



## SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Commendations July-December 2022

*I was pulling up behind a police patrol car at the intersection of Sprague and Havana today, and the police car suddenly turned its lights on and pulled off to the side. There was a man with a white cane on the corner, but the sidewalk was all torn up from construction with a big drop off. The officer got out and gave the man his arm and walked him across Sprague and then across Havana. I just felt like it was worth taking a photo and mentioning this officer taking the time to do a little thing to help someone today. I don't know his name, but someone might be able to recognize him from the photo.*

**[Officer Chris LeQuire]**

—S.L.

*Dear Police Chief Meidl,*

*We want to thank you for your recent appointment of **Officer Mark Brownell** as Browne's Addition Neighborhood Resource Officer. We are so pleased with his interaction with our neighborhood council and safety officer in helping to keep our neighborhood safe. Officer Brownell also responds extremely fast to emails showing that he cares and wants to be of service. As we volunteer both for the local C.O.P.S. Shop and the Browne's Addition Neighborhood Council, we have been active in working to keep our neighborhood and community safe, clean and welcoming. As such, we couldn't be happier with your appointment of Officer Brownell. Thank you so very much.*

—K.S.

**Chief Meidl,**

*Thank you for talking with us. It's so cool to see that you're willing to sit down with a bunch of teens and converse with us. Thank you for taking the time to talk to us. I appreciate your honesty and being able to give us advice. Thank you so much, it was a pleasure talking with you. Thank you for sitting down and having a really interesting conversation with us. It was an honor to speak to you and I feel as though the SPD is in great hands. It was nice meeting you. I really enjoy hearing your stories on things that are really important and often overlooked. It's really inspiring for me and the others to see a voice that deserves to be heard, thank you. Craig, thank you so much for all of the time you gave our high school interns. It was remarkable!*

—R.C.

*I recently had to call for assistance to remove some unsavory characters from a rental property. All in all, your team made this a great experience and responded so quickly. I wanted to share my appreciation! **[Officers Erick Specht, Matt Stewart, Ricky LaBelle, Derek Jones, and Nate Clark.]***

—J.S.

Mike **[Officer Mike Thomas],**

*I wanted to take an opportunity to say thank you for your commitment to Washington's DRE [Drug Recognition Expert] program. You are a valued member of our instruction team. Your knowledge and commitment is outstanding and desire to make the program better is greatly appreciated! Your commitment as the Region 4 Coordinator is also greatly appreciated, you are the staple DRE of the region. Your commitment to provided great instruction was on full display last week in Alaska. Your engagement throughout the training was amazing and the students were lucky to have you there! It was a long week of travel and providing quality training to our neighbors to northwest. You embraced it all without missing a beat! Your commitment undoubtedly will save lives as we were able to certify 12 new ARIDE officers to Homer and the surrounding communities. Please extend my appreciation to your agency for allowing you to continue to be such a valued member of our program. Thank you so much for your hard work and dedication and years of service to the DRE program!*

—R.R.

**Officer Brian [Blankenstein],**

*I wanted to recognize your efforts yesterday around 12:20 at the intersection of Fancher and Trent. I was getting ready to turn south on Fancher when I saw your K9 Patrol car blocking traffic for the westbound turn lane. I then saw a pickup in the turn lane that had dumped their entire load of metal pipes. There were a few men picking it up and loading back into the truck. That's when I noticed you amongst those men helping get all the metal back in the truck. Being it was nearly 100 degrees outside and helping to pick up the citizen's dumped load of metal, I immediately thought how awesome it was you were outside your air-conditioned car helping this citizen out. This extra effort you gave goes such a long way for the image of the department. You demonstrated to many citizens driving by and the citizen you helped, exactly what the values of the department are: Professionalism, Integrity and Compassion.*

—S.W.

*To the Spokane Police Force, thank you for being so nice! I pray for your safety and that you won't be abused. Be well!*

—B.H.

*Dear [Sergeant] Teresa [Fuller],*

*Please make an effort to pass on my gratitude to all the officers on the scene of the accident. Rhine, [Officers Randy Burnworth and Jamie Pavlischak.] Regardless of cause, I appreciate the service and sacrifice that each of you make every day. Thank you for taking care of all the parties involved. God bless you all.*

—J.H.

*We wanted to thank **Officer [Ben] Fuson** for coming over to discuss a heated situation with neighbor kids. We wanted him to know that the young teen actually walked over to our house and apologized for threatening us. There is hope for humanity!*

—C.H.

