



## SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### *Commendations January - June 2023*

*I wanted to reach out and let you know how impressed I was with two of your officers last night. We had an unfortunate death with some delicate circumstances surrounding it yesterday afternoon at the M apartments. The two officers responding, **[Detective Tiffany Austin and Officer Tyler Heiman]** were top notch. They were professional, yet very kind and “human” in dealing with what we were facing. Thank you for employing such great people.*

**—B.W.**

*Dear officers, On Christmas Day, I passed by my dear rental property. I wanted to make sure the squatters were out after my property manager sent them to jail. I have been trying to evict these illegal strangers out since August! I called the police because curtains were up, lights on, and back door unlocked. You came so fast and got rid of the woman who hid from us. They cut my water line and flooded my basement! Your dear officer gripped the spigot and finally shut off my water. I had tried several times unsuccessfully! Here’s to a wonderful Christmas gift you gave me. **[Officers Baughn, Barker, Braten, Vilchiz, Olson, and Cpl. Widhalm]***

**—S.M.**

*I would like to write to you and express my sincere thanks to you, your department, and your officers. On December 30, I had the great opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Sergeant Kyle Yrigollen** after receiving an invitation from him to ride during a bar patrol shift. We spent about 6.5 hours together and I found him and his entire shift to be courteous, professional, and competent in their work. Sergeant Yrigollen had significant time together as there were no real issues which required police intervention in the bars that evening. Sgt Yrigollen spent a lot of time modeling empowering officers on this shift, and it began as a junior supervisor gave the pre-shift briefing plan and went over contingencies. The officers worked well together, and it gave me insight into how the department utilizes Reserve Officers to complement a shift in their duties. Sergeant Yrigollen and I were able to talk about a wide variety of topics including leadership and expectations, police culture, internal affairs process, the promotion process, as well as many others. Sergeant Yrigollen was a lateral officer, so he was able to give some distinctions between the two agencies that he had worked for. It was clear to see his pride in working for the Spokane Police Department and his desire to do everything in his power to positively influence those in his circle. His emphasis on personal leadership growth is clear, but it is his emphasis on raising others up that is laudatory. I appreciated the opportunity to engage with Sergeant Yrigollen in a less than frantic pace which often occurs on ride-alongs. He represented himself and your department very well and I can only hope to have done the same.*

**—Office of Police Ombudsman**

Today is National Law Enforcement Day. Thank you to **Reserve Officer Big Ed Richardson** and the Spokane Police Department for supporting Northeast Youth Center. It's good to know there is always a friendly face to talk to if we are in need.

—S.G.

**Captain [Tom] Hendren** came to our River Run HOA safety meeting tonight and gave a great presentation to our owners. He is high energy, knowledgeable and conveys a passion for Spokane.

—C.B.

Kudos to the SPD officer who helped push a vehicle off Wellesley onto Central today around 1600! Thank you for your service.

—L.F.

Good morning! My husband Chris received a phone call last Saturday morning at 2:15 AM stating that our truck had been found. My husband was given the location of our truck and the condition it was in. We headed that way and were pleased to see that both officers were there waiting when we got there. It meant a lot to us that they stayed at the scene until we got there to retrieve our vehicle. We want to thank the two officers for tracking our vehicle down and staying there until we got there. We also want to thank the Spokane Police Department for all their hard work and communication last week from the time it was stolen to the time it was located. We know that the police department has a lot going on and it just shows how much you care. Thank you again! **[Officers Shawn Tylock and Keith McBeth]**

—P.Z.

