



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Commendations January - June 2022

Officer Derek Jones is an awesome and caring officer. My son has a mental illness, and Officer D. Jones came in and handled the job amazingly. I just wanted to give props to D. Jones. He is awesome. A very good person I can tell. You should give him an award. The way he handled my disabled son, a lot of cops couldn't do it. And I just want you to tell him thank you for me.

—P.L.

*Kudos to your Spokane patrol who responded to my friend's home [**Officers Jordan Schott, Kolton McKitrick, and Ben Manning**] when her son had a very violent reaction to Oxycodone after returning home from the hospital following surgery for a shattered shin. She was very impressed with how the officers handled and deescalated the situation with a very out of control violent 16-year-old who was saying horrible things to and about law enforcement in general. The officers convinced the teen to calm down enough to transfer him back to the children's hospital. If you are able to pass along the kudos that would be great!*

—A.B.

I extend my personal gratitude to you as the police chief and all the men and women of the Spokane Police Department who put on the uniform every day to keep Spokane safe for the good people of the city and most especially for my loved ones who still live in the area. God bless and be safe.

—R.P.

*There was a situation with my son in which three of your wonderful officers responded [**Officer Michele Kernkamp, Reid Carrell**]. Not only did they respond with care, they responded with love and understanding and compassion and it made it so much easier and they found my son. So, I can't tell you, my heart is just warmed with their professionalism. They found my son at Inland Behavioral Health; he had checked himself in. Please commend the officers for me.*

—K.G.

Chief Meidl,

*My wife and I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to **Officers Paulie Mead, Makalia McKitrick, and Chaplain Chinelle Flood** for their professionalism in carrying out their duties; to notify us of the sudden and tragic death of our twenty-year-old daughter, as the result of an automobile accident in Montana. It was shocking and devastating news to our family. It was obviously a difficult task for them to carry out. Yet they carried it out with tender kindness and compassion. They phoned the coroner to obtain answers to our questions. Chaplain Flood contacted the U.S. Navy chaplain in California to provide notification to our son, and to arrange for his emergency leave and travel home. Officer Mead drove me to Airway Heights and then to Cheney searching for my son, so that I could provide him in-person notification. Officer Mead then drove us both back to our home in Spokane. Officer McKitrick stayed with my wife, along with Chaplain Flood, to ensure her*

immediate needs were met while I was gone with Officer Mead. Chaplain Flood later mailed to us a card with tender and comforting prayers. After they left us, we started planning our daughter's funeral and the long difficult task of grieving the loss of our daughter and re-building our futures without her. Although the memory of that morning will forever be seared into our minds, the compassion and human decency extended to us by these outstanding representatives of the Spokane Police Department during the worst moment of our lives, will never be forgotten. Thank you for sending them to us.

—P.K.

Officer [Tim] Schwering is the best. He's giving our neighborhood hope!! Yay!!!! Thank you.

—D.E.

To all of our awesome police officers, I want to express my gratitude and deep appreciation for your service to our community. Most Spokane residents strongly agree. I can't even imagine the horrific things you see and have to deal with day and night. I'm too chicken to do your job. I am terrified that police will be defunded in Spokane. I always feel safer when I see a police officer driving or walking down the street. I am sad that too often your hands are tied, so to speak, regarding what you are allowed to do in your efforts to defend and protect us. Having said all of this, I want to thank you for your service.

—D.D.

Dear Officer Tim Schwering,

All of us at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church want to give you a very big "Thank you!" for a job well done. I stopped by the Cop Shop on Addison the first week in December to say "Thank you!" to you and everyone that assisted us in shutting down the drug house across the street from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Your fellow officers shared that you were stationed at a different location. The drug dealers moved out near the end of November. The prostitution is gone. We still get the occasional homeless foot traffic, but they leave quite quickly when they realize the house isn't operational. Please be assured of our daily prayers for you and all your fellow officers.

—S.M.

Hi Mickey [Chaplain Mickey Tuter],

I wanted to say thank you! You helped my niece and I after my sister's death before Thanksgiving. I just wanted to let you know how much we appreciated your help that very tragic and hard day.

—K.Z.

Thank you and great work on apprehending this creep so quickly! Appreciate your efforts in keeping us safe at Manito Park. Many of us use that Park daily and have always felt safe until these attacks. Thank you to all involved! You are appreciated more than you know!

—S.R.

Officer Tim Schwering,

Everyone around the neighborhood appreciates what you're doing. Thank you.

—E.S.

Thank you for your prompt and professional kindness in doing a wellness check for our family on New Year's Day. We were unable to reach our sister in Spokane for three months by phone or text, and then not getting a Christmas card and checking with other family members, we knew something wasn't right. You were able to get back to us in 15 minutes and handled the situation with thoughtfulness and caring. Kind deed appreciated. Please pass on our appreciation.

—K.L.

COPS Northwest and **[Officer] Tim [Schwering]**, you guys really are the best!

—J.S.

Officer Chris Lesser,

Yesterday, I met a woman who was grateful to you for helping her recover her stolen bike last fall. She was devastated that her bike was stolen and thought she'd never see it again. She couldn't believe that "Officer Chris" had been able to help her. You located it on a routine call. The thief had tried to damage the serial number so it could not be scanned and recovered. You were able to confirm it was her bike. She was overjoyed to get it back, even though it had been "cannibalized" by the thief, and she has been restoring it back to its original condition.

—K.A.

Craig,

I ran into **[Officer] Tim [Schwering]** checking on our neighborhood tonight and spent some time with him. I've never been more hopeful about our situation than what I'm feeling tonight. I will be spending time communicating with our neighbors and doing all that we can to assist Tim in taking care of the bad guys in our neighborhood.

—M.E.