*Chief Meidl,*

*Thank you to your team for partnering with us for a wonderful National Night Out. We enjoyed riding with **Officer Deanna Storch** and **Officer Todd Brownlee** to several parties throughout the Northside. It was great to see the relationships that our Neighborhood Resource Officers have with their local communities and have this opportunity to engage with neighborhood leaders. These leaders hosted excellent events at Glass Playfield and Cannon Park, and a personal highlight for me was attending a house party just blocks from where I grew up in Northeast Spokane. In fact, I called my parents on the way who were able to drop by and meet some of their neighbors! Thank you for all you and your officers do to build a safe and strong Spokane community.*

—V.W.

**Officer [Austin] Toal,**

*I was speeding. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to purchase a starter. I am confident my car will start before work now; I installed my new starter today. I will not be trying to make up time on the roads by driving over the speed limit. Again thank you for making me accountable and requesting this receipt.*

—C.B.

**[Reserve] Officer Ed Richardson** responded to a collision I was in yesterday. He was AWESOME!

—N.M.

*Downtown Spokane has always been a rough place for any officer to handle. I personally have only one officer be able to handle that area better than anyone else and that would be **Officer [Casey] Jones**. Officer Jones definitely knows how control and keep things under wraps especially at the 711 on Second and Division. Yet I have seen him have compassion when need be too. I do believe that there is no other officer better than Jones to patrol downtown Spokane. If he could permanently be the downtown patrol officer, I believe whole heartedly and as God as my witness that downtown would be a better and safer place for all. Thank you for taking the time to read this email.*

—S.B.

*I'd like to give three thumbs up to the Police Activities League and **Officer [Jen] Kerns**. I saw her and PAL in action just the other week. Officer Kerns did a great job of talking to the kids about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Although I wish these issues didn't need to be addressed with young kids, I'm glad Officer Kerns and PAL are on the front lines to connect with and inform the kids. I'm a big fan of PAL and Officer Kerns.*

—M.E.

*On behalf of the Washington Law Enforcement Exploring Advisors, and the board of directors, I, the current WLEEA president and Academy Commander, would like to extend my thanks for allowing one of your Officers to attend the 2022 WLEEA Summer Academy. **Officer John Yen** was in attendance from in-processing through our academy graduation. Officer Yen was the quintessential image of not only a Police Officer but an Explorer Advisor. He represented The Spokane Police Department in a way that not only represented your agency well, but balanced your agency's values, motto, and vision. Officer Yen had the opportunity to work side by side with other Law Enforcement Officers from around the State of Washington within the position of Academy Inspector, and then mid-week was promoted to the position of Academy Assistant Commander. I thank you for your continued support of this program and allowing for members of your agency to attend.*

—WLEEA Board of Directors

*I just wanted to express my deepest thanks to an officer who pulled over my 16-year-old son last night. **Officer [Ben] Maplethorpe**, badge number 1216, was the officer who pulled him over. He got off work downtown around 6:00pm and was pulled over for expired tabs in my truck. After further investigation the plates did not match my truck and were from an older model ford sedan. After asking a few questions and phone calls with me, the officer figured that the plates on my truck had been stolen and replaced with the expired ford plates. All the officers that were there were very professional and courteous to my son who you can only imagine was pretty shaken up. They could have easily cuffed him and put him in the backseat and chose not to and as a father I am very appreciative that he wasn't subjected to that. Thank you again and please pass this along to his commanding officer.*

—M.B.

*I wanted to let you know that **Officer [Seth] Berrow** stopped by today and did a walk around the property. We chatted about the theft and some of his recommendations. He said he will follow up with his recommendation in writing. I appreciate his follow up and wanted to let someone know. If there is anyone else in his chain of command that would be appropriate to give feedback on his attentiveness, please let me know so I can do that. I enjoy it when I can give positive feedback as most people only share the negative. Thanks again for all you do!*

—L.L.

*Dear Chief Meidl,*

*I am writing this note to you just to let you know what a great guy (**Corporal Shane Oien**) the officer that was dispatched to help my sister Julie and myself located what we thought was my stolen car. Actually we misplaced the car about a block north. Corporal Oien is the right man with the right stuff in the right job! He was very professional and kind. We thank him so much. If you have a commendation for his good work, he certainly would deserve that from you. All our very best wishes to you.*

—L.H.

*I had the most wonderful experience with one of your officers and his name was **[Officer Drew] Chappell**. He went out of his way to help a little old lady get her rings back that were stolen. So I would like to have you put something in his record about what a wonderful person he is. Thank you.*

—M.P.

