



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Commendations July-December 2023

Officer Austin Toal,

It was a pleasure to meet you today. Spokane is truly blessed to have someone as yourself on its force. Your mannerisms, professionalism, and willingness to listen without judgement made our interaction almost enjoyable. (I mean who really wants to be pulled over?) Enclosed is proof of registration. Please continue to service this community with the dignity and respect you showed me today. Thank you for all you do, my family and I will always support the blue line.

—J.H.

Sergeant Greg Rogan, Officer Jen Kerns, Officer Micah Prim

Thank you for your support of Thrive International's 2nd Annual Soccer Camp! We were blown away by the support we received from the community this year. Because of your support we were able to exceed our goal of 80 participants and had over 100 participants register this year. 13 countries were represented during our week of camp including Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, South Africa, South Sudan, Congo, Eritrea and Colombia. Soccer is a universal language that crosses all borders and allowed new friendships to be built on and off the field last week. Building community between refugee and immigrant youth from around the world is what Thrive Nation Youth strives to do all year. No one understands the journey of a refugee youth better than someone with that shared experience. One Ukrainian participant said, "My new best friend is from Syria." The opportunity to build these relationships wouldn't happen without your generous support. Thank you!

—E.H.

*I wanted to reach out to you and let you know that I had a personal crisis a few weeks ago and needed to contact law enforcement. My mother was not doing well and ended up needing law enforcement support to transfer to the hospital with paramedics. **Officer [Ryan] Skay and Officer [Ian] Quist** responded to their residence. Knowing the leadership of the Spokane Police Department and having my own interactions on a professional level—I had expected professionalism from your staff. However, I was very pleasantly surprised not only by their level of professionalism—but by their level of competency, kindness, and patience. They spent what I would consider a significant amount of time trying to assist my mother with compassion and integrity. Not only did they tend to the needs of my mother—they were also very supportive of my father and myself. They were willing to share their own personal experiences in an attempt to normalize and ease worries and concerns. They also used appropriate sense of humor to get us to laugh during the troubling time. They were professional and diligent in coordinating with the fire department and AMR making the whole situation run much more smoothly and efficiently. I will be forever grateful for Officer Skay and Officer Quist and their devotion to their profession and kindness towards my family. Please pass along my sincere gratitude and appreciation.*

—Name Withheld by Assistant Chief Lundgren

*I was calling to thank the officers and thank the department [**Officers Quinn Cochrane, Anthony Inman, Brandon Fabian, and Ed Richardson** in regard to a missing child call].*

—C.J.

*I wanted to thank **Officer Jen Kerns** for being so kind to my son Sean today at the Top Cop event at Fred Meyer. She took the time to speak with him and made him feel so comfortable and special. He was over the top happy all day!*

—E.K.

Dear Chief Meidl,

*I just wanted to let you know that I heard from **Officer Neil Higgins** this morning who is taking the fraud/forgery/ wallet theft case of our 80-year-old neighbor. I just wanted to say, "Thank you" and I hope no matter how long it may take for the case to close, it seems to be a "slam dunk" and I hope the people involved will be held responsible and get nailed. My sincere thanks.*

—H.H.

Captain Dave Singley,

I know that we live in a time where our heroic city officials are vilified, underappreciated and overworked. It's such a constant battle to keep Spokane beautiful and not let it fall the way of Portland and Seattle. How did we come to a place where allowing people the "right" to destroy themselves through drug use become the definition of compassion? Why is supporting the rights of the productive citizen seen as detrimental to society when they are who help a city flourish? I love walking through our downtown, Riverfront Park, and Gonzaga. I am determined to not let the addicts dictate my walking route! You all do an outstanding job making Spokane enjoyable for visitors and residents! Even though I do my part reporting illegal encampments, abandoned vehicles, and nefarious activity I wish I could do more.

—S.S.

*Over the last two days, **Officer Mike Thomas** conducted the Drug Impairment Training for Educators at ESD101. We had school nurses, building administrators and school resource officers in attendance. Officer Thomas did a wonderful job in presenting this much needed information about legal and illegal drugs and the effects on our students. Those in attendance were so thankful for the tools and information he shared. His time might be in more demand as the participants take back the information to their districts. Thank you to Spokane Police for being a partner with us in helping the students in our community.*

—A.L.

Hi, Chief,

Shoutout to Spokane Police Department for an excellent job in recovering our stolen CRV.

—M.L.

Just a quick email to tell you how much we appreciate the work of Detective Craig Wendt from your department. He was very professional and kept us updated as the investigation proceed. He was swift to react to our requests and my staff and I are very pleased to have his assistance.

—T.K.

*Good afternoon, We were contacted by **Officer Jesse Cahill** who said he found our bike (that was stolen early Sunday morning) and has it ready for us to pick up on Monday. We are not from the area but will be leaving early Monday morning to pick it up. I'm sure our chances of finding and recovering our bike were slim to none. As you can imagine, we are extremely grateful! We would like*

to offer our appreciation to Officer Jesse Cahill and his fellow officers and other coworkers for their heroic efforts and service.

—T.E.

On June 30, I found my brother had passed away. I called 911 and you all came to my rescue. It was too late for him, he spent too many years as a depressed alcoholic. Huge thank you to **Chaplain Chris Murphy** for staying with me. Prayers for you all. God Bless.

—T.K.

Community Outreach Officers,

We appreciate you! Thank you for all your support!

—Wishing Star Foundation

Good job, **Officer [Anthony] Guzzo**. Thank you for being so kind and friendly to us.

—J.T.

Dear **Chief Meidl**,

Our family wishes to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your dedication and service. In spite of all of the restrictions put on law enforcement, you still put on your uniform and go out every day to every call and put your life on the line to protect our families and communities. Our society would not survive without your service. Please stay safe and watch over your Brothers and Sisters. We pray daily for your safety. God Bless You!

—J.G.

Dear Mayor and Chief,

Last week at the corner of 44th and Martin, at Hamblen Park, a very serious event occurred where a multi-warranted felon hiding in a neighbor's garage was apprehended. My wife and I observed the whole event from our home across the street. It lasted well over an hour until the SPD SWAT team was able to take the suspect into custody. No shots were fired, and no one was injured. I wish to highly commend the exceptional professionalism and skill we observed by the city police for the methods and training they employed to take this accused felon down. Far too often our local police are criticized for various alleged failures and not enough attention is paid to the exceptional efforts they employ on a daily basis. On a few occasions, I have had the opportunity of interacting with Chief Meidl (as the Marine Corps Ball photographer) and feel it is his overall leadership which was well reflected by the members of the First Team, the City Police Force of Spokane, in this potentially dangerous event. As a career long USAF combat support officer, I was impressed and thankful for the rapid and successful apprehension of this dangerous person. Sadly, this event was not given much local press due to the Hallet fire occurring on the same day. I am in hopes this letter will bring some attention to a job exceedingly well done.

—J.R.

Dear Spokane Police Department,

Thank you so much for your donation to Beyond Pink! We are so grateful for your continued support! We know the ride-along will be a huge hit like last year! We couldn't do what we do without You!

