon suggested having a program where businesses installed surveillance cameras throughout downtown that would assist in public safety by providing a deterrent effect on crime and allow officers to obtain quality video evidence of criminal behavior after the fact. As a result, Downtown Spokane Partnership has championed a cost sharing grant program to assist businesses within the Business Improvement District (BID) in purchasing and installing these cameras, which received City Council approval.

Businesses can contact their SPD Precinct for more information about CPTED strategies or to have a CPTED survey completed. For more information about the camera program contact the Downtown Spokane Partnership at 509.456.0580.



Notice of Trespass/Exclusion

Business owners can serve a Notice of Trespass/Exclusion to an individual for the following legitimate reasons:

- Violation of City, State or Federal law while on property/business,
- Behavior which disrupts operations at property/business and/or which jeopardizes the health, safety or security of the property and its occupants; or
- Violation of behavioral expectations clearly posted on the premises.

The property owner must complete the Notice of Trespass/Exclusion form in its entirety.

Once a Notice of Trespass/Exclusion form has been completed and provided to the individual in question by the property owner, the notice shall remain in effect for a period of one year from the date of the notice. To enter or remain on the property is a violation of Spokane Municipal Code section 10.12.050, a gross misdemeanor. This violation may result in arrest, prosecution, conviction, and a punishment of up to 364 days in jail and up to \$5,000 in fines.

Individuals served with the notice have the right to appeal and challenge the Trespass/Exclusion. Details on how to appeal are provided on the Notice. The Notice remains in full force and effect during any appeal thereof.

Steps for owner to trespass/exclude an individual:

1. Notify individual that they are excluded from property for legitimate reasons (see above).
2. Complete in its entirety the Notice of Trespass/Exclusion form.
3. Provide the individual in question with a copy of the completed Notice of Trespass/Exclusion form.
4. Retain a completed copy of the Notice of Trespass/Exclusion form.

Contact your Downtown Precinct at 509.622.5823 for more information or to request the Notice of Trespass/Exclusion form.

Illegal Camping

Warmer weather brings a rise in illegal camping. To improve response to reports of illegal camping, the City of Spokane has created a team approach that speeds cleanup of camps, refers people who are camping to available community resources, and maintains safety for City responders.

Launched May 1, 2019, the new team approach partners SPD NROs and City Code Enforcement, which includes the City Litter Crew. These efforts have reduced the number of days to resolve a camping complaint to four days from 13 previously. During the month of May, between seven and 10 camps were reported daily, and the team responded to 169 camps. Some 70 individuals were cited for illegal camping and referred to Community Court, where they are connected with services. Social service outreach teams also work with individuals who are camping.

Working as a unit, the team visits reported locations and determines the best course of action.

- If shelter space is available and the camp’s occupants are present, cleanup begins immediately if the camp is on public property.
- If the camp is vacant, the team posts a 48-hour notice of its intent to clean up the site, and then proceeds with a cleanup after the notice has expired.
- If a camp is on private property, the team reaches out to the property owner to seek permission to trespass campers and approval to clean up the site. Property owners also can take on the cleanup responsibilities themselves.

People can report the camps to 3-1-1. All reports of illegal camps are routed through the City’s customer service line for evaluation and outreach by the team.



Limited Commission

The SPD's Special or Limited Commission Program allows businesses to address low(er) level crime through enforcement and helps reduce/eliminate wait times for police responses.

Within the Spokane Municipal Code, the Chief of Police can authorize limited law enforcement powers to individuals employed by someone other than the SPD for security purposes. These law enforcement responsibilities are granted through a special or limited police commission and are restricted to the scope of his/her employment and the terms of his/her commission.

This special or limited police commission allows employees of businesses to detain, cite, and arrest people for a predefined set of crimes and municipal infractions, which vary depending on the job but generally include only misdemeanors.

The granting of Special Commission by the SPD's Chief is a privilege. Business organizations seeking limited commission for their employee(s) are responsible for the hiring, practices, policies, and conduct of their employees.

In order to be certified under the Special or Limited Commission Program, training from the SPD is required. Training consists of 40 hours, with a follow up each year to retain limited commission. Training includes but is not limited to:

- Criminal Law
- Criminal Procedures
- Patrol Procedures
- Crisis Intervention
- Verbal Defense and Influence (De-escalation)
- Defensive Tactics
- Report Writing
- Infraction/Citation completion
- Use of Force

The initial fee per employee is \$72, with a yearly re-application fee of \$35 per employee. Fingerprinting and a criminal history check is conducted by the SPD at the time of fee payment and when obtaining identification.

Businesses seeking more information about limited commissions should contact the SPD at 509.363.8283.

Joint Administration-Council Strategic Plan

With an unwavering commitment to ensuring a safe, welcoming environment for residents and visitors, the City of Spokane has developed an outcome-driven Joint Administration-Council Strategic Plan that advances the city's economic vitality with one vision, one plan, and one voice.

The four key areas include:

- Safe and Healthy
- Urban Experience
- Innovative Infrastructure
- Sustainable Resources



The City of Spokane recognizes that it is the responsibility of the entire community to create a safe and welcoming downtown and we are proud to help lead in these efforts.

We cannot do it alone

We all have a stake in the safety and security of our downtown community, ensuring it is safe and welcoming for residents, businesses, and visitors. The continued efforts of and invaluable partnership with numerous businesses, agencies and community members helps the City of Spokane create a safe and vibrant downtown for everyone to enjoy.



Events

We know the more positive activity we bring to our parks and public spaces, the better experience for everyone. That is why the City of Spokane has invested and partnered for events year-round throughout the heart of Spokane. From Movies in the Park, Hoopfest, Bloomsday, Pig Out in the Park, Food Truck Fridays, and Spokane Street Music Week, just to name a few, there really is something for everyone to enjoy.

To learn more about how to host a special event or how to obtain a permit visit: [My.SpokaneCity.org/account/permits](https://my.spokanecity.org/account/permits).

Innovation Alleyway

Innovation Alleyway aims to enhance safety and functionality for pedestrians and businesses by enhancing alleyway streetscapes and infrastructure for select downtown alleyways. The alleys included in the charter offer the opportunity to add unique character and value to the downtown core with walkability, safety, place making, and green infrastructure.

Activating these public spaces can make active streets, feed a vibrant arts culture, draw people to local businesses, and even improve basic infrastructure.

Historically, alleyways have provided limited functions and primarily serve as an access area that lacks visibility to the general public. Current uses today include back of business operations (i.e. refuse removal and movement of freight), uncontrolled vehicle access for those by-passing congested downtown streets, and often cases of vandalism of building facades, graffiti and transient activity.

The project focuses on the following components:

- Parking
- Security, safety, walkability
- Place making
- Wayfinding
- Financing

The full project area includes Railroad Alley on the north side of the railroad viaduct from S. Cedar St. to S. Washington St. and Steam Plant Alley on the south side of the railroad viaduct from S. Cedar St. and S. Washington St. with the possibility of reaching S. Division St. via W. Pacific Ave.

For information or questions, please contact Maren Murphy, Community Programs Coordinator, at 509.625.6737.



Spokane Police Department

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