*A police officer by the name of **Tim Schwering**, in the beginning of 2020, caught me getting high and driving on a suspended license two days in a row. Instead of sending me to jail, he offered me treatment. Thanks to him I was able to get into Detox, and this was right in the beginning of COVID when everyone was scared of this thing, I got into treatment. Here we are a couple years down the line, and I got my family back, I just got a new place, and things are, thanks to this police officer, things are completely different. I've met a lot of police officers before and no one has cared like he did for me. No one cared to ask how I was doing, no one wanted to see past my addiction. But Officer Tim, I think, is the best cop you guys have in town. He deserves a reward. I know there's a lot of stuff out there right now, but I believe that what he did for me was truly one in a million. Thanks to him, it's a completely different life.*

—V.S.

*Greetings **Major [Eric] Olsen**,*

*My wife and I attended the Browns Association meeting on September 15, 2022, where we had the opportunity to hear your discussion regarding the future organizational changes taking place in the Spokane Police Department. I believe you noted that this was your first 'Browns Association' meeting so know it was ours as well. I just wanted to reach out to you and commend you on your presentation where I believe you spoke open and honestly about the challenges facing the department, e.g., staffing. Your overview of the newly designed organizational structure, which specifically targets the needs of our ever-changing community was perhaps the highlight of the evening. As you noted in your presentation, organizational change is difficult! Your leadership in the Spokane Police Department is very much appreciated.*

—M.P.

*Dear Sergeant [Brian] Eckersley,*

*Hope this email finds you well. I wanted to contact you regarding the service that **Detective Lydia Taylor** provided recently. I am beyond grateful for her dedication to helping recover my refund from*

a contractor who was no longer honoring their agreement to provide service. This contractor was not communicating or accepting calls from me or the claims against them with Angie's list and the Better Business Bureau. I wasn't sure that filing a police report was the correct thing to do but I am so happy that I did. I appreciate her service in this case and wanted to let you know. Thank you so much for your support.

—L.A.

I wanted to send over a note recognizing **Officer [Dan] Strassenberg**. My mother is 85. Last week, she decided she didn't want to live anymore and refused a transport to the hospital by Fire and AMR. Officer Strassenberg and a Frontier Behavioral Health social worker were dispatched. He was kind, compassionate, and calm. Even in her highly agitated state, my mom liked him and trusted him. Ultimately, he determined that my mom was going to need to go to the hospital based on her conversation with him. He told me what to expect and was spot on. We waited at in the ER lobby for 7 hours and finally saw an ER doc who discharged her back to her residential facility without a psych hold. I have told many people that our police officers' and firefighters' jobs are so hard because they see people on their worst days. This was a worst day, and I am thankful to Officer Strassenberg – along with his partner from Frontier, the firefighters, the AMR paramedics, and the staff at residential facility. Our systems are stressed, to be sure, but we are very fortunate to have Officer Strassenberg on our team!

—M.F.

I bike around town pretty much every day. I went to many sites where usually an encampment might have been blocking a walkway or under an overpass. 9 places I visited and only one had ANYONE. Went from Browne's lot to Fred Meyer and back and forth through Gonzaga and Centennial trail, down through Overlook Park, Coeur d'Alene Park, many others. Maybe 20 miles altogether. It was great. Very clean mostly. Thanks again for all you are doing. Noticeably better.

—R.K.

Chief Craig Meidl,

I'm 82 and had a flat tire that I could not fix. **Officers [Tyson] Setzler and [Ryan] Skay** fixed the tire, showing me courtesy and concern for my well-being. You should feel proud to have such officers on your staff. These men are the best. And they represent what is best about the Spokane Police Force. Congratulations to you and your officers for a job well done.

—R.S.

I wanted to say thank you to our police department and their excellent response today. Two men and this truck pulled up next to my building yesterday afternoon just before I left. I have to deal with this often, where people park next to my building and do drugs, use prostitutes, or just sleep. I'm not supposed to call on a parked car unit it has set for 72 hours, but I thought I'd call anyway today since it looked like a really nice truck. My business neighbors stated that they had seen the guys pull up yesterday, get in the back seat and watched them start shooting up. I called the parking authority, and then asked if they could tell me if the plate showed stolen. She said they couldn't, but I should call Crime Check. By the time I was halfway through the call, the police had already gotten the plate information and were pulling up next to my business. The truck had been stolen. While they were processing the info on the truck and checking it out, I pulled the video from my system and gave it to the officers. The officer noticed one man had a very distinct beard and thought he would check down at the 7-11 at Division and 2nd to see if he could find him. Sure enough, the guy was there, and so the officer arrested him. **Corporal Ryan Jamieson** came back to notify me that they were able to find the man and that he was in custody. Nice job Spokane Police, thank you!

—J.S.