—Beyond Pink

I wanted to leave some feedback for Miss **[Public Records Specialist] Jenetta Alford**. I've been in the Army for 18 years and have been all over the country. She is by far the best public records technician that I've encountered in 18 years. If she is going to put in for retirement any time soon, she is going to leave some pretty big shoes to fill at the Police Department.

—C.G.

*I commend **Officer [Michele] Kernkamp** for her very thorough and dedicated police work. This was not just another "routine burglary" for her. She took a personal interest in what had happened to us, treating it seriously and was able to thoughtfully piece together seemingly disconnected information so there was a clear picture of the situation. This brought us great peace of mind, because we had a strong concern that the individual would come back after he had seen valuable items he could break in and take later. Her assurance that the suspect had been arrested was very helpful. I commend Officer Kernkamp for a job well done, but also commend you and your SPD leadership for the high standard you have set of professionalism, integrity, and compassion. You are building trust, keeping the citizens safe, and from what I have observed in a number of situations, are an exemplary police department that we are very thankful for!*

—J.S.

Officer Micah [Prim],

Thank you so much for joining us for our celebration. We felt honored to have the Spokane Police Department looking over us and supporting us. Thank you for your service. Looking forward to working with you again in the future.

—V.K.

*I wanted to give kudos to **Officer [Trystan] Ferreyra**. Last Friday, we had a transient passed out on sidewalk for 10 hours. I was getting ready to go home and was unsure what to do. He was alive but he had not moved. I was debating calling Crime Check and I saw a number of police cars pour out of neighborhood onto Ash. I flashed one officer (risky move) with my brights and he came back around to check if I needed help. Cool cop. He then took care of the person. Salutes to your caring officer.*

—B.N.

Chief,

*I am writing to let you know about the work ethic of one of your **Lieutenants, Nate Spiering**. I have been working in the Gray fire command post throughout today and have been involved with this the past several days. As you can expect, there have been many, many people in and out of the command post over the these past many hours. Trash has been piling up and today it finally needed to be dealt with. When that need was made known, Lt. Spiering immediately got up and started to gather and get the trash ready to take out to the dumpsters. I offered to take his bunch of trash because Sergeants don't allow Lieutenants do that kind of work. He wouldn't hear of it and took his share, and more, of the trash to clean up the command post. This type of selfless willingness to do the small, behind-the-scenes work and not make a big deal about it, but just get it done, was nice to see and to work alongside. I know you are busy, and this was more wordy than I meant it to be, but suffice it to say, Lt. Spiering is a solid example of how a true leader can set a great example through his initiative to work where needed. Please know he sets a superb example, even when it does not seem others are watching or noticing. Along with the example I wrote about, his decision-making and command presence in other areas was exemplary as well.*

—J.M.

*The officer was **Derek Jones #1401** who responded to the hit and run. Derek was amazing and I wanted to give him recognition for his calm demeanor. He called a tow as mine would take 2 hours and I was slightly in the road still. He stayed till the truck arrived to make sure I wouldn't get hit again. Thank you for your help.*

—J.C.

*I wanted to express my sincere appreciation and thank the police department for providing dignitary protection to the Arizona Secretary of State and Lieutenant Governor who visited Spokane here this last weekend. **Sergeant [Chris] Bode** did an outstanding job. His professionalism is impressive. I wanted to thank Sergeant Bode and his partner who provided dignitary protection.*

—J.C.

Chief,

Thank you for your service, dedication, and support that helped Team 7 be successful in the management of the Gray Fire.

—N.L.

Officers Justin Druitt and Ryan Akins,

Thank you for assisting the efforts of the Gray Fire with UAS operations to detect hot spots around 1,347 structures to ensure protection of surviving structures and homes within the fire perimeter.

—N.L.

*It I would like to report a couple of officers who responded to a wellness check. **[Officer Michele Kernkamp, Corporal Shane Oien.]** My friend was having a wellness check and he didn't make it. These officers were kind, personable. They took a difficult situation and handled it very professionally. I unfortunately have had to encounter police more often than I would like. I just want you guys to know, whatever you guys are doing, you're got some good officers. They were so professional, personable, kind, and sensitive. They treated everybody there like human beings. They let me go before I got to see my buddy's body be hauled out. They're doing great work with what they have to deal with every day in this town. I would like to see them be recognized. They were great human beings.*

—J.H.

As referenced in the Meidl's Minute and shared on 9/5/2023, Chief Meidl received a call of thanks for SPD's response to the fires. The call was from a homeowner. He was asleep in his residence, and awoke to loud knocking from an officer. The homeowner was previously unaware of the fire. He credited the officers with helping save his property and likely his life.

—Caller's Name Unknown

Officer Jen Kerns,

Thanks for the fun picture opportunity! [With Community Outreach Officers at the Spokane County Fair]

—N.L.

Officer Tyler Heiman,

I was at a recovery walk on Saturday and ran into a gentleman. He stated he has been sober and in recovery for many months now. He credited the start of his recovery with you arresting him for shoplifting and trespassing earlier this year. He wanted to pass on his thanks to you for interrupting his addiction cycle, and for treating him kindly while holding him accountable. Thank you for doing your job well, and you never know how people may change their lives when given an opportunity.

—J.N.

Hello Chief,

*I wanted to take a moment to thank you and Mayor Woodward. We are hopeful in seeing the recent changes over the last several months. **Sergeant Sam Yamada** and **Sergeant Matt Rose** have been present, helpful, and mean a great deal to my team and me.*

—C.G.

Hey my name is [name withheld]. I have been having a massive amount of contact with the police over the last few months and I am doing a lot better now. I wanted to let the officers who would come and check on me so often to know that I am doing better. They truly looked worried, and I was NOT ok. I made a video and wanted to share it because I'm not sure if you all realized what role you have played in my life the past two years. I was a victim of a violent crime before I witnessed that horrible shooting. I might have to testify apparently. My abuser is pleading guilty next week. So here's the link if you could share it with a few of your offices I would be so appropriative. I wish I could cook you all something awesome but that doesn't seem possible so this is the least I could do. Thank you, guys, so much. **[Corporal Ron Van Tassel, Officers Nate Donaldson, Ben Fuson, Jesse Molina, and Ben Manning.]**

—Name Withheld

I would like to extend my thanks for allowing several of your officers to attend the 2023 WLEEA [Washington Law Enforcement Explorer Academy] Summer Academy. I would like to specifically address Officer John Yen and Officer Deanna Storch's attendance as it was an instrumental part of this academy.

[Captain Dave Richards, Officer Deanna Storch, Officer John Yen, Officer Karl Richardson, Officer Seth Berrow]

—M.E.

Good afternoon, **Chief,**

This area is looking so much better. I can't tell you how much I appreciate it, and all the hard work and hours your officers put in to keep this area clear of all the activity, I owe you all lunch. I know the overtime has to be a lot but hope it can continue so these people know this isn't the area or any area of Spokane to do that. Again, I appreciate all you and the officers have done to help combat this big issue our city is having.

—W.J.

Chief Meidl,

It's not very often that we receive good feedback from defendants on their interactions with our officers. I recently had a slew of tickets from Officer Tafoya **[Sergeant Bryan Tafoya]** come through and one of them wrote this note about their experience with him. I received it from Court when the defendant showed up to pay for the ticket. I wanted to pass along the note to the both of you and to commend him for his interactions with the public. "Officer Tafoya is everything a law enforcement officer should be! Sorry to get a ticket, glad to have met him!"