I would like to write to you and express my sincere thanks to you, your department, and your officers. On December 1st, I had the opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Officer Xenon Berkeley**, on Lt Jensen and Sgt Tafoya's shift. I attended Roll Call and observed as they impressively debriefed previous incidents as well as other expectations. I spent nearly six hours with Officer Berkeley, and I found him to be courteous, professional, and competent in his work. Officer Berkeley handled several situations during this shift to include: an assault and dog bite complaint involving a landlord and a former tenant, a traffic stop, and a medical assist which grew legs. A female had been abandoned on the side of a road after being kicked out of their car by her boyfriend. Officer Berkeley impressively handled these sensitive situations while on scene and provided significant attention to investigation and follow up. He did his best to educate me on his thought process prior to arriving at a call and how he confirmed facts from individuals. Officer Berkeley's assessments and due care to follow-up investigation is laudatory. Officer Berkeley also took the opportunity to question me regarding my role as the Police Ombudsman asking many insightful questions. I am appreciative that Officer Berkeley took the time to invite me on a ride-along while we were at the Police Academy as actors for mock scenes. We had significant discussions regarding his thoughts on legislative changes as well as the work of civilian oversight and the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

—Office of Police Ombudsman

Hi, Chief,

[In reference to Martin Luther King Jr. March] Your officers did an amazing job yesterday. **[Sergeant] Kevin Keller** is amazing to work with... he's a keeper. Thank you for everything.

—F.G.

I would like to write to you and express my sincere thanks to you, your department, and your officers. On December 7th, I had the opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Officer [Andrew] Chappell**. I attended Roll Call and observed as they impressively debriefed previous incidents as well as other expectations. I spent nearly six hours with Officer Chappell, and I found him to be

*courteous, professional, and competent in his work. This shift was largely encompassed by a "shots fired" call for service, and we maintained a perimeter position while occupants of an apartment were questioned. Due to the nature of the call, a search warrant was written, requested, and received and officers were able to follow through on those investigative steps. I remained outside while the search was conducted, but Officer Chappell took his time to explain each aspect of what they were doing as it went along. After this call, Officer Chappell followed up on an investigation that he had started on a previous shift. This included several investigative steps in order to identify a person of interest as well as identify and work with a family member of the victim who lived in another state. Officer Chappell impressively handled these sensitive situations while on scene and provided significant attention to investigation and follow up. He did his best to educate me on his thought process prior to arriving at a call and how he confirmed facts from individuals. Officer Chappell's assessments and due care to follow-up investigation is laudatory and he will make an exceptional Detective when the opportunity presents itself.*

**—Office of Police Ombudsman**

*I would like to give the police kudos. Camp Dope had one of their residents steal a generator and Mr. Big Buddy heater from us. The police were able to get my generator back. They worked hard and took time to look at the video we have. We told them the address of the house that is supplying Camp Dope with drugs. They went over there and found my generator and was able to arrest one of them.*

**—R.H.**

**Officer [Neil] Higgins,**

*Girl Scouts appreciates the support. I have felt we have been on almost daily assault since last summer here at Girl Scouts. Someone passed away on our property in the summer, an RV backed into our building, our trash was set on fire, and the trash, the trash and defecations plus drug tinfoil and needles. I had my biggest confrontation a week ago when I asked someone to move, and they started to threaten me—we got pretty animated, but he never charged me. I called Crime Check and he left rapidly. It has been mentally draining to patrol in evening to protect our property and we have theft from vehicles. So, thanks for stopping by—any presence or pushback you can give is helpful.*

**—B.N.**

*We have noticed a very positive increase in officer interaction between our volunteers and your team since the inception of the new sector deployment. We had an incident last night and I wanted to provide my appreciation particularly to **Officer [Adam] Anderson** who showed tremendous initiative and compassion. On Wednesday night, a 17-year-old male walked into the COPS NW Shop and requested mental health help. He said a mental health professional from the SPD had helped him "a couple of nights ago" and he was again in need of assistance. He said he was suffering from deep depression after he was tossed from his home by his foster father, had been dumped by his girlfriend and had several other issues going on too numerous to mention here. We called Crime Check and put the call in for assignment (as there was quite a bit going on in the sector). When the call came up on his computer, Officer Anderson (who was in the back room eating dinner), immediately came out front and spoke to the young man. He arranged for an SPD mental health professional to come from the South Hill to speak with him. Then the officer took the young man back home presumably to intervene with his foster father and determine if it was safe for him to stay there. I was impressed with this officer. The compassion he showed to the young man was above and beyond.*