February 2022

A few days ago several of your officers **[Tyler Fisher, Ron VanTassel, Steven Donges and Nathan Clark]** responded to a domestic issue involving my daughter, where she was being held against her will by her boyfriend. We like to think that something like this won't happen within our families, unfortunately this is not always true. With my daughter living so far from home, we had no idea this was going on in her relationship; though we talked on the phone and communicated through other means often, she never let on as to what was going on in her relationship. Thank God she had good friends who saw what was happening and made the outcry. My daughter relayed to her mother and I how professionally and compassionately your responding officers handled the situation when they arrived on scene, and I thank you for that. I know situations like that are not always easy to sort out and determine courses of action. Because of their actions, she is safe, and he is sitting behind bars, where he belongs. We are working with her to establish a long-term safety plan. I cannot express enough, from my wife and I, our sincerest and most heartfelt gratitude.

—M.B.

Chief Meidl,

We wanted to recognize each officer from SPD who responded to a unique situation at our hospital today. **[Officers Austin Toal, Ryan Thomas, Ryan McLucas, Joe Dunsmoor, and Greg Thompson.]** First and foremost, each officer engaged in teamwork with our staff so that the crisis situation would have the best chances for a safe resolution for the individual in crisis as well as all involved. The officers' attitudes towards working together and following our clinical team's lead was essential – and each officer showed that at an expert level. Each officer displayed consideration and compassion for the individual that was in crisis. Each officer utilized skills that represent trauma informed care. These aspects I am pointing out need to be celebrated in your officers and it a reflection of SPD's focused efforts on the mental health and wellness of our community. Thank you for your collaboration, partnership and friendship as we navigate the complexities of mental health together for the future stability of all those we serve.

—D.B.

Chief Meidl,

*I had an opportunity Wednesday night last week to meet **Officers [Ethan] Wilke and [Adam] Anderson**. I had stopped to assist a motorist broken down in the roadway as the traffic going by his vehicle was dangerously close. I had intended on helping him push it out of the road since it was 1700 and extremely busy. However, the car was a newer model that would not allow the transmission to move unless the engine was started. So, we contacted his insurance for a tow and set up cones waiting for their hour-plus arrival. Shortly into the wait, both officers arrived and met with the owner. They had dealt with this exact situation before, and with the help of YouTube, they took part of the car's center console apart to locate a tiny switch that allowed us to move the transmission manually. We were then able to push the car into a parking lot and restore 29th. They were both exceptional problem solvers. Please pass my thanks for their solution mindset and excellent customer service for our community members.*

—B.S.

*I was involved in a car accident on January 31. **Officer [Austin] Neale** was very concerned about my well-being. I appreciate his concern and he was very professional. I just wanted to thank him and let him know it was appreciated. Thank you.*

—P.M.

*Dear **Chaplain [Denny] Klaja**,*

Thank you for your kindness and support as we learn to navigate life without our sweet daughter. We appreciate the time you spent with us and the follow up note that you sent. Thank you again.

—D.M.

*The reason for this letter is to let the department know of the outstanding service and dedication from **Sergeant Craig Hamilton** to enforce the city's law downtown. He elicited the help of **Officer Brett Spring** to assist in the theft of hotel services. It should be known, Officer Spring has shown up for more than one incident and he is always positive, upbeat and willing to enforce the law when he can.*

—J.O.

*The DV Unit recently worked a case that I wanted to highlight. A YWCA Advocate came over and spoke to me about a petitioner. The advocate was concerned about the safety of the victim. The respondent had made violent threats against her life, and was said to be in possession of several firearms. The victim had relayed to the advocate that she planned on filing a Protection Order asap and she felt that the respondent was dangerous and was in possession of many firearms. The order was filed. The victim forwarded me the text messages that she had received from the Respondent. The text messages included threats of suicide by cop, killing her ex-boyfriend with a rifle and burning her house down with her inside. **Officer [Erick] Specht**, Spokane Police Department DV Unit, confirmed that the respondent had purchase history of 6 firearms and an active CPL. He immediately initiated an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO). The report was articulate and detailed the dangerous threats of shooting the victim from miles away with a rifle and making threats of lighting her house on fire with her in it. The report goes on to say that the respondent believed he could get the cops to kill him. Commissioner Stewart granted the ERPO. Officer Specht and Officer Chimienti served the ERPO and collected the firearms referenced in the report. I believe that without the diligent work of Officer Specht, this ERPO would not have been granted. He authored a very detailed report and consistently appeared in Court for all the hearings. I had the chance of speaking to the Victim in this case after the ERPO was granted. She was so grateful for all the work behind the scenes to help keep her and her son safe. This case was a perfect example of Teamwork, and I'm proud to be a part of it!*

—A.S.

*The Riverview Retirement Community Village Council wanted to express on behalf of the residents our appreciation of **Neighborhood Resource Officer Todd Brownlee's** presentation at our February 9, 2022, Resident Meeting. He was very informative about issues in the Logan Neighborhood and patiently answered many questions. His explanation of the challenges that your department has been facing in addressing the many social and criminal problems in our community in the middle of a pandemic was sobering. He represents the best of a public service officer with his dedication and professionalism. Please extend our thanks to Officer Brownlee for meeting with us.*

—R.L.

*I'd like to thank the officers that responded to my neighbor's apartment for a welfare check. It sounded like his primary care provider was worried about him, and that he did not want help. In spite of this, the officers (one introduced himself as **Officer Adrian Howell**) demonstrated patience and understanding as they tried to communicate with him through the door. They made sure to leave a line of communication for my neighbor in case he changed his mind.*

—R.N.

Officer Tim [Schwering],

Thank you SO much for getting rid of the abandoned vehicle that was so hazardous to us! Your quick response will always be remembered and appreciated!! God Bless you for making our street safer! We love Spokane but this one block has given us some scary challenges both winter and summer!! You guys are awesome!!

—V.P.