—A.W.

The men and women of the Spokane Police Department are great. I had the opportunity to have a police ride along with **Officer Michael Baughn** during the day shift this Saturday. I have wanted to do a ride along for a while now, to get a better perspective of their trade. Police work is not easy but the people on shift that I got to witness take the work very serious. First of all, I know there have been some issues in the public's eye with the police dept. From my experience with the Spokane Police, they are going to do the best they can with the resources we the people have given them. The police that I worked with care about our city and the people that call it home. They are NOT going out of their way to give people a hard time, quite the opposite. I witnessed Officer Baughn all day display a high level of professionalism, work ethic, compassion, and courage. He and his coworkers really work hard with the citizens by displaying a seek to understand first kind of way. The men and women wearing blue worked hard all day; in a full shift we only took a lunch break, darn the luck I was hoping for a donut break LOL. I can only imagine if I was in their shoes, it would get very trying to see the same people and the same crimes over and over. We the people and our elected

representatives need to support the police dept better and give them "back the teeth" to clean up the streets. Thank you to Officer Baughn and the other men & women of the Northwest day shift that welcomed me into their unit. It was a pleasure seeing how hard you work to serve this great city.
—M.M.

Chief,

I wanted to let you both know how absolutely wonderful the Park Rangers have been and how helpful having the additional shifts has been. Also, we have a fantastic new police officer, **Sergeant Matt Rose**, who has been both coming down and dealing with the problem RVs parked for 2 months and also having bike cops down patrolling. Sgt. Rose has been working with the Rangers to coordinate. He was able to get the RV campers banned from the parking lot for a year - a relief. And also has a very compassionate approach. So impressed. I wanted to let you know how much neighbors are appreciating the Rangers as well as the attention from police. It's perhaps the most response we've ever had. [East Central neighborhood and Underhill Park specifically.]

—S.M.

I am writing a letter of commendation for **Officer Ethan Wilke** and **Chaplain Amy Ballard**. My nephew decided to take fentanyl, which ended his life that day. Officer Wilke and Chaplain Amy were on the scene when I arrived at my sister and nephew's apartment. While nothing can really prepare us for this tragedy - I was so impressed by how Officer Wilke and Chaplain Amy handled this situation with my sister and others being so distraught. Amy held my sister's hand and told her to breathe and "take one minute at a time." She made sure my sister was drinking water and Amy sat with us for almost two hours making sure we were all okay. Officer Wilke professionally and kindly asked my sister questions about my nephew and kept my sister and the rest of us informed of what was going on with the investigation. He answered questions without hesitation and was just there for us. This is something I will never forget. After the investigation was complete - both Officer Wilke and Chaplain Ballard made sure we had information that we needed. Officer Wilke informed us of the next steps - the Medical Examiner would be calling us in a day or two with information on how my nephew died. Chaplain Ballard gave us her card and suggestions on where his body could go to be cremated. She, like Officer Wilke, basically told us the next steps which was so helpful beyond words. While I hope and pray this scenario does not happen to other families - I am so grateful for police officers like Ethan Wilke and amazing chaplains like Amy Ballard (who I know volunteers for this position). Thank you!

—J.R.

I did a police ride along with **Officer [Will] Mitchell**, who has been with SPD for two years. I was impressed by how this team worked to intervene and prevent fatal injury in a chaotic situation. He graciously explained everything he did, including what equipment would have been helpful in different scenarios. It was helpful to have a fresh perspective from someone relatively new to the SPD. I was encouraged by his ability to make sense of and navigate different scenarios. His dedication to his work was apparent.

—K.K.

I had the pleasure of riding along with **Officer Garrett Harris** for five hours during the afternoon of September 21, 2023. We spent a lot of time talking as he patrolled the NE area of Spokane where I had lived for almost 25 years. I found Officer Harris very engaging, friendly and most of all - very professional in everything he did. I really appreciated how conscientious he was of patrolling areas where property owners were concerned about transients on their property and at one stop - Officer Harris very professionally and kindly told the group of people to move. He always seemed to consistently find a kind way to look for a solution that not only helped the complainant but always the people or person in question. At one stop where a business assumed a person had stolen

something - Officer Harris engaged that person and the business to have a positive outcome. The person in question even went back into the store to apologize. To be honest - that blew me away and it was because of Officer Harris' professional and yet friendly demeanor to constantly find a solution. Coming from a law enforcement family myself here in Spokane - we chatted about law enforcement when I grew up and how it is today. We talked about what changes have happened over the past 50 years (like hiring women police officers and mental health experts) and I have to say Officer Harris made me feel so proud for Spokane in a very personal way. With police officers like Garrett Harris and others I met yesterday- I know that Spokane is in good hands for our community. Thank you!

—J.R.

I was involved in a four-car accident. **Officer Daniel Estrada** responded. He was very professional and knowledgeable. However, he was much more than that. He was exceedingly kind, patient, compassionate and caring. I was very impressed with his demeanor. What great representation for the Spokane Police Department. You should feel proud of Officer Estrada and feel lucky he's on your team. You should give him a great big fat raise or at least a decent cup of coffee.

—V.T.

Thanks to our incredible volunteers, Spokane Police, and City of Spokane for putting their heart and soul into this race.

—The Boulevard Race

Officer Larry House took the lead in trying to decipher safety issues and needs of homeless people and mine.

—S.H.

I just got off the phone with **Officer Chris Patchin** regarding this particular vehicle, which he said was towed on 9/27/23. What an awesome contact person! He was so kind, informative and approachable. I will be passing on the great information he gave me regarding the abandoned vehicle process to my wonderful neighbors.

—S.S.

Dear Chief Meidl,

I would like to write to you and express my sincere thanks to you, your department, and your officers. On October 6th, I had the opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Officer Daniel Morley**. Officer Morley handled several situations during this shift to include: a panic/smoke alarm activation at a residence; a Stolen Vehicle stop and recovery by his team; an attempted suicide by a teenager which required officer intervention with a tourniquet application; an adult in crisis suffering from a mental condition which required hospitalization; and an Assault 2nd investigation which resulted in the arrest of the assailant and an additional arrest for obstructing and hindering the investigation. Officer Morley's experience and dedication to his profession was clear to see and his assessments and due care to follow-up investigation is laudatory. Further, I was impressed with the depth Officer Morley went to as he handled these sensitive situations while on scene and provided significant attention to investigation and follow up. His passion regarding investigations is clear and his path towards becoming a future detective seems prudent. I appreciated this interaction and am thankful for having the opportunity to have a dialogue with him.

—Office of Police Ombudsman

Hello Ed [**Reserve Officer Ed Richardson**],

I just wanted to reach out and thank you for being SO sweet and comforting to my mom, who was involved in the car accident on Ash next to Rosauers on Sunday. She was very thankful for all of the

responders. They took good care of her and helped calm her nerves. She especially appreciated you just sitting and chatting with her. You are a true gift to our community, and it became personal this time. I appreciate you!

—A.R.