**—R.H.**

*This evening, two of your officers were on a call at for a woman who was found on the ground by a neighbor and was unable to be revived. I arrived on the scene with the woman's sister and was warmly and respectfully approached by **Chaplain Amy** and **Officer [Neil] Higgins**. We were later joined by **Officer Adam Anderson** as well. In such a tragic and emotional moment, these three compassionate individuals showed us grace and sympathy in ways I cannot put on paper. Each of these officers went above and beyond their expected duty. Their calm and empathetic demeanor kept emotions and people from escalating, and they were assuring through every step, making sure to be considerate and protective of the woman's family and friends so as not to cause further trauma. They made sure to be as respectful as possible of the woman as her body lay on the ground, giving her one last act of dignity by covering her up and standing over her until the Medical Examiner arrived. What they did tonight cannot be measured for the peace and reassurance it gave us was priceless. Our community is so much better with officers such as them, I cannot say thank you enough for all they did tonight. Please let them know that their kindness and respect will not be forgotten, I commend their actions and am proud to know it is these officers and their colleagues out in our communities making a difference. My sincere gratitude and respect for all of the Spokane Police Officers, you are so appreciated.*

—M.E.

*In the Shadle Center area, I see many homeless people and have talked with many of them. Chemical drug use of Meth, Opioids, and Fentanyl seem to be prevalent among the homeless that I see there. I have nothing but respect and appreciation for the police that have to deal with these addicts and their mostly self-induced mental issues and homelessness. I would not want their job. Our local police agencies are shorthanded and understaffed. The "Defund the Police" movement and recent "anti-police attitudes" have hurt retention, and recruitment. Instead of glaring or ignoring our local police, we as citizens need to say Thank You! Final point, HB1025 being considered by the liberal majority in our State Legislature would remove police protections and immunity from prosecution and civil lawsuits should a police officer kill, injure or cause property damage to a civilian. Passing this bill and making it law would jeopardize the careers and lives of all the police officers in the state. I'm not sure many would continue on in their jobs if HB1025 were passed. The liability this law imposes on police and the municipality that employes them is way too much.*

—V.F.

*Dear Chief Meidl,*

*I observed a wreck and subsequent driving while impaired arrest. I've got to say that the officers were the most professional cops I've ever seen. They did their jobs without all the mouth and intimidation tactics I often see back home in South Carolina. Great job.*

—J.G.

*I just wanted to say Thank you, Men and Women, for doing an outstanding job. I believe you have an uphill battle with new laws that make your job harder. Anyway, keep up the good work.*

—P.R.

*Saturday, the Special Olympics Washington team, the Spokane PACERS, had a fantastic opportunity to play basketball with members of the City of Spokane Police Department. The team learned a few tricks and is even more prepared to face their competition in the upcoming regional tournament. Thank you to the Spokane Police officers who took time out of their weekend to spend it with these amazing athletes. [**Officers Jen Kerns, Micah Prim, Chris Lesser, Sergeant Greg Rogan**]*

—M.E.