Chief Meidl,

*I wanted to take the opportunity to point out the exceptional efforts of **Detective Dion Mason**. The exceptional work done by Detective Mason was a primary reason that the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney's Office could successfully hold the defendant accountable and have his case brought to justice. The contents of our office's case file depict an extensive domestic violence follow up investigation that included additional field work, court appearances, testimony preparation, and extensive screening and review of jail call recordings. Detective Mason's follow up work proved to be pivotal because the contents of jail call recordings and evidence produced against an accomplice left the defendant with no viable defense to the charges. As a result, the defendant was brought to justice without the victim, who greatly fears the defendant, needing to testify at trial. It is due to such exceptional efforts that the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney's Office can achieve successes such as this in the fight against domestic violence. Therefore, I would like to commend Detective Mason for his efforts and commend the Spokane Police Department for its support in our continuing fight against domestic violence.*

—M.W.

Dear Chaplain Kevin [Piatt],

It is with a very heavy but grateful heart that I write this. Thank you for being the chaplain at the scene of my mother's death on Christmas Eve. I can't even begin to try to understand how difficult and sad your job must be sometimes. Having you there to support us, answer our questions, and just simply sit with us means more than you'll ever know, and I could never thank you enough for being there for us on the worst day of our lives. We truly appreciate you and your kindness.

—C.H.

*Just wanted to give a quick phone call to the two gentlemen and female officer who helped my son. **[Officer Whitney Hagan, Trevor Walker, Jeremy McVay.]** My son was having what we believe was a manic episode. We called 911, they sent out the officers. They were able to get my son to go to the hospital along with the ambulance. We just wanted to say thank you for loving him and caring*

for him. I know you guys, all officers, get a bad rap unfortunately, but we as a family back the blue. You guys and gals have such a rough go of it so just wanted to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being there when we needed you. God Bless you.

—S.H.

I requested info on how to send a thank you for the exceptional and compassionate care taken. Every interaction was positive from the multiple interactions with Austin Toal #1233 to the meeting with Bryan Weber #1448 and another officer whose name I don't recall. **[Officer Reid Carrell, Ryan Skay, and Stanley Stadelman.]** They were very helpful in answering questions and offering helpful advice in dealing with this disturbing incident of dealing with a recovered stolen car. As physicians in the community, my husband and I are thanked for what we do. We are grateful for the Spokane and police who willingly make the choice to continue to serve and protect!

—K.S.

Chief,

After trying to patiently but desperately work with our fair city for the past four years, I have to say that your officer, **Tim Schwering**, is impressively responsive, thorough, and professional. As a taxpayer, I consider him to be a "treasure"! I have had outstanding requests with our fair city for years, literally! And my requests have been accumulating without response! Last week I was ready to pour out my disappointments to the news media even though I detest negative criticism. Then I was told of your C.O.P.S program. I tried the office on Wellesley/Belt. Victor took my information and within hours my biggest safety hazard was removed when Tim Schwering had the abandoned vehicle removed (it was abandoned last summer & reported). This one officer has renewed my faith!!! I understand my request for No Parking signs on the south side of our dirt street has been approved. This would resolve our second safety issue. I anxiously await their arrival.

—V.P.

Dear [Chaplain] Chinelle [Flood],

Thanks to you and the SPD officers who came to Brookdale Nine Mile when my brother passed away. Your caring and thoughtfulness were greatly appreciated at that sad time.

—M.A.

I would like to commend **Officer [Larry] House** for respectful services. Officer House was quick to get me grievance forms with no negative attitude with my returning them to his desk. I watched, as ones like me do, as Officer House quickly delivered the grievance forms to a back office without reading them. Officer House acknowledged my stated effort of overcoming homelessness through disabled employment and getting beyond the homeless system with support. I need to put my frustration aside with Hope House Shelter and learn communication soft skills as Officer House does so well for us, the public. Thank you to Officer House.

—S.H.

A woman called to say that she was in a "single car accident" today. She said that her "life was severely in danger." **Officer [Todd] Brownlee** came out, stayed with her and kept her safe and then made sure she got home. She said that she wants Officer Brownlee acknowledged and to know that he is appreciated and to know how she "felt once he showed up." She said that she "could have died down that road."

—P.C.

A man stopped by the front desk. He said this past Saturday he was really cold and trying to get somewhere. He could not remember any of the 3 officers names but was really thankful for the officers he dealt with because they were really professional and helpful and got him to a safe place

where he could warm up. [**Officers Taylor Johnson, Juan Ruiz, Adam Anderson and Anthony Inman.**]

—R.B.

March 2022

On behalf of my wife and I, and all our neighbors who were affected by a critical incident occurring in the 2700 block of Napa on Wednesday morning; we want to thank the Spokane Police Department for their response and resolving the threat without anyone getting killed. We could observe the deployment of the perimeter officers and how they were protecting the neighborhood. Neighbors close to the residence could see the officers directly involved in the negotiations with the subject who had threatened to shoot any police who would respond to this residence. At the same time this incident was in progress the Department was involved in another critical incident involving a murder and the subject who committed the murder was at large. I can appreciate the decisions the supervisors and commanders have to make regarding the allocations of personnel and resources to these problems and the split-second decisions the officers have to make at the scene. To my knowledge, there were no media at the Napa incident and have not seen any mention on TV or in the newspaper of this incident. We are proud of our Police Department and wish them continued success and safety in their daily tasks.

—R.O.