Lieutenant Schneider,

Thank you again for coordinating the ride-along! It was a good experience. **Officer Makalia McKitrick** is very knowledgeable and professional. I learned a lot about how calls are prioritized and the variety of calls your team deals with on a daily basis. I also observed great teamwork in action. The 4-hour ride-along went by fast, I hope to participate again in the future if the opportunity arises. Best regards and thank you for your service!

—Y.H.

I had the opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Officer Kelly Mongan**. Officer Mongan handled several situations during this shift to include: a failure to stop/eluding situation without a pursuit on a motorcycle without a license plate and a rider who did not present as a comfortable rider; a suspicious person with a machete; surveillance regarding a domestic violence and burglary subject; a crisis intervention call with a homeless person on top of a clinic's roof; a domestic altercation without physical violence between a parent and an adult son; as well as an assault with a pipe with a subject at large call. I was impressed with the depth Officer Mongan went to as he handled these sensitive situations while on scene and how he provided significant attention to investigation and follow up. Officer Mongan's experience and dedication to his profession was clear to see and his assessments and due care to follow-up investigation is laudatory. Officer Mongan consistently displayed a strategic outlook towards his duties as he was constantly in communication with his team and using his systems to proactively investigate situations as they unfolded between calls for service.

—Office of Police Ombudsman

I wanted to say a word of thanks to the officer on First St. last night who noticed I was having trouble locating the freeway on-ramp. Here's what happened. I dropped a friend off at the Davenport Tower, which is away from the area I'm familiar with. (For reference, I live in Idaho and work remotely so, although I work for KHQ, I don't actually work in the office). This officer must have noticed that I wasn't finding the right sign, pulled in front of me, signaled to turn right on Sprague, and then drove off. Once I followed his or her guidance, I found the off ramp with no issues and made it safely home to Post Falls. I just wanted to pass along my appreciation. Thank you for all the hard work you do for the community! The little things haven't gone unnoticed. Having just lost one of our own officers, it's more important than ever that you know how much you are appreciated.

—K.P.

I wanted to express a "Tip of the Cap" to two of your officers that responded to a request for service earlier this evening. It was **Officer [Will] Dowsing** and **Corporal Chris Johnson** who were working downtown precinct tonight. The support, coordination, and understanding that they exhibited should be a model for all.

—D.B.

No need to answer this but yesterday a kid got jumped pretty bad up by BoxFit on Wellesley. We called 911 and the officers showed up fast and were super nice. You guys rock and surely saved that kid.

—C.W.

To whom it may concern: Around July 5, 2009, I was picked up for a DUI. I had hit the steering wheel and head rest. I ended up with a C2 C3 fractured neck. I was sent to the hospital after being booked. If I wasn't picked up, I may not be alive today. I've been sober for 14 ½ years. I just wanted to say thank you.

—A.S.

[Multiple letters.] One letter as example: In my class, we have been learning why the government is important. I want to thank you for your service to our community. You are brave, helpful, and fast. Thank you for all you do, and for helping us.

—Skyline Elementary

I had the great opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Officer Chris Bruner** at the Northeast Precinct. I found him to be courteous, professional, and extremely competent in his work. Unfortunately for me, my ride along was on a slow day. This meant we responded to less calls but were able to conduct proactive interactions. Officer Bruner shared his prior experience as a Washington State Patrol Trooper and how he uses those skills in Spokane when provided the opportunity. I was able to observe him conduct a traffic stop for expired plates. I also observed how a sexual assault forensic exam is transported from the hospital into police evidence and processed. We also responded to a domestic violence report request that appeared to restore that caller's faith in calling 911. The caller was in disbelief with how quickly we responded when they were skeptical of even receiving a police response. They provided Officer Bruner with a lot of information, and he maintained his calm demeanor throughout the interaction.

—Office of Police Ombudsman

[Phone call to the Chief regarding the **Explosive Disposal Unit.**] The caller wanted to make sure and express how grateful she is at the extra level of care our team took with the issue at the county today especially with regard to testing the substances. She said that we are the only ones who caught that this was fentanyl because of our extra level of analysis.

—V.D.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to you and **Officer Lee Barker** for allowing me to ride along and experience an afternoon in the life of a police officer. The first call was definitely the highlight of my week or perhaps my year. I would be remiss if I did not express the profound impact the experience had on me. For context, I hold a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Gonzaga and interestingly enough I went through that program during the Michael Brown/Ferguson incident. That incident shifted our academic discourse to almost primarily policing and social justice. Moreover, it would be a fair statement to say that the media tends to shed more light on negative policing incidents. Consequently, this shifts the perception of policing in America; and sadly, like almost everything else in our culture, police support has become extremely political. While I have never had a negative encounter with police, quite the contrary, the barrage of negativity is overwhelming and well I went in somewhat guarded. I did not know if to expect a confirmation of the negativity we are exposed in the media or the community policing that academia holds as the gold standard. I had a genuine interest in what I would take away from this ride-along. I asked many questions of Officer Barker and appreciated his patience with me. His positive attitude was contagious. His humor was appreciated. Suffice it to say, Officer Barker and all other officers who joined on calls, in my opinion, represented the gold standard - community policing at its finest. Officer Barker consistently treated homeless people with respect and the respect was reciprocated. One homeless individual even approached him for advice. I was moved by the genuine compassion shown by officers who did a welfare check on a man who expressed he wanted to overdose. I was impressed by the professionalism and restraint exhibited by the officers handling the hostile individual who was intentionally provoking them. I understand they are all trained professionals, and

it is their job but they do their job exceedingly well and in the event you have not heard it in a while, from this average citizen, your officers are commendable. My perception has shifted. Thank you all for your service and thank you for sharing your time with me.

—M.P.

*I had the great opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Officer William Dowsing** at the Downtown Precinct. I found him to be courteous, professional, and extremely competent in his work. Officer Dowsing was very engaging during my ride-along. He was open in sharing his feelings on the current state of policing, and as a seasoned officer, how his ability to police has changed. I especially appreciated his candor and willingness to speak on sensitive topics in a thoughtful manner. Officer Dowsing provided me with a strong ride along immersion experience. He talked me through each incident we responded to. When we saw suspicious individuals on the street, he walked me through his thought process on articulable suspicion and whether we should contact individuals.*

—Office of Police Ombudsman

Detective Tim [Schwering],

I appreciate you stopping by and leaving that message on my ring yesterday. Sorry I wasn't home and missed you. I didn't even know my ring had a recording that did that! Thank you again for helping make our neighborhood safer!

—M.M.