*First, I wanted to send you a note of thanks to you for taking the time to meet with us last week. I appreciated you bringing to light some of the issues, and the limitations, that you and your team deal with, in regard to being able to intervene in certain situations. What we learned will be very helpful in us being able to develop processes to help care for patients in our ER, and most especially our volatile mental health patients. Secondly, I wanted to commend your team for the assistance that they provided to our ER staff on Saturday morning. We have a very volatile patient in our mental health pod, and he was escalating Saturday morning. Our team did a great job of attempting to deescalate, but the patient was not agreeable to all of the things that needed to be done to ensure his safety and that of our other patients and staff. Realizing that we were going to need to go hands on, our charge requested that police come and act as a standby just in case the patient overpowered our staff. Several of your officers arrived and worked very collaboratively with our staff to get the patient cared for in the safest, most effective manner possible given the circumstances. Our staff could not say enough nice things about the assistance that we received, and about the manner in which your staff stood by to help, should there be a need to do so. This kind of collaboration relationship is exactly what we are working to develop with the police, EMS, and the other mental health agencies in the area, in an effort to provide the best care we can for this group of patients. Please express our thanks to your team for the effort they put forth to help out our staff over the weekend. **[Officers Shaidon Storch, Nate Gobble, Randy Burnworth, Brad Lewis, Casey Jones, Joe Dunsmoor, Sergeants Matt Rose, Eric Kannberg]***  
—C.G.

*[Sent 84 cards with messages such as] Thank you for all that you do in our community. We will forever keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you for your service. You are protecting Spokane and looking cool doing it. Thank you for protecting our community and risking your life for us. Thank you for keeping our neighborhoods safe.*  
—Trinity Catholic School

*Our neighbors on Fairview called in a very nice RV that had been stolen and dropped in front of our homes, and two of your Baker sector officers came by to assist with the identification and towing. It was such a smooth process, and the officers were incredibly kind. You've got a great team and I just wanted to say thank you!*  
—L.V.

*Chief,  
Just spent two hours with seven of your finest playing basketball with a Special Olympics team. I want you to know it was a PLEASURE to be in their company and watch them interact with the team.*  
—M.M.

*Last night I was working an SPS basketball game at the arena when I was approached by a man. He proceeded to tell me last Thursday his 93-year-old father passed away at around 0200. He went on to say that everyone who responded from the fire department, Chaplains' office, and the officers, were extremely compassionate and caring. The responding Chaplain was **Tim Wheatly** and **Officers Madison McDonald, John Oliveri, and Cpl. Chris Johnson** responded as well. He was very moved by the way everyone treated their family during such a hard time.*  
—M.P.

*My daughter and I were stopped in traffic heading North on Maple when a driver attempted to race across Maple, T-boned our CRV, backed up almost hitting a trailer, then raced off West on Gardner and turned South on Ash. Thank you to Brandy at Crime Check who helped take the initial report help me figure out what to do next. Thank you to Spokane Police **Officer Ian Quist** who came by the accident to take the incident report, listened to our story, and explained how to file the report.*

*Though I'm sure they both hear similar stories at least weekly, they both treated us with kindness, patience, and empathy.*

**—M.C.**

*Chief,*

*I had a message from a man wanting to find out which officer stopped to help him with his stalled car in the snow, last night. He said he was very kind and helpful, and he really appreciated his help and wanted to thank him and the department for all they do.*

**—J.K.**

**Officer [Tim] Schwering,**

*I am writing to give you a huge thank you on behalf of the Emerson-Garfield neighborhood. Those of us that live in close proximity to the Lloyd building have noticed a reduction in overall crime, property theft, and disorderly conduct. We know that you have been a huge advocate for our neighborhood, and we would just like to recognize you for your work and efforts. Thank you so much for your care and efforts to make this neighborhood a better and safer community for us all! On behalf of ourselves and our neighbors, thank you!!*

**—C.M.**

**Hi, Lt. Terry [Preuninger]!**

*It was great to meet you and Brent at the Comstock meeting the other evening. I asked the question about how many positions are open and how the recruiting is going. I do hope that your efforts are successful, and we can hire more amazing people like you and Brent on the force. I was a Recruiter for a long time and one thing I know for sure - A's recruit A's - so I'm very confident. I wanted to let you know how much we appreciated your participation in the meeting. Many of us felt that you and Brent both did a wonderful job answering our questions and providing insight and information. You both came across as genuine, transparent, helpful, and sincerely interesting in supporting and caring for the community as a whole. It was very comforting to experience this firsthand. You and Brent are exactly the kind of people that I want to come to my aid if I ever need it. So, thank you very much for that. I would also like you to know that you and the police department will ALWAYS have my vote and my support for anything you need - raises, new cars, better equipment - whatever it is, I want you to have it. Good luck in the recruiting. Please be safe and thank you for what you do.*