On behalf of my office and our department, I want to personally recommend **Officer Xenon Berkeley** for an SPD Life Saving Award for his off-duty actions on February 28, 2022. That evening, Officer Berkeley performed bystander CPR and used an AED on a community member suffering cardiac arrest while seated at a Gonzaga indoor event. I was one of the Paramedics that responded to the 911 call and arrived with our teams, where a 54-year-old man suffered a life-ending dysrhythmia directly across from Officer Berkeley's seated location. When I arrived, the victim was lying supine in the walkway, and Officer Berkeley cared for him. Despite being off duty, the officer remained with the patient and passed the pre-arrival information to our responders. Officer Berkeley executed CPR, utilized an AED, and managed the devices' defibrillation when recommended, and his performance was outstanding. Our Paramedics administered cardiac medications to treat dysrhythmias and quickly controlled the patient's hemodynamic status allowing us to transport them to a Level 1 Cardiac Center for definitive treatment. As a result, the victim was revived and continues to recover today due to Officer Berkeley's actions. I, the Spokane Fire Department, and the Spokane Community are very grateful for Officer Berkeley's dedication and service while assisting this citizen and especially appreciate his competence in CPR.

—B.S.

Thanks again to all officers and staff at SPD. Comstock truly appreciates the extra emphasis in our neighborhood mentioned later in the briefing!

—J.S.

Reaching out to share citizen feedback based on excellent service demonstrated by **Officer Austin Neale**. A constituent contacted our office to share how the impacts of illegal activity and crime are affecting her business in Northeast Spokane. She has made numerous calls to Crime Check and 311 to report. Recently Officer Neale connected with the business owner and was instrumental in dealing with a nuisance, unregistered RV which was contributing to some of the crime and loitering occurring near the salon. While it doesn't fix all of the problems occurring, the salon owner, employees and customers were very positively impacted by Officer Neale's work and made to feel safer. They are extremely grateful for his work.

—S.B.

Sergeant Michael Schneider,

I want to express my sincere gratitude for being a major part of the 141 ARW Victim Advocacy refresher training course. I truly appreciate you and your time spent traveling to Fairchild AFB in support of our first ever joint Victim Advocacy refresher training that included the Air National Guard, Army, and Civilian counterparts in the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response team. Your contribution enabled 17 Victim Advocates to accumulate 26 Continuing Education Unit-hours needed for the year. Your vast knowledge and expertise shared were undoubtedly beneficial and applicable to today's current events within our culture. Knowledge, understanding, and education are powerful tools that have helped shape our Victim Advocates to be fully equipped to care for people and handle any situation when the time comes. Your contributions and willingness to go above your regular duties is admirable and we appreciate you and our partnerships!

—L.G.

You are doing exceptional work in our community and we appreciate the partnership!

—T.F.

*Good morning. I just wanted to pass along a "thank you" from Campus Security for your officer, **Caitlyn Anderson**, and her patient professionalism in helping us deal with multiple mental health situations on campus yesterday. We truly appreciate it.*

—P.T.

Dear Chief Meidl,

*I've not had a chance to meet you personally, but I wanted to reach out to you to report a situation with your **Officer Casey Jones** and one of your 911 dispatchers. This morning I was awoken to a rather alarming text from my wife at 5:45. She had gone down to the gym and her car was broken into. Some valuable items were stolen including her purse which had (among other things) her wallet, identification and her work computer. Being a banker, losing her laptop is a pretty big security issue. I just wanted to report to you how incredibly professional and caring your staff was. From the operator at the 911 center taking my information, asking that we follow up with additional calls as we updated the location. To the attentiveness and compassion that I was treated with—I was incredibly impressed. I am sorry to report I cannot remember her name as I wish I could give it to you. At this point Officer Jones' involvement began. He had met my wife downtown where the apple item was signaling. He gave her advice, asked her to stay in touch, told us to call when we were monitoring movement, etc. We did that and we're lucky! Turns out that he was arresting a woman downtown that ended up being the woman that stole my wife's purse and broke her window. Officer Jones recovered what of my wife's valuables that were still there and reached out to us. He even shared his email with us and asked us to list what was still missing so he could keep an eye out for it. Again, completely professional and compassionate. He actually sounded really happy that he was helping us. My experience today tells me what I already knew—folks like Officer Jones and our unnamed 911 responder are doing their jobs extremely well under the worst of conditions. Thank you and your team for helping us today, for keeping us all safe every day and for showing up when it feels like a chore more than a career.*

—C.J.

*Dear **Officer [Deanna] Storch**, nearly every day I am grateful for your advocacy and service this past year as my husband, neighbors, and I were dealing with a problem address. Thank you for your encouragement, professionalism, and being in our corner. I am SO grateful for you.*

—W.L.

As a former LEO I get how under-appreciated our LEOs can be and have seen nothing but extreme professionalism every time Spokane PD Officers respond to our agency. This issue was no different. Bravo Zulu to the responding officers, as well as EMS/Fire that came help diffuse the crisis!!!
[Officers Austin Toal, Ryan Thomas, Ryan McLucas, Joe Dunsmoor, and Greg Thompson.]
—D.H.

*A gal stopped by today to drop off doughnuts and to say thank you to **Officers [Joe] Hefling and [Jordan] Clare** for talking with her and the help with the tent around Lewis and Clark High School. She said the tent is gone and is thankful because they have a tournament today.*
—J.J.

Stop. You have received a ticket for being awesome. Thank you for serving our community.
—M.K.

Chief Meidl,
*I wanted to pass along a quick note of appreciation to **[Property and Evidence Manager] Kevin Berry** for hosting a tour and best practices discussion with me last week while I was in town attending the IAPE training class. I was very impressed with how organized and clean the facility was in relation to the size and scope of their responsibilities. When I found out that only 7 total staff members run this vast facility, I was even more impressed! When I ended my tour and meeting with Kevin, I asked for your contact information so that I could recognize him and the rest of the team for a job well done. Kevin and I have discussed several best practices topics over the years, and it was a real privilege to meet him face-to-face to discuss the many different challenges we experience managing an effective and efficient operation. In closing, I have been to many other larger facilities within the Western region, and I can't think of one that is better managed than Spokane's evidence room.*
—B.W.