***Officer Ben [Manning]** has been such a huge help to my family. I can't even put into words how he's been there for my son, more than anyone in his entire family or the police field because they thought it was out of jurisdiction. My son now wants to be a police officer. He has learned so much from Officer Manning. He asked for him on his worst days. I never had hope with the Behavioral Health until I met Ben. He should be the head of the BHU. He has touched me and my family more than you know... I finally have hope because of him. He stands for his word for my son. He will be there for us not only us but just for my son. He's amazing and I finally now believe in the system. I could not have done this mental health without Ben. He has understood and watched as we have maneuvered through this life and has given us guidance when needed, and never judgmental. The Chief should be so proud of him. I can't explain how I would have made it without his support. He's a gift and he shows my son daily how he could be better. We love the Spokane Police, but we will forever cherish Ben Manning... please let us know how we could recognize him in our community and if I could go up the chain, he deserves it so much. You have no idea what he's done for my family. **THANK YOU, BEN!** Even though you have your own family, you have made my son feel like family. Hats off to you!!!! He will never forget you nor will I. Again, I would love to recognize him as well as so many people who have been a part of this and watched Ben be a huge part of my son's life. This is how we stay connected because of Ben. You know it's hard out there with the stigma. Hats off to Ben Manning. You mean a lot to our family. Go BHU! Spokane police you are loved!!!!*

—Name Withheld by the Behavioral Health Unit

Once again, I would like to express our gratitude for making the ride-alongs available to the Class of 2024. Thank you for all you do to support Leadership Spokane and our community.

—J.R.

Captain Steve Wohl,

Please let your officers know that this is the first weekend since I've lived in Peaceful Valley that there wasn't one homeless camp. They're all gone. We greatly appreciate it. Thank you and please let your officers know that it is noticed.

—R.A.

Officer [Detective Tim] Schwering,

I want to thank you and all others involved in helping the neighborhood. The home at [Address withheld] is so quiet and peaceful - it does not seem real. Having the occupants vacate last week comes after years of prayers and concern by the neighbors. We are so happy and look forward to better times ahead. Again, thank you for your service.

—D.R.

*I want to give a shout out to **Sergeant Matt Rose!!** He's been absolutely amazing helping the Chief Garry Park Neighborhood with our monumental homeless issues. He responds to emails very quickly, shows up to every neighborhood council meeting, listens to us and actually does something about the issues brought to his attention. He follows up and lets us know what he can do and what we can do. So, before you leave please give him some recognition for his efforts!!*

—Z.L.

*He just called to say that our officers (**Alisha Nguyen and Derek Jones**) who showed up to the call "were more than professional" and they "were awesome."*

—R.A.

I don't know who I need to thank, but I know I owe someone my deepest gratitude. I emailed last week regarding help for my cousin, and someone read my emails. Today, my sister, with the help of The Spokane Police Department, was hopefully (fingers crossed) able to get my cousin the help that he needed. I feel that whatever happens now is in God's hands. I pray for him every day, and I will continue to pray for him. I know it likely wasn't easy doing what you guys did today, but for what it's worth, I am so very grateful! Thank you, a million times over, THANK YOU! I am so forever grateful.

—A.W.

*Two individuals were fighting and breaking our door, and officers showed up very quickly and did a great job de-escalating. [**Corporal Greg Thompson, Officer William Braten, Officer Daniel Rhine, and Officer Chris Smith.**]*

—L.R.

***Officer William Braten** gathered all the information from the accident and then proceeded to write up the report. **Corporal [Gene] Baldwin** took charge of the scene. Several friends and family members were on site to help. Officer Baldwin directed us all in the cleaning up of debris. An egress window was shattered, and he removed the remains of the window. He then screwed in a piece of plywood where the window had been. He moved the roommate's totaled car into a position on the driveway so our daughter could get her car in and out of her garage. In our eyes, he went above and beyond in his help. In a very upsetting situation he was calm, a clear communicator, kind, practical, and thoughtful in all details to help secure our daughter's home. He represents our police department well and should be commended!*

—P.H.

To all you officers and dispatchers out there in Spokane. I just want to say a heartfelt thanks. I know you're understaffed and have very stressful jobs. You are appreciated.

—M.V.

SPD Chaplains,

About a year and a half ago, we were at the hospital with our baby. You reached out and supported us. Just wanted to reach back out and say thank you again. Baby is doing amazing, and your help meant a lot to us.

—A.B.

Chief Meidl,

Saw the news today of your resignation after 30 years spent protecting and serving the Spokane community. I've only lived here a year, having moved from the Twin Cities in Minnesota after medically retiring with 18 years at the Anoka County Sheriff's Office. But in that time, I have watched as your department and this city deals with a host of problems. I've had an opportunity to talk with several of your officers in passing on the streets during events, and it is clear to me that the men and women of your department truly care about making this community a safer place. When I retired, it was a challenge at first as I adjusted to my new normal. I loved the profession, the work we were able to do in the community and the incredible people I worked with, and I hated to leave while I felt there was more I could do to help. But there is a reason the windshield is larger than the rearview mirror... What is in front of us is more important than what is behind us. Thank you for your service and sacrifice, and for that of your family as well, and congratulations on your retirement! I'm excited for you and the next chapter ahead.

—J.S.

Hi Chief,

I was surprised by the news of your resignation. I'm sure this was not an easy decision for you. I certainly enjoyed those opportunities to work with you over the past years. You impress me as cool, calm, collected and competent. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

—M.D.

Good Morning Chief,

I wanted to express my gratitude for your service and that it has been a pleasure working with you. I know your days will likely be hectic as you prepare your departure, but I would like to present you with an Eastern District of WA DOJ coin I had made up and thank you in person.

—D.F.

Chief Meidl,

I just wanted to thank you for everything you have done for my company and Spokane. We truly are going to miss you. Best of luck!! God Bless. Happy Holidays.

—J.R.

Chief Meidl,

I wanted to reach out to you and personally thank you for the great partnership with the Grant County Sheriff's Office. My interactions with your agency from my early days as a Motor Sergeant, to a Chief Deputy, and now as the Sheriff as been more than astounding. The leadership you've shown your city along with the State of Washington is unmatched. I'm honored to have developed a relationship with you over the years and I'm very thankful for it. I wish you and your family all the best and congratulations on your retirement. You will be missed, my friend.

—J.K.

Chief,

I cannot express my admiration and gratitude for all you have done for our community. I am especially grateful for our partnership with you and SPD. I know we could not have accomplished

everything that we did without you at the helm. I am happy for you and excited for the next chapter of your life.

—J.T.

Good morning, Chief!

I was sad to read the news that you are leaving your position, and wanted to let you know how much I have appreciated your support and guidance these last couple of years. Wishing you all the best in this new chapter!

—V.S.

Chief Meidl,

Congratulations on your pending retirement. I appreciate everything you have done for the community and all your support especially after my collision. I wish you the best and I hope you enjoy a well-deserved break from the daily grind that I know you've gone through.

—J.O.

Chief,

I was sorry to see that you are leaving. I have enjoyed working with you for the last 7 years. I wish you the best in whatever you decide to do next. Take care.

—N.O.

Chief,

You guys do so much good and have protected the community. I for one appreciate all that you have done. Thanks for working with us and good luck in the future.

—J.W.

Chief,

I hope this message finds you and your wonderful family well. It was an honor to work with you and a delight. Also, you did an awesome job as the Chief of Police and served the entire city well through some difficult times. Everyone should be very proud to have had you as their Chief. You've always had my support and I cannot say enough about the great job you did. I wish you the best of luck in the future and God bless!!!!

—J.S.

Chief,

I just read of your retirement. It doesn't seem all that long ago when you were working for free as a reserve for EPD. Be proud of your accomplishments and know that there are countless people that lived better lives because you chose to enter this profession. From early on and later viewing from the outside, it is obvious to me you gave it your all and did it with integrity. I wish you all the best!