**—E.G.**

*Thank you to the Spokane Police Officer who pulled me over for expired tabs. Thank you for being so patient and kind with me. I was so nervous and had a hard time getting my paperwork together. You gave me a verbal warning. Just wanted to say thank you. You never get enough kudos for the good things you do. I have my tabs now.*

**—M.M.**

*I ran up to the Academy today to check in with our guys going through. While I was there, they were working on practical skills, mostly building searches and high-risk vehicle stops. I wanted to let you know how impressed I was with the instructors. Every one of the instructors that I recognized are 30+ year officers (and I'm sure the ones I didn't recognize were as well), yet every one of them were high energy, excited and happy to be there, on top of being extremely knowledgeable. Like most of us, I know a lot of officers with significantly less time of service that don't have a quarter of the energy and passion of those guys. I have no question that the instruction that our officers are receiving is top notch. This isn't anything new, as we have always received officers that were very well-prepared from the Spokane Academy, but it struck me again today and I figured I'd be remiss if I didn't say something. Thank you very much for all you do for our officers.*

**—M.W.**

Our 12-year-old grandson ran away. Our daughter-in-law reported it and you responded quickly. When our grandson was located and brought home, we did not have a chance to properly thank the officers involved [**Officer Nate Thompson**]. Because of your prompt response, our grandson did not end up another statistic but is instead at home and we are working to get him the help he needs. When we finally crawled into bed that evening, we thanked our Lord for the fine men and women who brought our boy home. Thank you for a job well done. You made a difference that night. Please know that you are appreciated, and we pray for your safety during these turbulent times.

—H.A.

**Officer Graig Butler** carried the evening splendidly last night. Took charge and kept things calm. He also secured the room after the meeting and directed us out the back way. So please thank him. I will do so as well.

—L.K.

Our office received a phone call regarding a positive interaction with an unknown officer [**Sergeant Ryan Smith**] that he wishes to pass along a kudos to. He was at a gas station on Division, when he struck up a conversation with an officer who was driving a maroon Crown Victoria. He said that he was very pleasant and was a great ambassador to Spokane.

—Office of Police Ombudsman

Dear Spokane Police Chaplaincy,

Last night, my wife and I had to call in a welfare check with Spokane Fire Department for my brother who lives in an apartment on the South Hill in Spokane. Unfortunately, my brother passed away. Spokane Police Department officers showed up and they were very kind, thoughtful, courteous, and professional. Later the Spokane Police **Chaplain Robert Schlosse** arrived, and he was absolutely wonderful. He was extremely caring and helpful. He treated the situation and my late brother with dignity and respect. He stayed with us for several hours until the cremation services showed up and took my brother away. The conditions were not the best in that my brother's apartment was a somewhat of a mess; nevertheless, Chaplain Schlosse was there for us and my late brother. In all, I just wanted to put a good word in for him and your whole program. I would also add that the Spokane Fire Department and the **Spokane Police Department** were wonderful. You all made an extremely difficult situation a bit less difficult and for that I thank you.

—P.C.

Thank you to **Officer [Graig] Butler**. I appreciate your talent and expertise, and all the good you offer this community. My students benefit so much from your presence and their conversations extend beyond just today. Thanks for engaging in all the questions, using examples, being hopeful, and connecting history in English content. Thanks for encouraging them to be critical thinkers and inspiring them to be future detectives. Thanks for making a difference and being a mentor for young people.

—Montessori School

Chief Meidl,

Shiloh Hills Neighborhood thanks you and your force for increasing safety in our neighborhood near Shiloh Hills Elementary School. Additionally, our neighborhood has reported (very thankfully) the increased number of police vehicles seen in our neighborhood. **Lt. [Bart] Stevens** has been a very welcome presence at our neighborhood council meetings. The Spokane neighborhoods are grateful for the hard work of the women and men of our police force who make our City a safe place for us to live in. Please share our thanks to our officers in the field.