Hello Officer [Tim] Schwering,
The abandoned vehicle has been removed. Can't thank you enough for the prompt response.
—W.Q.

*I've appreciated **[Detective] Dave Eckersley's** "go get them" attitude when it came to the cases, he's referred to us as well as his never-failing willingness to participate in case staffing meetings, Case Review and Peer Review. We all work hard in a thankless profession, but what I have appreciated most about Dave is the appreciation that he always shown and verbalized to us here at the CAC [Child Advocacy Center]. No matter what service was being provided to him, he is always grateful for the work we do, and tells us so. He even sacrificed his own personal time to allow the CAC staff a "Retreat Day", as a thank you for the hard work we do. No matter what the outcome of a case may be, all a child/vulnerable victim wants is for someone to be given the opportunity to tell their story and that someone has the slightest belief in their statement, and then do something about it... and this is what I have seen Dave do time and time again. Dave is absolutely one of the most genuine detectives that I have had the pleasure of working with. The heart he has for the children, adolescents, and vulnerable victims we serve at the CAC places no doubt in my mind that he will take that same genuine spirit with him to Major Crimes. As much as Dave will be missed around here, I am glad to know that he will be able to take the skills he has acquired in SVU and utilize them in the many investigations he will get with child, adolescent, and vulnerable victims/witnesses. I have no doubt that Dave's utilization of our MDT services and process will continue.*
—T.W.

To the Police, thank you. You guys are awesome. Thanks for keeping the streets safe! It's a pretty cool job, you guys do awesome stuff! I feel very safe because you guys are out there. Thanks for enforcing and protecting the laws. Liberty and Justice for all! Thanks for taking out all the bad guys.
—E.

Officer Shawn Tylock,

I am the supervisor of the felony DV Unit in the County Prosecutor's Office. I was reviewing this report number and noticed your work. Specifically, I saw that you conducted a traffic stop on this defendant and learned that he had a No-contact order protecting the registered owner of the vehicle. You then took the time to verify the NCO, contact the protected person by phone (she was not in the car) and interview the defendant about the violation. The interview resulted in a confession and you submitted the case for a felony violation based upon priors. I really want to commend you for taking the time to go the extra mile on this case and put in all that pro-active police work. You showed a lot of initiative and caught an offender who might otherwise have been able to violate this order consequence-free. I appreciate it.

—D.M.

We appreciate everything you do for the Spokane community!

—A.O.

*Over the months, Pullman PD detectives have been working with various agencies to use genealogical forensics in an attempt to identify the offender in a string of home invasion/sexual assault cases, which took place in Pullman between November 2003 and March 2004. Once a DNA match was established, we began working with members of the Spokane Police Department Special Investigations Unit, who assisted in locating the suspect, a Washington resident working at a Spokane construction site. Your detectives assisted with surveillance efforts, obtained a suspect DNA sample, and successfully arrested the suspect on Thursday, March 17, 2022. After 18 long years, the suspect was booked into the Whitman County Jail, to be held accountable for victimizing multiple women, and terrorizing our Pullman community. **Lieutenant Rob Boothe, Sergeant Blaine Kakuda, Officer Mark Brownell, and Detectives Nick Lundgren, Bruce Palmer, Paul Brasch, Chris McMurtrey, Juan Rodriguez, and Amy Ross** were instrumental in the success of this operation. I would also like to recognize the outstanding work of **Sergeant Art Dollard**, who served as our main point of contact in coordinating these collaborative efforts. On behalf of a grateful community, I thank the Spokane Police Department and the SPD Special Investigations Unit for your assistance in bringing this offender to justice. While we hope that the need never arises, please do not hesitate to reach out if we can ever return the favor.*

—G.J.

*I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge **Detective [Dusty] Howe** for the exemplary work he has done during his time in the SVU [Special Victims Unit]. It was after working with Dusty on a case, that I told anyone with power and anyone that would listen, that Dusty needed to be a full time SVU detective. Needless to say, when I found out that he was transferring to SVU full time, I was thrilled because I knew of this trauma informed strengths that he would bring to the unit. Since Dusty's full-time arrival to the SVU, I have had nothing but the best interactions with him, and always have complete confidence that the children and families he refers are getting nothing but the best, because Dusty is on the case. Through all of my interactions with Dusty, his commitment to the children, adolescents and vulnerable victims we serve at the CAC [Child Advocacy Center] has been admirable. His heart for the work we do is very evident, and I am confident that when I see his name assigned to as case, the family and children in particular, will not just get a piece of what Dusty has to offer as a detective, but they will get ALL that he has to offer. There is a saying in the world of Children's Advocacy Centers that states, "Start by Believing" and this is something that I have seen*

Dusty do time and again with all the cases he has referred to our center. No matter what the final outcome of a case may be, all a child wants is for someone to listen to their disclosure and to have the slightest belief in their statement, and then do something about it...and this is what I have seen Dusty do time and time again. Whether a direct victim, a witness or a non-offending caregiver, Dusty always treats them with trauma informed kindness, respect and humility.

—T.W.

April 2022

*There was an officer, **Anthony Inman**, who responded to a mental health concern from my adult son. I just wanted to register my thanks and appreciation of how this officer and the officers with him handled it with great dignity. I know you guys get a lot of complaints and I thought you needed to hear this. I want to register my appreciation of how this officer and the young officers with him handled it.*

—A.P.

Officer [Tyson] Setzler,

Thank you for taking the time to help me and keeping my son and I safe. I truly felt that you cared and were understanding to my situation. Our community is blessed to have you.

—C.O.