**Sergeant Kyle Heuett** just completed a situational awareness presentation to the staff of Hospice House South in Spokane. I appreciated all he had to say. His delivery was one of seriousness interjected with appropriate and relatable real-life situations. And his humor was spot on! In our business, we believe whole heartedly in humor, so we all appreciated his. The content was relevant, succinct, and applicable. I'm positive his time, effort, experience, and energy will avoid a poor situational outcome for at least one of our staff members here at HHS or in their off-duty hours. On behalf of HHS, the staff and all the clients and families that cross our threshold and place their trust in us, thank you! He made us better today!

—K.S.

Chief Meidl,

Please find attached a Letter of Appreciation for **Officer Neil Higgins**. Officer Higgins clearly made an impact into a young person's life on this day. If you had the time to review this event in whole, you would find incredibly disturbing surveillance footage of this event as well as hours of BWC footage and several phone calls Officer Higgins made during his investigation as well as 911 calls, and a call from the juvenile's father to dispatch wondering what to do. After reviewing everything, I could not help but to watch and re-watch Officer Higgins' phone call (about 7 minutes long) to the juvenile and their father in which Officer Higgins essentially gave the juvenile their life back. Powerful. While I know the family expressed their gratitude to Officer Higgins on that phone call, I felt it deserved more as he could have easily stuck to his initial decision and not done the further investigation necessary to arrive at his final determination. Definitely a job well done by Officer Higgins.

—Office of Police Ombudsman

My thanks to **Kathy [Armstrong]** for her work with Ephrata Police Department. She did a great job of helping them navigate the [accreditation] process under challenging circumstances.

—M.P.

Captain Meidl,

I wanted to first thank you for setting me up with **Officer Seth Wolfe** for my ride along the other week, he was very kind and knowledgeable. I truly feel like I learned a lot!

—M.C.

Greg and Micah,

Thank you for taking the time to speak to our foster parents and youth. I am glad we had a big turnout for this important information and thank you for your patience in answering all their questions and concerns. We know it's a big deal to the youth to know that you are here to help. **[Sergeant Greg Rogan, Officer Micah Prim]**

—Lutheran Community Services Northwest

I live downtown and I want to tell you and the **officers that work downtown** THANK YOU for enforcing the sit and lie ordinance. There has to be a significantly noticeable difference in the quality of life for my neighbors and me. Having been a downtown patrol officer in the past, I know how unpleasant it is to make these types of citizen contacts that often times don't seem to have an impact. I can tell you and every officer on our department **THEIR WORK IS MAKING AN IMPACT**. Our downtown is already feeling safer for our residents, businesses, and visitors. Please encourage our officers to keep up the good work and stay consistent with the enforcement. It is making a difference.

—M.H.

At the West Hills Neighborhood Council meeting, **Chief Meidl** really gave us a solid overview, and Q&A for those in attendance - my hopes to rebuild and strengthen the relationships with SPD in our

community, especially within residents of West Hills, and I believe he left a positive and lasting impression!

—W.H.

**Officer Ed Richardson,**

Thank you for visiting Northeast Youth Center.

—S.G.

**Officers Nate Clark and Derek Jones,**

Thank you for taking extra time and patience with the youth at Excelsior. Your efforts support a healthy rapport to build from which will be remembered by them. You demonstrated the values of skilled officers. Thank you for helping us out in a time of need and responding with compassion and a willingness to collaborate. Your non-judgment and kindness shapes lives. Thank you, officers, for your support and experience this last weekend at Excelsior and the Indian Trail neighborhood. Much appreciated! To the kindhearted officers who responded to the youth we serve at Excelsior... thank you for making such a heartfelt effort to help them. It does not go unnoticed. Thank you to the officers that helped me in a situation that was very difficult. You went above and beyond what you needed to do.

—C.W.

Hey awesome police officers. This is Dave. I'm here in the Valley. I just wanted to leave you all a message, saying thank you for all you do. Thank you for putting your lives on the line, especially with all the shenanigans that are going on right now. And thank you very much, Spokane Police Department, for not allowing us to become Seattle. So, from one business owner to your entire department, thank you.

—D.L.

**SPD Chaplains,**

You all will never know the comfort and condolence your note meant to the mother of my nephew who passed. In grateful appreciation of your kindness, I enclose the following donation to further your mission of ministry. Thank you so very much for the kind and caring words on the card you sent.

—J.R.