—Executive Committee of the Shiloh Hills Neighborhood Council

**Detective [Tim] Schwering,**

*I cannot begin to convey the heartfelt gratitude I feel toward you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your hard work and all of the time and effort you put into making the Cedar neighborhood a safer place. It means so, so much. I am incredibly grateful to have someone like you working for our city. As it's been quoted "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Thank you for standing up and doing something. Thank you!*

—A.V.

*Many thanks to **Detective Kelsey Walker** for helping my wife and I and dog. We were hit by the tow truck that took out 4 cars on the freeway. It was a flash of your life moment. Detective Walker was first on scene and helped the car most destroyed. Your finest. We appreciate SPD!*

—B.N.

*Thank you all for taking the time out of your busy schedules and make my grandson's day! We are forever grateful for you and all that you do!*

—P.J.

*I'm the principal of X Elementary and I wanted to record my thanks for how **Officer Justin Druiitt** handled a situation last week. He helped respond to a CPS child abuse case we had. He was calm, patient, and helped my student feel safe, even in uniform and that can be hard for some kids. He answered all my questions, stuck around for a couple hours, and make sure CPS did come and get the kid transported. I know you guys probably don't get a lot of thank you calls but I wanted to make sure he was thanked, and I appreciated the work that he did. I really appreciated him and the way he handled the situation.*

—Name Withheld

*Hello **Officer [Tim] Schwering**, I just want to thank you for your hard work in clearing those people out of our neighborhood so quickly. We appreciate what you've done for us. Great job. Well done!*

—R.S.

**Jason [Sergeant Jason Hartman and Behavioral Health Unit],**

*Our situation today went so well, thanks to your BHU team. Our staff did a good job of assessing the situation and being watchful until the BHU arrived. Eric that staff that was outside with the lady said that it was so good to have the officer that arrived be someone that he knew from our meetings, and it made the sharing of information easy. We so appreciate our relationship with SPD!*

—G.G.

*In early January, we were traveling from Washington to Montana and spent one night at a hotel in downtown Spokane. At 3:30am our locked car in a locked fenced hotel parking lot was broken into and multiple items of luggage were stolen. Thanks to a vigilant hotel clerk, the police were immediately notified. Within about 30 minutes of the car break-in, the Spokane police department had apprehended the thief, had retrieved all of our stolen belongings, and met with us to find out how we wanted to proceed with reporting the crime and bringing charges. The incredibly rapid and competent response of the several police officers involved amazed us. Furthermore, that same day we were contacted by the victim advocate services of Spokane County and have continued to hear from them with updates about the case. There too, the rapid and competent response has been so impressive. While having our car window smashed and items stolen left us with misgivings about Spokane, the actions of a conscientious hotel desk clerk and of the police at 3:30am, and the diligent follow-up work of the county's victim advocacy services have helped to blunt our bad feelings about*



*the city. We feel lucky to have been helped by all of those individuals and public services in Spokane, and we want to publicly thank them here.*

**—L.F.**

*I am so thrilled to be able to receive your emails, in a world let alone our own community it is filled with negativity. Reading the good stories with fun pictures reminds me of all the wonderful things our Police officers do, I am proud to be associated with them and LOVE Chief Meidl.*

**—A.P.**

*It was really eye opening for me to see what your officers are dealing with day in and day out. And I thought the patience and compassion shown by **Ofc. Austin Neale** and **Ofc. Jackson Henry** was exemplary. Now, if we can only get these people the help they clearly need!*

**—D.D.**

*Dear Chief Meidl,*

*Thank you so much for your devoted service to our community! I support and appreciate you and all of the officers in SPD. I pray for your safety and that darkness will have no power over you. I know there are those who despise law and order. May their hearts be changes and they be prevented from carrying out their designs. Have heart. You are not alone.*