Thirty years later I am back home living in the beating, downtown-heart of the city I have always bragged about to anyone who would listen. Now, I am the one who is astonished. Our city is still vibrant and beautiful. The people still smile and wave. You can still find places to walk and be alone. From Seattle, I kept hearing about the “homeless problem” and the “crime plague” that took the city over, so I braced for impact when I arrived. I want to thank you for keeping my home the home I remember. It couldn't have been an easy road. Outside the “walls of the city” the world is dark. It's paramount that you, the Watchers on the wall, know what you mean to me and the homeless guy I met the other day. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

—J.S.

*I wanted to reach out to say thank you to the gentleman from Crime Check, who was so kind, the **dispatcher Tanya [Hauenstein], and Officer Daniel Rhine**. My co-worker's roommate went on a blind date last night and never came home, and was not answering her phone, so I went with my co-worker to look for her, after no luck, I called Crime Check to see what we should do, and the gentleman from Crime Check was kind and very helpful. He took the information and passed it on to dispatch. Dispatch called me back, and stated an officer was on his way to assist us. Officer Rhine was very kind and assisted us as much as he could. I just wanted to reach out to say THANK YOU!*

—M.D.

Tim [Officer Tim Schwering],

I wish that you could have started this about one year ago. Now that the owners have basically shut the building down, the drug and homeless traffic has just about stopped. Before this happened, we could watch people park in front of our house and shoot up and smoke stuff. We have 90% less traffic in front of the house now.

—L.D.

Chief,

I wanted to shoot you a short note about an officer that I just ran into while in traffic on North foothills. There was a lady that drove up to the intersection and her car died. While we were in traffic, I was trying just to get up there in case we need to push it, but he troubleshoot the engine and ended

up getting it going temporarily. He remained with her all the way until she could get to a parking lot and wait a friend for help. His name is **Derek Jones**, badge number 1401. And the interaction with the community member and the entire situation was just awesome.

—B.S.

[Officer] Tim [Schwering],

The problem house has been resolved!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Thank you very much. It was something to witness. It was the great PURGE. Thanks again. This is the way it's supposed to work.

—C.C.

Captain Singley,

I really don't know how we can adequately express our gratitude to **Officer [Micah] Prim** and [mental health professional] Sheena. Virtually every successful participant we have had in the last 3 months has come from their willingness to help encourage the participant with a "carrot & stick" approach. Today, they took one of our participants to treatment again. We owe them a debt of gratitude. Kindly help us share this with them.

—F.A.

Not sure who **Officer [Zach] Johnson's** supervisor is, but I thought he should be recognized for his great investigative work. This kind of intelligence is vital to investigative units and the quality of work he's done is something I typically see from an experience detective. Tell him to keep up the good work!

—A.M.

Just wanted to send along a message of appreciation for **Officer [Brent] Armstrong** and his conduct during his interview at Deaconess North when meeting with a Sexual Assault survivor. He was very patient with her, attentive, empathetic, and intentional. I appreciated his humor during the questioning and the survivor mentioned this as well. He took the time to listen to her without any judgment and was very respectful of her emotions during such a heightened time.

—J.S.

I find the SPD to reflect an overall applied attitude wherein there is no "I" in "team"...Personally I found the high number of nominations to reflect a serious work attitude of appreciating/caring for one another...

—R.M.

This letter is written to commend one of your police officer's performances, and to bring to your attention the professional assistance this officer rendered. I was pleased, surprised, and appreciative of **Officer Timothy B. Schwering**, North Precinct, response to my need. Officer Timothy Schwering's actions were a response to a civil complaint and call for help on April 15, 2022. His response was timely, efficient, courteous, respectful, immediate, and unexpectedly effective. On April 15, 2022, I called the police department to report a damaged, abandoned vehicle parked in front of my house. The vehicle had been parked well over a month. The car blocked my ability to carry groceries (anything) into my house. At 73, I experience several co-mobilities. To reduce the pain of walking and the aggravation of health-related issues, I must have access to the most convenient and easy path to my home. I was referred and transferred to Officer Timothy Schwering. Within an hour, he returned my call and I spoke directly with him and repeated the information I left in my phone message. He stated that he would "swing-by" my property later the same day. Again, within an hour, the Officer was at my home. My neighbor and I spoke with Officer Schwering and provided any information we had regarding the damaged abandoned vehicle. I believe that the Officer stated he had messaged the vehicle owner. In addition, Officer Schwering also called for the

car to be towed and waited for the tow truck arrival. Officer Schwering followed-up with me to let know the car was being towed. I was surprised, amazed, and deeply grateful. I could not thank your police officer enough.

—R.F.

Spokane Police Department,

Thank you for partnering with Junior League of Spokane for another successful Treasure Hunt Book fair. Your participation made the event extra special for our kids. We served 137 people and gave away 74 books.

—Junior League Book Fair Committee

Records Staff,

I appreciate your promptness in this matter and am so grateful that I didn't die out in the snow after one of the worst nights of my lifetime. My dog and I both are grateful that the officers who responded to the call ensured we made it through. **[Officer Kris Honaker and Caleb Howard.]** God bless you all.

—Name Withheld

I would like to write a commendation for **[Mental Health Coordinator] Carrie Christiansen's** continued effort to help me receive homeless services appropriate for me. Carrie has twice referred me to Pioneer Services Stabilization for mental illness symptoms.

—S.H.

I wanted to take a minute and send you our thanks for the resources, and energy, utilized yesterday evening by your Outreach Staff **[Sergeant Greg Rogan, Officer Jen Kerns]** to welcome and educate our Youth Program participants. The kids had such a great time at the Police Training Center! They left educated and impressed by the activities, teamwork and presentation provided by your staff. We are immensely grateful for the gift of time, experience, and knowledge.

—J.R.

May 2022

We wanted to reach out and say thank you for attending the Law and Justice Career Fair April 7th. **[Officer Scott Hice, Officer Andres Valencia, and Detective Greg Butler.]** We appreciate you taking the time to come and talk and interact with our students. We know that this event was valuable for our students - not only for students looking for jobs now - but the students who are still thinking about what they want to do in the near future. Again, thank you for being there and making the event truly exceptional!

