



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

FRANK STRAUB, Ph.D.

February 13, 2015

Members of the Use of Force Commission:

I am proud to report, that after two years of working closely with the Use of Force Commission, the Spokane Police Department has made great progress in implementing all twenty-six (26) of the Commission's recommendations. All police-specific recommendations have been initiated, are complete, or are in the process of being completed. Other recommendations, by their nature, are and will continue to be on-going elements of our training, policy development and implementation for many years to come. Several important indicators of our progress include:

- In 2014, the Spokane Police Department reduced crime in all categories:
 - Violent crime is down 19.72%
 - Property crime is down 7.52%
 - Overall crime is down 8.36%
- Also in 2014, while the Spokane Police Department reduced crime, our officers also reduced use of force incidents by 22%. Force was used in less than one-tenth of one percent of all community contacts.
- More than 95% of SPD officers have been certified in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). We have another CIT class scheduled for March and after this class, nearly 100% of SPD officers will be trained in Crisis Intervention techniques. In April, we will begin enhanced CIT for approximately 15-20 SPD officers, which will provide an additional 60 hours of Crisis Intervention Training.
- We have taken steps to audit the culture of the Spokane Police Department. The DOJ-COPS Office conducted a random survey of officers. The results of officer surveys are contained in the DOJ-COPS Final Report and are part of the Collaborative Reform process. DOJ-COPS will conduct follow up surveys in the coming months and we will continue to work closely with them to evaluate the culture of the SPD.
- We have re-organized the department into a precinct-based model, embedding department leaders and other resources into city neighborhoods in order to better serve citizen needs and continue to reduce crime.
- We continue to positively engage with our community. We have grown our youth basketball league to include activities in Spokane's east-central and west-central neighborhoods. Additionally, we continue to expand our Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) community engagement program to foster positive relationships between youth and police officers in all City neighborhoods. We are now partnering with Spokane Public Schools to offer the YPI program as an alternative to suspension.



Since January of 2013, the Spokane Police Department has been engaged in a Collaborative Reform agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office. After site visits, direct observations, interviews and a survey of SPD personnel, interviews with community stakeholders, analysis of use of force report data, and review of departmental policies, practices and procedures, the DOJ-COPS team delivered 42 findings and recommendations. SPD has begun implementation of these recommendations. It is my commitment, and the department's commitment, that we will implement all DOJ-COPS recommendations within 18 months of the release of the final report.

Each and every day, we strive to protect our residents and visitors from harm and ensure community safety. The Use of Force Commission recommendations have been incredibly impactful in helping SPD to develop and implement crime prevention and reduction strategies that are grounded in the principles of dignity, integrity and respect. Our continued work with DOJ-COPS will assist us in identifying critical cultural, management and operational issues, as well as implementing appropriate reforms. We are committed to continuing to reduce crime and violence, building community trust, and engaging with the citizens we serve.

Thank you for your unprecedented service to the community and to the Spokane Police Department. Additionally, thank you for the opportunity to deliver a final update on our progress in implementing your recommendations. Be assured that the re-engineering process is not over, in many ways it has only just begun.



Frank G. Straub, Ph.D.
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Spokane Police Department