Dear Chief Meidl,

I am writing to express my appreciation for **Officer James Christensen**. As a committee member of The Spokane Marathon, I have had the privilege of working with Officer Christensen on race day for the past 2 years. He has been responsible for driving the lead vehicle for runners for the first couple of miles. Officer Christensen has also supervised officers providing traffic control on the course. Officer Christensen is very helpful and professional. He offers great suggestions to make the race safer and helps problem-solve situations as they arise. Officer Christensen also provides constructive criticism and solutions to help make the race safer in the future. He is friendly toward the race participants and volunteers, contributing to a fun atmosphere for everyone. I hope Officer Christensen will continue to be involved in The Spokane Marathon, as he has been a valuable asset to our event.

—B.G.

**SPD Records Employees,**

I just got my WA permit renewed online, and I wanted to tell you I found the whole experience very quick, simple, and easy. While I enjoy visiting Spokane, it currently seems a wee bit expensive just to get there, so this was very nice.

—C.B.

*I'm so sorry the hands of Law Enforcement are tied and are regretfully unable to do their job and make you feel like quitting. My wife came home in a state of shock and when she told me...I went off! I'm angry, upset, pissed off, and my heart goes out to Law Enforcement putting their lives on the line every day and are forced by lack of laws to carry on through their forced bondage. I understand now and thank you from the bottom of my heart.*

—W.G.

*I was flagged down by a woman (K.C.) who wanted to express her appreciation for two officers that helped push her broken down van off of the roadway that led to an interesting series of events. About 2 months ago, the woman's van broke down near City of Spokane Springfield fuel station just off of Trent. A police officer contacted her and ran her VIN. The officer found problems with her registration. He warned her for parking her broken down van on the street/ roadway. She was further warned that it would have to be moved within a certain period of time or possibly be impounded. Worried about her van being impounded, she began contacting the businesses in the area seeking permission to park in their lot. She received permission from Pete's Garage. The happenstance meeting led to a place to park her vehicle (Pete's garage), a job with Pete's Garage, a pick-up truck, an RV, and a place to live. (Unknown officer.)*

—Sergeant was flagged down by K.C.

**[Captain Matt Cowles, Lieutenant Dave Staben, Officers Willard Berrow and Brownell, Homeless Outreach Team, and Jason Ruffing of Code Enforcement]**

*Just a short note with a huge THANK YOU!! Our neighborhood is much safer after your actions along the River. You have our votes, Craig! Please let me know if there is something I can do to help.*

—D.S.

*I have worked with many Special Events coordinators over the years since I have been putting on races since 1987. All really have been great. However, **Sergeant Kevin Keller** really does go over the top for our races. Last year I think I sent an email to you because I was so impressed. Last year he wasn't in town for the race, but he had it all set up and put someone else in charge on race day. It was the first year he was Special Events coordinator, and he did a great job. BUT WOW! This year was even better! He is very customer service oriented but also wants to make sure that our runners are safe. He looks at ways to help us save money by being efficient in using his personnel. He makes sure that the officers around the course are out and being present in their duties. Every officer I met was very personable and helpful. Spokane Marathon is loved by many in our community, and people travel from all over the country (and sometimes even from international locations). It is known for its difficulty. Many people come to run the marathon to prove that they can do it. Thanks to Kevin Keller and the Spokane police this was a great event for all participants and volunteers this year.*

—D.W.

*A couple weeks ago, Officers Buchmann, Lesser, and Harvey helped me solve a precarious situation downtown. In short, they were able to support me and several other Good Samaritans in wrangling two steer which were able to break out of my stock trailer on Walnut and 3rd Avenue downtown. Without their help and support in directing traffic, providing blocking, and hands-on assistance in bringing back the steer I would have had a much more difficult time. Can you please extend my gratitude to these three officers and also inform their manager(s). I deeply appreciate all*



they do along with the rest of the precinct. **[Sergeant Paul Buchmann, Officer Chris Lesser, and Officer Dale Harvey]**

—B.Y.

Hi, I attempted to pull my 2000 Ford Explorer on the Sunset Bridge. Anyways my truck caught the tiny little lip on the cement median that separates vehicles and pedestrians. And my front right tire was on the very tippy top of it well my other three tires were off the ground. My truck was literally inches from tipping over on its side. I was absolutely terrified and mortified. Dozens of people drove by and took pictures and I've since found posts all over Facebook saying terrible things when it was truly just an accident. I was not under the influence nor was I on my phone. Anyways two of your officers that responded were absolute and complete angels **[Officers David Kaurin and Tyson Setzler]**. I would just like to say that I have not always had the easiest time dealing with the police. I've not gotten along with them more than once and I've had my share of extremely power hungry extremely rude terrible police officers working for Spokane County. But I was able to sit in the back as one of the officers asked me if I would like to get in to stay warm while we waited for the tow truck. I kept crying and stressing that for some reason I may get in trouble, and he kept reassuring me that I'm not in any trouble and it was just an accident. I don't know if this will get them in trouble or not. I hope to God it won't, but my tabs are expired, and they could have given me a ticket for that, and they didn't. They knew I was having a bad enough day and I really appreciate that. I appreciate that they were kind and helpful. I just think that something needs to be said to these officers so that they understand that they were more than just doing their job that day ..., they were my guardian angels that day and I'll always remember them, and I will always be an advocate for them.