—T.D.

I took the "Enhancing the Survival Mindset" class on Saturday. **Lieutenant Jake Jensen** and the SPD team of instructors did an outstanding job. I wanted to express my appreciation and continued support for this type of citizen education.

—M.M.

Captain [Tracie] Meidl,

I want to thank you and your team for all the assistance as of late, we have had several incidents requiring SPD attention and officers have been quick to arrive and the situations have been handled above board. I want to thank you again and please send our appreciation to your officers.

—D.D.

May 2022

Chief Meidl,

With the successful conclusion of Skyfest 2022 this past weekend, I wanted to pass my thanks to the Spokane Police Department and all your personnel for their assistance with this event. Motor officers and traffic officers assisted with four Thunderbirds escorts over the weekend and there is no way these motorcades would have been successful without the help of your staff. The WSP values the close working relationship with have with your agency and your personnel were important in ensuring Skyfest 2022 was a safe and successful event for the public.

—J.O.

*Our daughter had such a wonderful time at SkyFest mostly due to **[Reserve] Officer [Mat] Allen!** We wanted to share these pictures with him! Thank you.*

—J.F.

Chief Meidl,

Please pass along my deepest appreciation for your department's efforts on 14-15 May 22 in support of Skyfest 2022. We recognize the recent challenges nearly every department faces when it comes to staffing and we sincerely appreciate the support despite these challenges. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for your team's outstanding performance and positive representation for the "Dragons" of the 92nd Security Forces Squadron by cheering your department on with a hearty "Well Done!" Our success is due in no small part to the individual efforts of your entire department and your valued employees. I am extremely proud of your teams who were flexible and proactive about finding ways to help. It's vital for us to be first-class partners with our local law enforcement agencies and first-class neighbors with the community. I would also be grateful if you would personally thank each individual from your department who worked the Airshow for me in a public venue. Tell them that we in the 92nd Security Forces Squadron are both grateful and proud of their contribution to Team Fairchild and our United States Air Force!

—B.S.

Hello, **Officer Tim [Schwering]**,

Every so often, I see you parked out on the street close to our favorite neighborhood house. It's honestly been pretty darn quiet, the past few weeks. The car traffic and foot traffic has subsided noticeably. I've got to believe, wherever the neighbor has gone... the drug activity has followed her away? Whatever might be the case, it has been enjoyable to leave the front door open on warm nights and not hear heavy traffic in the neighborhood. Thank you again for your efforts.

—E.S.

*I wanted to extend a kudos to **Officer [Drew] Chappell** who responded to our agency when our medical team made a mandatory report after a young person made a disclosure of an unreported sexual assault that occurred approximately 2 years prior. I believe that this interaction with Officer Chappell not only helped this young person to feel seen and heard, but also helped in building confidence in her brave decision to report. I know that in the field of law enforcement, more often than not, patrol officers will interact with people who are experiencing acute distress, crises, and trauma. The job is not an easy one and I have so much respect for those who share their servant's heart with the community they have promised to respond to and protect. The response by Officer Chappell is a great example of the positive impact that patrol officers can have on those needing help not only in the moment, but also long-term as well. This young person has been able to walk away from this experience knowing that she was heard, that there are people who are here to support her, and that she was seen as an individual person with respect given to her choices in the*

moment, something that was stolen from her during her traumatic experience. I appreciate Officer Chappell's response to our agency that day!

—S.W.

Amazing work from the Spokane Police Department, **Officer Tim [Schwering], and Chief Meidl**. I sent an email about the problem home in our neighborhood to Chief Meidl in January. The owner of the problem house and the new owners closed on the house yesterday, four months later. The bad guys are leaving. The good guys are moving in.

—M.E.

I'd like to give a special shout out and thank you to **Officer Neil Higgins #1435** who "rescued" two eighty-year-old ladies in distress on the evening of May 14th after my van was stolen in downtown Spokane. His care and concern went beyond my expectations! What a fine officer and gentleman!!!!

—L.H.

Chief,

Just wanted you to know what an awesome representative of the SPD **Captain Mark [Griffiths]** is! But you clearly know that.

—S.W.

I would like to express my appreciation for the way 2 officers conducted themselves professionally and their respect for us in dealing with this situation. Officer **[Sergeant] Paul Carpenter**, and another officer, after searching for my friend's car and not getting results, these 2 officers independently gave us a ride home. My friend lives in Airway Heights. Officers that took him home filed a stolen vehicle report. He was notified Sunday morning that SPD found the missing vehicle on Spokane Falls Blvd. Thank you for your diligent and careful search for the car. We hold you in high respect with other first responders in our prayers that you may be safe.

—T.Q.

I want to say thank you and give some praise for the Spokane Police Department, specifically for Officer **[Corporal] Jeff McCollough**. I just wanted to thank the department and this officer specifically for their proactive nature in looking for my stolen car. I thought I would never get it back. Just wanted to say thank you so much.

—B.M.

June 2022

Thank you so much for taking the time to come and speak with our students. Creating and maintaining a culture of growth and success relies on community members and their willingness to encourage our youth. Thanks for being that encouragement.

—E.V.

I wanted to thank the officers who were in the booth next to us at the Hillyard Farmers Market on 6/6. **[Officers Jen Kerns and Micah Prim.]** It was amazing to see you interact with the public and even teach us some things as well! Thank you for all you do!

—L.C.

Angie [Napolitano, Administrative Specialist],

I just want to say how much I appreciate you taking the time to respond to my email in a timely manner. You single-handedly took care of a request for transcripts and audio within the same day

and I have already heard from [Records Supervisor] Marissa Butler regarding the receipt of those. Thank you for taking this matter seriously...your attention is greatly appreciated.

—L.D.