**—J.H.**

*As a Co President of the Spokane Lilac Festival and as a Spokane citizen I must say I am a fan of Chief Meidl and his team. The efforts put forth over recent years to improve SPD have been amazing and good! John and I and our 3 sons are grateful.*

**—C.Z.**

*Hello Craig [Chief Craig Meidl],*

*Thank you for following up on the Title 10 Division 1 repeals - additionally, my extended gratitude and appreciation goes out for all SPD has accomplished within our community, thank you for all you do.*

**—W.H.**

*I just wanted to say thank you. What you have done recently with how you are allocating your officers is really making a difference. I just called Crime Check a few minutes ago, for some idiots hanging out on my property, and within minutes there were two officers who responded. It wasn't that fast last year. I really appreciate your efforts.*

**—J.S.**

*Good morning, sir. I just wanted to send huge "thanks" to your officers for a successful resolution to the shooting incident on the south hill near us, our friends, and neighbors. Appreciate you and your department. Be safe.*

**—P.T.**

*Good morning, **Chaplain [Kevin] Piatt**.*

*Our family wants to personally invite you to our Mom's celebration of life. We are so thankful God put you in our path the morning our Mother passed and stayed with us throughout the process. Your presence was invaluable as we were all kind of in a state of shock and your words helped us tremendously. I want to reference you at the service if that's ok. If you can attend that would be wonderful. If you have other obligations, we certainly understand.*

**—M.L.**

A man was attacked (hit on the head) downtown and wanted to call and say thank you to the officer who was very nice and friendly and helped him get home **[Officer Mackenzie German Johnson.]** He called because he wanted her to be recognized for her kindness and making sure he got home safe.

—M.J.

Thank you so much for putting together the tour for us today! I know it was a wonderful experience for all of the kids. We really appreciate you and your team giving us your time and attention! **[Community Outreach Officers.]**

—T.T.

I just wanted to say THANKS for helping us out when you did! I believe because of you two people started to believe the hell we were living in. Kinda seems like **Officer Tim Schwering**, and others have now taking over, which we are very grateful for also. Again, a TON of THANKS comes both of your ways from us on Club Ct.

—K.T.

I just wanted to thank you again for terrific evening your team gave our Youth Leadership Spokane group yesterday. Our youth learned a lot and had such a great time. We just want you to know how much we appreciate all you put into welcoming them and educating them. In addition, please accept our gratitude for all your team does to keep our city safe. **[Community Outreach Officers.]**

—J.R.

**[Addressed to the SPD Chaplains Kevin Piatt and Mickey Tuter]**

I don't know where to begin... Nicole and I were discussing the meeting last night and how it was so much fun, and informative. This was by far the best group [of chaplains] we have had the pleasure to speak with. Normally I am so nervous in these situations, but your chaplain family is made up of 24 of the best people in the world. I have never felt more at ease. All of the SPD chaplains have an instinctual presence that is kind, helpful, understanding, and selfless. It's the type of energy that people naturally gravitate to. We are so blessed to have such a strong compassionate department as yours to work with. Like I said yesterday, I could never do your job. It takes a very special person to bring comfort to those in need at their darkest hour and be able to address the hard questions and situations at the same time with grace and kindness. You have an incredibly special group of individuals. Thank you.

—N.V.

To Police Chief Meidl, I just wanted you to know I appreciate your efforts to lead the department in serving the people of Spokane. This is such a challenging time to be in law enforcement. Be encouraged. You're doing a good job! Praying for you and the officers.

—S.O.

To Everyone, I wanted to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication. I am sure some days are challenging. Know you are all in my thoughts and prayers for God to protect you and bring you home safely every day. Know that each day you show up for work, you are helping someone in need. As someone who has needed help in the past, I wanted to let you know it hasn't gone unnoticed or unappreciated.

—K.F.