—H. (Last name unknown)

#### **SPD Chaplains,**

As I was reviewing the various community partner events in October, I wanted to send you a note. The ball was a huge success. It got me thinking about how far the Spokane Police Chaplaincy has developed under your leadership. Often as leaders we do not get feedback about how we are doing. I wanted to let you know I have seen a huge shift in culture and the standards of the chaplains group rise in terms of a positive culture and professionalism under your leadership. We have nothing but positive feedback from families and staff about the interactions with our chaplains. **[Chaplains Mickey Tuter and Kevin Piatt]** You and Kevin make a great team. The chemistry and synergy is positive. We are so lucky to have you as community partners helping our community during a terrible time. You are doing a great job. Please let us know how we can help you. We look forward to our continued partnership.

—S.W.

My wife and I took our car in for repairs today, caused by a hit and run (attended non injury) collision at the intersection of 37th and Regal. My wife was struck in the driver's side door (and passenger door) by a SUV vehicle turning from North bound on Regal to Westbound on 37th. I was not at the collision. **Officer Daniel Valencia** responded and helped console my wife regarding the collision and the circumstances surrounding a hit and run crime. I was greatly impressed by his professionalism and his obvious caring. I understand that it is difficult to impossible to track an unidentified probably drunk or suspended driver in these matters. I also understand that Law Enforcement often does not respond to these types of incidents. Importantly, law enforcement generally does not get recognized for their good deeds, but only their bad ones. I retired from the prosecutor's office 3 years ago and had close contact with law enforcement officers from both the city and county throughout my career. Officer Valencia should be commended for his response in this matter, his care, and his attitude. He

shined that night. I apologize for waiting so long to send this response but was reminded today when I took the car in that I had meant to do this the evening of the crime.

—B.O.

**Sergeant Greg Rogan and Officer Jen Kerns,**

Thank you for visiting Jefferson Elementary. You are the best.

—Card from Jefferson Elementary School.

Chief Meidl,

When we last met, I had a specific agenda but my agenda is still the same, but it's also changed. I certainly understand the challenges you face on a daily basis and when I see you or something about law enforcement, I think of you and your guys with empathy. On Monday, I had the opportunity to have a front row seat at the Detention Center. I was there to support a young lady, 23 years old. She was arrested Sunday night, I went to the courthouse at 9am, Monday morning and there was no trial. I returned again at 1:30, the hearing was held as scheduled. She finally released at 10:30 or so that night. I parked across from the entrance and the release door. During that time, I had a couple pleasant conversations with three of your finest officers. Specifically, I'd like to give a shout out to **Officer Xenon Berkeley**. I approached him outside of the Detention Center and asked him about release times, he made a few calls and told me the individual that I was waiting for was in the process of being released and within 15 minutes, she was released. I'm sharing this information because if it was a negative experience, I would have let you know so I wanted to also let you know all the men/officers I spoke with are serving the community and representing your office in a positive manner.

—C.H.

A couple weeks ago, we had to call the SPD because someone from our building was in the middle of a major manic episode. It had been building for a long time and culminated that day with us having to call SPD to get help with taking him to the hospital. **Officer Ryan McLucas** and his team that day responded with so much care and consideration of all the people coming and going that morning, as well as this individual too. He also reminded me to ask for the keys so we wouldn't have to worry about them having access to our buildings. It's a small thing but I would have forgotten about the keys at the time, and it has saved us a bunch of hassle going forward. This person is now in treatment and on the way to recovery and we are really grateful for the part the SPD played in getting him to the hospital that day. They will be able to return to their job without fear or embarrassment because the way everything went down was pretty calm, efficient, and peaceful, given the circumstances. I just really appreciated Officer McLucas and all the responders that morning and I wanted to say thank you. I hope you can forward this on to him and that he can let his team know that they are appreciated.

—K.S.