Chief and Tim [Schwering],

A woman asked me to thank you both for playing a part in resolving the issues at the problem house in our neighborhood. She lived next to the nuisance home and was in fear of walking outside due to retaliation. My conversation with her was the reason I sent an email to the Chief on January 15th. Today, she welcomed me into her home and immediately thanked you both and the neighbors for working together. She said, "Now, I can sleep at night without worrying about what's going to happen next door."

—M.E.

Lieutenant [Bart] Stevens,

Please accept my apologies for the delay, but I wanted to send a follow up and a "thank you" for having me out to ride along with **Officer [Alexander] Baxter** a couple weeks ago. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to see the city from the eyes of a patrol car and was very thankful to have ridden along with such a thoughtful officer. If you would please relay my thanks and appreciation, I would be immensely grateful.

—T.G.

I just received a phone call from a man. He wanted to say "thank you" to the officers who assisted him when his semi-truck broke down last night blocking both east bound and one west bound lane of Trent. He called 911 to get help with directing traffic - **Officer [Marvin] Cunningham and Officer [Quinn] Cochrane** responded. He said they were very pleasant and did an awesome job and he just wanted to let them know how thankful he was to them.

—L.C.

I just want to say THANK YOU!!! To all the police officers in Spokane. I sincerely hope that this organization, Citizens Behind the Badge, are fully supporting your cause. Thank you, officers, for your dedication and professionalism.

—M.C.

Praying for the officer wounded in today's shooting incident. I am sorry our officers aren't respected and appreciated as they must be. You all face danger every day. We could not live our lives in freedom and safety without you. Thank you all for your bravery and kindness every day. We are grateful that you are willing to do what you are called to do.

—M.B.

Chief Meidl,

I just wanted you to be aware of the outstanding work **Officer Mike Thomas** did in setting up the traffic safety component of this year's Hoopfest law enforcement operations. Officer Thomas arranged for the WSP's Mobile Impaired Driving Unit to be present during the weekend which allowed officers in the field to focus on high volume traffic stops and DUI arrests with the DUI processing being handled by the MIDU. Officer Thomas also arranged for phlebotomists to be present for blood draws along with jail transport personnel to handle any required jail bookings thus freeing up officers to get back in the field. Finally, Officer Thomas coordinated with the courts, prosecutors and public defender's offices to ensure everyone was aware of the potential increase in DUI arrests for the weekend. Overall, this was an extremely successful operation and Officer Thomas deserves a significant amount of credit for getting everything set up.

—J.O.

Spokane P.D., I just want to tell you all how much I appreciate your service. Blessings!

—J.D.

I just returned to Portland after the Hoopfest weekend. I wanted to drop a quick note to say thank you, for not only the opportunity to work with your team, but also for the hospitality and support while there. Getting the opportunity to see firsthand, how you turn all the preparation and planning into execution for an event like Hoopfest is one of the best parts of my job, and I know my team on the streets appreciated all the support they received from your officers in the field. I am in the process of completing the After Action Report and will make sure you receive a copy. Lastly, I wanted to mention that our thoughts and prayers go out to your fellow officer and the entire Spokane PD after yesterday's shooting.

—M.J.

I wanted to recognize **Officer Ben Manning**, badge number 1367. He's done an amazing job. My son's been in a mental crisis for over a year, and he comes to check up when he's on duty. It's really, really helpful and he actually really cares about him. He's just amazing, amazing, so helpful. Thanks for all you guys do.

—K.W.

Hello, On June 16, a car hit me very hard from behind. The driver fled after telling me she didn't have insurance. I did get her plate number. Nobody stopped to help me. I was terribly shaken up but made it home. I have a blood disease and had a treatment appointment that afternoon. I was sitting at home in shock when **Officer Todd Nelson** #1462 came to my house to take the report. I have Complex PTSD from being a victim of a serious, life-threatening crime. To this day, I have a terrible fear of having to talk to the police. I told Officer Nelson about how my PTSD was flaring up and asked for his patience. He was so kind and understanding of me. He took extra time to make sure I was ok, and even volunteered to drive me to my phlebotomy appointment. He listened and stayed so kind while I rambled and stalled alternately in the telling of the event. He just waited so nicely and listened with care and compassion. I am sure he had such a busy day and he could have been impatient with my behavior which probably would have amped me up more. My blood condition thickens my blood and my PTSD response to the events of the day had my normal blood pressure up to 188/105, a very dangerous combination. So when I say that Mr. Todd handled the situation with me in the best possible way, I truly mean he could have helped me in preventing a stroke or heart attack. I wanted to let someone know how deeply and profoundly I valued his professionalism and humanity on what was a terrible day for me. He was and remains a bright spot in my memory and shall have my eternal gratitude. For him it may have been just a routine call, but for me it was far more significant. I remain indebted to his kindness.

—L.B.

I was involved in a minor fender bender on Wednesday June 22, 2022. The responding officer, **[Michele] Kernkamp** #626, was courteous and professional with both parties. Thank you for all the work you do!

—J.M.

An elderly gentleman was walking our sidewalk, and he stopped behind my husband's car. My husband was just leaving to go back to work after lunch. Not wanting to run over him, he asked if the man needed help. The man said no, he was walking to where he lived. Then he went on down the street. My husband called me when he couldn't see him anymore as he was driving down the street, he went around the block until he him sitting on a tree stump on the corner. Then the man got up and started back toward our house. My husband came back and engaged the man in conversation.

*We invited him up to my front porch to get out of the sun. I called Crime Check and the officers came quite quickly. They were able to get his name and find his caregivers who were on Broadway looking for him. He'd been missing for 12 days they said. I just want to thank **Officers Dylan Pavlischak and Tyson Setzler** for being so responsive, kind and compassionate to the man and his caregivers. No complaint, a big thank you and kudos!*

—L.G.