—M.L.

Thank you for keeping us safe and serving us. My attitude of thankfulness goes beyond just Thanksgiving Day. I appreciate the help received and continue to receive. Thank you, Chief of Police, dispatch, patrol, sheriff, investigations, administration, community support officers, County Deputies County Sheriff's and WA State Patrol and to Every Entity unable to name them all. God bless You and your Families. May He be with your spirit of Service always both professional and privately. If I could contribute anything back to show my sincere gratitude, my hope is one day my life would be an example to others that a life full of sobriety and recovery is possible to anyone brave enough to never give up. Only by God's Grace. Thank you for your bravery and for never giving up

too. Thank you for the countless unseen sacrifices made by you and your families on behalf of us.
Happy Thanksgiving.

—B.F.

Chief Meidl,

I wanted to let you know that I have thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to work with you over the years. Coordinating with you in my current role at City Hall has been the shortest in duration but again, it has been very enjoyable, professional, and respectful. Through all the sarcasm, quick wit and laughter I have always appreciated your support and respect. I hope the best for you and your family as you move to the next phase of your life, if you every need anything moving forward do not hesitate to reach out.

—D.P.

Dear Chief,

I read with sadness about your resignation as Chief of Police, but also have a sense of gratefulness to have been able to watch your career as a police officer and your time as our Chief. I have been safer because of your efforts, and I have been inspired by your character and your commitment to all of us that call Spokane home. My employees and my family are all safer due to your leadership and I am a better leader by having had the opportunity to witness you and learn from someone that continues to lead with grace, determination and kindness. My best to you as you approach retirement as our Chief of Police, and my very best to you personally for all you have accomplished.

—G.H.

Chief Meidl,

You may not remember me, but I am one of the high school interns from The Spokesman-Review you met with over the summer. During our time with us, you by far talked with us the most and were the kindest and most open with us. At the end of the internship, we unanimously agreed that you were our favorite person we met—and they brought us everyone from senators to actors! I heard about your plans for resignation earlier last week, and I just wanted to take some time to thank you for your service to the Spokane community. You have done an excellent job, better than anyone could've ever asked for. I feel you brought all sides of our city together, something few people can pull off in today's world. I hope whatever your future endeavors may be, they will be satisfying and fulfilling.

—L.B.

Chief,

I teared up when I heard you are leaving us! God be with you.

—J.B.

Hi Chief.

It breaks my heart to hear of your resignation. Although, I absolutely, 100% understand why you're leaving. God bless you Craig, thank you for your service and God bless you in whatever you do going forward.

—Z.L.

Craig [Chief Meidl],

I just heard the news about your resignation. I am very happy for you but sad for the community. We are losing the most caring and capable person to lead the police force.

—S.S.

Chief Meidl,

Just heard that you're retiring, good work man. It was a pleasure working the streets and SWAT with you. I remember that day at the academy when you told me that you were retiring from SWAT team so that you can focus on being a new Sgt. You've done that and much more. I'd put you up there with Bragdon and Mangan as one of the best Chiefs ever for our dept.

—M.T.

Chief Meidl,

So sorry to hear this news. You have done an excellent job and under some very unusual circumstances and somehow always been calm and collected. I hope you find something that will keep you contributing to our future safety & betterment. And mostly, what you love. You deserve the best. Thanks for all you've done.

—L.K.

[To Chief Meidl]

Hello and good morning, sir. Sorry to hear about your resignation. But as you know God has the final say. You are a man of integrity, and a lot of people respect you for that. I just want you to know that my respect for you is tremendous and I know God will take care of you what's important is that you believe that and keep trusting in him and HE will guide you. Spokane will definitely be less effective without your leadership. I know this for a fact. I still remember to this day at that townhouse meeting when I knew I had to step up and tell the people that you were the best man for the job, and I believed it then and still do. May God continue to bless you and your family my friend and wherever God lead's you I promise you it will be what He wants and He knows best your job is to do 3 major things and all in this order 1. Listen to Him. 2. Trust Him. 3. Most Important Obey Him. This is what I live by. Love you Chief.

—M.B.

Craig [Chief Craig Meidl],

I just wanted to let you know I was thinking of you and Tracie. I heard the news of you leaving and from my personal observation you have been Spokane's best Chief in 50 years. Politics pisses me off, but you leave with your integrity and reputation intact. Job well done my friend.

—K.H.

Chief Meidl,

I was truly saddened to see that you will be retiring but can completely understand that 30 years is long enough to put up with those who do not want to follow rules and politicians and members of the public who think they know all the answers. I wish you only the best in the future. Thanks for your service.

—D.B.

Chief Meidl,

Outstanding interview on KHQ. Loved the golf mention! Thank you for all you've done for this community. Your steady, levelheaded leadership will be sorely missed.

—D.C.

Chief Meidl,

Congratulations on your retirement, the City is truly going to miss your leadership. Well Deserved rest. Sir... take care of yourself.

—P.W.

Chief,

If you're wondering why you haven't heard much back from the community (yet)—on your decision to retire—it's because everyone in the City is in disbelief! You want to witness real 'shock and uhh?' "Meidl's leaving, huh?" ... is most likely a common lament in and outside the department; many more (internal) tears of regret are being shed at our loss than you can imagine.

—H.B.

Chief,

Saw the news. Sorry to hear this. You have always been a huge asset to Spokane, and I appreciate all you have done for the community.

—S.B.

Craig [Chief Craig Meidl],

Hope you are doing okay today. Keeping you in positive thoughts and prayers. You did good Craig for the Spokane community. Your legacy will never be forgotten. I believe you were Chief during some of the darkest days that Spokane has ever seen. Yet you endured. Cheers. Hail to the Chief.

—C.E.

Craig [Chief Meidl],

Just wanted to take a moment to appreciate you and thank you for everything!!! You are a man that I will always respect and look up to...as a husband, father, friend, and leader. You are among the best of the best my dear friend. God Bless today and always!

—M.H.

Chief Meidl,

Thank you for all you have done for the city over the past 30 years. As Nadine said, "bitter/sweet". Hopefully, you and your bride will land in a spot that is less stressful but meaningful. You have waaaay too much to offer to retire. As my wife's dad said, "you were not put on this earth to take up space". Blessings to you and yours.

—B.S.

Chief,

I saw your announcement regarding your resignation. I'm sure you're overwhelmed with messages but I wanted to let you know, from across the border in Idaho, you've done an excellent job in one of the most contentious times we've seen in law enforcement. Having grown up in Spokane, I've seen the city change a lot and you have been one of the best Chiefs of Police to serve in that role. Thank you for your service. It is a thankless job in that community a lot of times. The ever-changing political environment across the state was enough to push me to a new community entirely to serve and abandon my goals to work for SPD years ago. You stuck it out and have done a great job for the city. You balanced the needs of the community, all while treating my friends who still work throughout the ranks of SPD well and have also been able to take care of them and meet also meet their needs. That's a delicate balance and a great legacy to leave. SPD has always had a great reputation as a law enforcement agency despite the changing culture. I hope that does not diminish with whoever is next at the helm. We may not be citizens of Spokane anymore, but it still is our hometown. In the end, congratulations on your retirement and an incredibly successful career. Good luck on the next chapter and thank you for your service over the years!