I met **Officer Jen Kerns** today while waiting my turn for service at Les Schwab Tires on 3rd Street. I am writing to express my appreciation for her both as a police officer and as a citizen of this community... Spokane is fortunate to have her working and living in this community. After watching her interact with the staff, her warmth and confidence invited me to introduce myself. Though our conversation was brief, her clear understanding that she was representing both the citizens of Spokane as a whole, and the Spokane Police Department in particular, left me proud of the quality of police officers serving this city. I wish to commend the training and support for police officers within the department, as an individual such as Jen Kerns, with her keen awareness, myriad of life

experiences, and excellent people skills surely has many options for meaningful employment. For her to choose service as a police officer in this city is an expression of the high level of excellence within the department as a whole... congratulations! Based on my serendipitous interaction with Jen Kerns today I am exceedingly proud of the Spokane police department, and confident in her service to this community in particular.

—M.C.

Chief Meidl,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to you, your department, and your officers. On November 2nd, I had the great opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Officer Nathan Clark** on power shift. I found him to be courteous, professional, and extremely competent in his work. My ride-along with Officer Clark restored my faith in people. In my work, I often review reports and body worn camera footage where community members are in a dire situation and officers use force. We responded to a variety of calls from being instructed to remove squatters from a home to responding to a domestic call with issues between parents and their teenage son. In each call, Officer Clark treated each person he encountered with respect, empathy, and approached every interaction with a, 'What can I do to help you?' attitude. I also got to observe the teamwork in Officer Clark's team. These officers trust each other and work well together. On the flip side, I witnessed how well community members respond when treated with kindness. Officer Clark explained how he has been responding to calls on his own for a few months. His enthusiasm for his work, getting along with his fellow officers, and serving his community was palpable throughout my ride-along. If Officer Clark is representative of the new generation of officers, the future of law enforcement is in good hands.

—Office of Police Ombudsman

Thank you, SPD for another successful Holiday Parade. You kept us safe and sound. The officers were so nice, and they seemed like they had some fun too. We appreciate you.

—D.D.

Multiple cards expressing "Thank you for keeping us safe."

—Cards from Midway Elementary

Dear Chief Meidl,

I am writing to express our appreciation for **Officer Chris Perry** of the Spokane Police Department. Officer Perry drove from Spokane to Seattle several weeks ago to testify in the matter of *City of Seattle v. [Defendant]*, a domestic violence assault. Officer Perry impressed the jury with his candor, demeanor, and obvious respect for the trauma of victims and the rights of defendants. At every turn, Officer Perry set the standard for proactive cooperation with our office, and it is obvious to me that Seattle's loss is Spokane's gain. Officer Perry's professionalism and dedication to duty reflect great credit on him and your department.

—J.G.

I was asked by a family member who had some interactions with our officers at a recent DOA to share their gratitude and thanks to the officers involved and our department. Doug (son of the decedent) stated that "he was thoroughly impressed with our officers (**John Oliveri, Mackenzie German-Johnson, and Corporal Ryan Jamieson**) level of professionalism" and "compassion, caring and pleasantness." His word was, "outstanding." Doug's father had passed that afternoon, leaving behind his widow (married 72 years) and a vast amount of kids, grandkids, etc. I was there

for probably a little over an hour or so, and Doug continued to compliment the officers and our department off and on throughout my visit (waiting for the funeral home). I get these comments from families a lot when I'm out on calls, but Doug was adamant that I pass this along to the "command staff."

—K.P.

Dear [Records Supervisor] Mardee Ellis,

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your support of our adoption process! [Getting a letter from the Chief of Police to help in the adoption process.] After 2.5 years of infertility and failed treatments, and now an exhaustive adoption journey, it often feels like an uphill battle. Your kindness and help took a weight off my shoulders and gave me the boost I needed to keep pushing through our to-do list. I just wanted you to know how grateful I am.

—Name Withheld

Hey my friend. I was called by **Chaplain Tim Wheatley** this morning to assist with a family in Central Spokane. The family has experienced extreme despair in recent years. A new tragedy struck this morning around 4am. Let me tell you that Tim is an amazingly talented Chaplain. He was truly Christ like in his words and interactions. His patience was amazing. He was thoughtful and kind and quite honestly, he made me feel at ease in a tough situation. We helped the family today. But I left the scene wanting to be more like Tim for others at work and at home. His words were so well spoken and polished. I started asking myself what I could do in my Christian walk to be more like Tim. I thought you probably already knew this but man just wow. This guy Tim is such a sweet soul.

—A.R.

Chief Meidl,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to you, your department, and your officers. On November 1st, I had the great opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Officer Daniel Rhine** on day shift. I found him to be courteous, professional, and extremely competent in his work. This was my first ride-along during day shift. I learned the nature of calls are much different from other shifts I had previously gone on ride-alongs. Officer Rhine explained he responds to a lot of stolen vehicle calls. Sure enough, our first call was recovering a vehicle involved in a carjacking. As he investigated, we learned the car was involved in a larger string of crimes committed by a suspect and we ended up towing the vehicle to the property facility. I spent the rest of my ride-along at a hospital waiting for an individual to wake up and escort to jail. While were responded to only a few calls, I was able to observe Officer Rhine be thorough in his work, especially the carjacking call. I observed him call the car owner and talk them through the recovery process of their vehicle and patiently answer all questions. He also communicated with others from different shifts to get as much information on the suspect. He even hoped to tie the vehicle we found to the suspect by calling jail to see if the suspect had the keys to this vehicle when searched at jail. Officer Rhine made me feel welcome and he did his best to answer of my questions. He represented himself, the Spokane Police Department, and law enforcement very well. I would like to commend your entire department for providing me this excellent training opportunity and thank you for your courtesy in allowing me to ride along with Officer Rhine.

—Office of Police Ombudsman

Dear Chief Meidl,

Last Saturday, my aunt had passed away at her residence and I was call to the condo by her daughter. After some of the paramedic's departed and **Lieutenant Rich Meyer** arrived the

remaining paramedics filled in Lt. Meyer. The Lt. called the ME's office and released my aunt to be transported to Heritage Funeral Parlor. He was very kind and called Heritage to arrange transport. Lt. Meyer showed great professionalism and compassion towards the daughter and me and remained until Heritage arrived to transport. We cannot thank Lt. Meyer enough for all he did during that difficult time. If you could please relay our thanks to him. I also wanted to thank you and your department for such an outstanding job you all do in policing the City of Spokane.

—B.K.

How many officers responded to the LC hoax? I was there that day and was shocked with how many officers exited the building once finished. And... from a parent perspective, it was EXCELLENTLY executed. I hope that having such a large response doesn't hurt anything down the road if this was an experiment. Just wanted to say thank you!

—K.P.

To all involved in the response to Lewis and Clark High School today. I got to feel today, firsthand, what it feels like to be a mom of a child in a real active shooter situation (as I knew it at the time). I felt my heart breaking and shear panic and the distinct feeling that I needed to get there NOW and save him. I wanted to express my deepest gratitude to all the officers involved in the incident this morning. My son goes to the school. Your response to immediately enter the school without hesitation to save my child, to put your lives in danger to save my child is something I cannot ever repay you for. No matter that it ended up being a terrible hoax. Your officers didn't know that at the time. I know this may seem menial but my gratitude for you today cannot be measured. Thank you, each and every one of you from simply...a mother.

—H.C.

[In reference to a situation at Lewis and Clark High School]

Chief,

Your dudes did a good job today. They made me feel safe in this nerve-wracking situation today. It was scary as hell (mostly the not-knowing part) but SPD really made me feel not afraid.

—Unnamed person

To the Spokane Police Department,

I would like to take the time to thank **Officer Tim Schwering** for his help and guidance in removing a problem car from our neighborhood this past week. Tim was willing to work after hours to try and help his old neighborhood. We truly miss Tim as our neighborhood resource officer. Thank you again for helping Tim.

—L.H.

As a parent of two students at Lewis and Clark High School, I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to the Spokane Police. Over the weekend, my freshman twins and I processed a lot about their experience on Friday but what repeatedly brought tears to my eyes was the fact that the police officers were entering the building. As we all know too well, that is not the case of every police department across the country. So it is with my whole heart, I want to say thank you! I wish I could thank each officer who went in the building. Each officer that was ready to do what needed to be done to protect what is our city's most valuable asset: our children. When words are insufficient, thank you will have to suffice. Sincerely one very grateful mom,

—A.H.

*Thank you, Spokane Police and Toyota Connect recovering our stolen vehicle.*

**—A.S.**

**Officer Reid Carrell,**

*I had a brief conversation this morning with Sen. Billig about some legislative issues, and he asked that I relay to you that he was very impressed with your response to a recent break-in that he experienced at his office. He said you were “very professional.”*

**—A.S.**

**Officer Micah Prim** was amazing during Lunch with a Cop. He went above and beyond the call of duty with the twins celebrating their 5th birthday.

**—M.E.**

*[In reference to an involuntary detention, Behavioral Health Unit] a woman from New Washington Apartments called 911 -- she wants to thank **Officer Richie Plunkett** for being kind and having a great demeanor and always doing a great job.*

**—S.K.**

*I was involved with an incident at Touchmark a couple of months ago, with three officers including **Trystan Herzog, badge #1438**. All of the officers were professional, which I appreciated.*

**—J.G.**