—J.I.

Chief Meidl,

Thank you for your service to our community! I loved working with you and Tracie all of these years!

—L. No Last Name given.

Chief Meidl,

I am saddened to learn of your departure (but understand it). Please know I have appreciated every single sacrifice you and your family has made to better our city. Your efforts have been outstanding. Thank you.

—Name Withheld

Dear Chief Meidl,

I saw the news related to you stepping away from the SPD Chief position and was moved and impressed by your eloquent and discerning letter. I simply want to extend my profound admiration, gratitude, and thanks for your excellent service and leadership through some very challenging times for our community, society, and nation. I hope that you are able to carve out some time and space for a well-deserved sabbatical and renewal. Know that I will certainly continue to keep you and all of SPD in my thoughts and prayers. Be well, and my very best to you and yours.

—M.H.

Craig [Chief Meidl],

Remember good times in the booking area. You're a truly great person. Wish you well.

—L.Z.

Good morning, Chief,

I was saddened to hear that you are retiring. That will be a huge loss to the city of Spokane. You will be missed by many. I wish you the best in whatever you choose to do in the future. Best wishes for you, Tracie, and your family... may God bless you all!

—D.R.

Chief Meidl,

Your team was great and responsive. I'm still processing and a little shook up about my family's safety, but I know I'm in good hands.

—Name Withheld

Hello, Craig [Chief Meidl],

Say it ain't so! I know it is bittersweet, but timing is everything. There is so much life in store for you. Congratulations!!

—J.H.

Chief Meidl,

I'm thinking of you with the retirement news. I have really enjoyed working with you and will greatly miss you. I know how hard you work and committed you are to our City - I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with you in Spokane and wish you all the best on your well-earned retirement.

—V.W.

[Chief Meidl]

Good evening, Sir! Just wanted to tell you that the Spokane Community was very blessed to have you as our Chief and I can't wait to see what God has in store for you and your family my friend!

—T.W.

Chief,

I want to share with you how proud I am of you! You are a man of integrity and honor. Well done! I'm excited for you and your next chapter. I pray God bless all you set your hand to do. You have many friends and supporters and I'm one of them.

—M.C.

Chief and Captain Meidl,

I am a bit sad, but very happy to thank you and your family for your unstinting steady service for so many years. Your steady hand, and growth as Leaders have steadied and helped us evolve. I am 79 and retired at age 55 after 30 years and found a full happy life as a Volunteer Chef for the homeless and a Crisis line Volunteer. You both have a second half of your adult life awaiting.... I pray and Trust you will take a break and find a great new path.

—J.O.

Chief Meidl,

Congrats!!! Thank you. You will be missed.

—J.G.

Craig [Chief Meidl],

My wife and I want to say thank you for your service to us and the city of Spokane. You are a great leader and representative of the Spokane Police department. We wish you the very best in the next chapter in your life and the time that you will now be able to spend with your family. Whatever path you take we know that you will do well.

—G.R.

Chief Meidl,

I just heard that you have submitted your resignation. I am sorry this needed to happen, but I understand. I want you to know that I believe you are an honorable person and that I appreciated working with you. I also believe that you truly operated from a place of what you believed was the best thing for Spokane. Thank you for your service. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors, whatever those might be!

—D.L.

Dear Chief Meidl:

I am so disappointed to hear that you are resigning. I want to wish you and your wife the best days going forward. It was a joy to see you at the Christ Kitchen luncheon and to have your wife be the main speaker. God bless you both. There are lots of opportunities after retirement and know with God's help you will come out stronger than ever. I took up quilting and my husband does woodworking. Thank you for all your years of service.

—J.W.

Hi Craig [Chief Meidl].

Just read the press release. I am sorry to see you go. We will miss your leadership. I wish you and your family all the best. It's been an honor to work with you.

—F.V.

Chief Meidl,

It breaks my heart to hear that you will be leaving. You have been such a blessing to me and our city, and I am so thankful for you. I know it's been tougher, especially the last few years, but I also know that God has been leading you through it all. I pray that your next adventure is full of blessing and the joy of Christ in service to Him. Thank you again for all your work for our city. You will continue to be in my prayers.

—J.S.

Chief Meidl,

Sir, Thank you for your time and example of being a truly compassionate leader in our Spokane. Lori and I wish you & Tracie the very best in your next endeavor. Stay in touch and know we are here if you need us.

—R.O.

Chief Meidl (my brother in baldness),

I just wanted to take a minute to first say thank you for your 7 years as chief and nearly 30 years of serving our community. Personally, I'm bummed that you're resigning because I know you're a stand-up guy, a great leader and really fun to be around. Whatever you decide for your next chapter, I hope it's fulfilling and far less stressful for you and Tracie! You deserve it.

—D.D.

Chief Meidl,

It's been a pleasure having you on the board and working with you. I hope retirement is good to you – the community will certainly miss you and your leadership.

—B.L.

Captain Meidl,

Hi! Hope you're doing well. I just read where Craig is retiring. Please extend my congratulations on a great career. He and you have navigated some difficult police situations and political challenges over time and have done so with professionalism and integrity.

—B.P.

Morning Chief,

Looks like your journey continues! I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for all the valued conversations that we have shared. It has been a pleasure getting to know the man behind the badge. Because at the end of the day, we are all in this thing together. Whatever lane you find yourself in, just know that you will always have my support because I believe in your spirit and your spirit is where it's supposed to be in this time and space. If it's ok, I'd like to stay in touch during this journey.

—C.H.

Chief Meidl,

I just read your resignation. It just breaks my heart. Please give me a call. I just need to speak with you. Know that we love you and we still pray for you all the time.

—V.M.

*My name is [Name withheld]. I live in ID. I'm sorry that **Chief Craig Meidl** is stepping down. I think he did wonderful things for the City of Spokane and trying to keep the crime down and arresting people who need to be arrested. Let him know the people in Idaho appreciate what he's done because we go over there too and shop and so on. I hope God blesses him.*

—V.D.

*I just saw the news that **Chief** is resigning at the end of the year, and I am so sad. I just feel like Craig and Tracie and the Police have kept us as safe as possible.*

—G.M.

Hey Craig [Chief Meidl],

I wanted to wish you the best on the upcoming retirement, but if I'm honest it really sucks your leaving. I was looking forward to working with you, I don't know you well, but the few times we have talked, I could tell you were sincere and a solid leader who really cares about his people and city. I wish you the best in the next chapter.

—R.D.

Chief Meidl,

When I heard that you had tendered your resignation, I was sad but completely understood. I genuinely appreciate how welcoming you were and all your efforts to assist me. I know I speak for my whole family and for the citizens that you have served for the 30 years of your career here in Spokane when I say you have been an incredible blessing. Your service to our community improved the city and helped every citizen to thrive in ways they may not have without your devotion to, and commitment to, the city that you have endeavored to keep safe over the years. You have created a legacy that we hope will be nurtured and advanced. I thank you for your dedication and concerns regarding the people of Spokane and their safety and well-being. It was wonderful working with you. My family and I wish you the very best in wherever, and to whatever new adventure, God has planned for you. Good luck on your journey. Thank you again, Chief Meidl, for being you. May God bless you and your family always.

—T.T.

Chief,

I have seen many Chiefs and Sheriff's come and go. I have to say you are the best leader I have ever been around! I feel a deep sense of loss for your troops and for all of Spokane. I wish all the best for the next chapter of your life.

—T.H.

Good morning, **Chief.**

It's been a while since we connected. I wanted to say it's been a pleasure to know you and thank you for all you have done for the City of Spokane and also in working with Cheney. You will be missed, no doubt.

—J.W.

Chief Meidl's retirement is an enormous loss to the community. He has been a leader in the right direction for Spokane.

—D.S.

*I have been following all the news regarding **Chief Meidl**, and I must say he's been such a class act! But I suspect you already knew that...*

—S.J.

Congratulations **Chief.**

So happy for you on your upcoming retirement. I believe your leadership and service to your department and to our community is the best Spokane has ever had. It has been a pleasure working with you and getting to know you over the last 25 years. Best of luck on your future endeavors.

—D.H.

Dear Police **Chief Meidl,**

We so appreciate everything you have done for our city police department. Your leadership and direction has been extremely valuable and respected by your community. I believe I can speak for my friends and family. I pray that the new administration treats our police department with the respect it deserves. Thank you for your efforts and commitment to making Spokane a better livable place.

—A.W.

Sergeant Beau Brannon,

Just wanted to say that you guys did a great job and your team's reports / warrants are on point. We got him detained today on the federal charges. Just wanted to say great work!

—C.L.

*I just got off the phone with [Name Withheld]. He is in town to handle his daughter's estate. His daughter committed suicide. **Officer Alex Baxter** was the lead on the case and completed the case report. After reviewing the case, Alex's report was clear, and his scene observations were well documented. I was pleased with the way he handled the case. When I spoke with the father (on 2 different occasions) he told me three different times how thankful he was for Officer Baxter and how much he helped the family. He stated everyone from SPD to the Medical Examiner's Office has been great but made it a point to single out Alex. I don't know what Alex helped the family with, but I know it must have been above and beyond for his name to stay fresh in their minds after such an unspeakable tragedy.*

—F.G.

*We appreciated **Sergeant [Chris] McMurtrey** checking in. SPD handled the situation professionally and appropriately. We are grateful for your dedication in keeping our community safe.*

—C.M.

Good Afternoon Chief,

*I run Adam Sandler's security. I wanted to send you a quick note expressing my gratitude to your officers during our recent visit. I am retired Law Enforcement from the NYPD and have worked with countless dignitary units around the world. Your officers would rank amongst the top teams I have worked with. They're true professionals. If you wouldn't mind sending your email address, I would be happy to send you a formal email. The officers on the detail are listed below. [**Sergeant Jason Uberuaga, Sergeant Chris Bode, Sergeant Steve Perry, Detective Bruce Palmer, Detective Ben Green, and Officer Mikayla Holmes.**]*

—D.M.

This message is from the husband saying how grateful and appreciative he was for the very quick response. He said they did a fantastic job helping his wife and were very professional and doing a great job.

—D.F.

*Congratulations are in order for Peter Van Akin, Andi Duggan, and the amazing DV team that assisted in this trial! This was Peter's case and involved a defendant with a lengthy and violent history in Spokane. The assigned detective was **Dave Dunkin** and an integral patrol officer was **Austin Neale**. Special thanks to SPD Det. Dunkin for sitting with counsel during trial and offering his much-needed input in jury selection as well as witness questioning. He performed exceptionally well on the stand and provided valuable testimony about the domestic violence paradigm as well as specifics about this case. Many hours and emails were exchanged about follow up and jail phone calls in this case. Tireless efforts brought forth great results. The team in this case did a fantastic job of educating the jury on the nuances of the case and also presenting the evidence in an impactful way. The testimony of Det. Dunkin especially was critical. Our city is safer for their efforts, and we are so very thankful for their contributions.*

—P.M.

*I'm wondering if you can relay a message to Lt. **[Steve] Braun**. He pulled me over back in July and said something to me. Just tell him, he put out a fire in me. I'm coming up on 60 days clean and*

sober. I have to say that without him, I would never have done it. Please let him know thank you for what he said to me.

—D.J.

Hi Sgt. Fuller,

I wanted to pass along my appreciation for **Officer Xenon Berkeley's** response to a pretty convoluted collision investigation in Stevens County last Tuesday. He called me to get an appraisal of the situation and I mentioned our suspect was hearing impaired. To my delight, Xenon told me he had some experience with ASL [American Sign Language] and could work through it. As this was a vehicular assault case, his expertise was now even more invaluable. When my dispatch called him off due to another DRE [Drug Recognition Expert] being closer, I countermanded that and requested him specifically. He did not hesitate to get back enroute and met my Trooper in Deer Park to speed up the process. This investigation comprised of two separate collisions miles apart where 4 out of the 5 Troopers assigned to it were called from home, including me. Xenon was the one bonus in an otherwise debacle. I want to thank him and your department for helping us out. Great work!

—M.F.

SPD Chaplains,

Thank you so much for all you have done to make this time easier for us. [In response to a death.]

—P.P.

I just wanted to thank you again for your amazing check donation to Cancer Can't today! This money is going to go a long way in helping cancer patients in our community. We truly appreciate your support and look forward to working with you again next year! Happy Holidays!

—E.G.

Chief Meidl,

Thank you, sir, for a great job with our police force. Sorry to hear you are leaving. Wishing the best for your future. Thanks again for a great job.

—M.O.

Chief Meidl,

Thank you for all you have done, under very difficult circumstances.

—C.P.

I am a volunteer at Teen & Kid Closet and today I met and worked alongside **SPD Officers Jen Kerns and Micah Prim** at Teen & Kid Closet during the SPD Adopt A Family shopping time. It was an amazing and encouraging time for me. First of all, the gratitude of the families that came was over the top! While there were a few things that TKC wasn't able to provide—primarily snow boots/pants, no one complained! Every parent was so thankful as they shopped for their children. Secondly, the experience of working with these two officers was the best! Their interactions with the families were genuine and heartfelt. They addressed them by name, knew their children and encouraged them as parents/grandparents of the children that they shopped. They asked them about delivery times for the gifts, accommodating the challenging lives of those who care for these children. It was abundantly clear that their work as NROs wasn't just a job to them, but a passion. I am happy to say that all 48 children who were referred received clothing/shoes from TKC. Parents of 42 of the children shopped for their kiddos. Parents of six of the children were not able to come and shop, but I had the privilege of shopping for those six children. It is hard to shop for children that you have never met—but Micah and Jen knew all of these six children very well and helped me to picture them and shop for them in the best way. Thanks to you and your team that made this happen!

—E.P.

*I want to say thank you to all the officers who responded to a call, especially **Officer Arthur Paine**, and **Corporal Ron Van Tassel** and also **Chaplain Kevin Piatt**. Our great niece died of an overdose in her home when she refused to receive follow up observation care at the hospital. Her memorial was last Saturday so I was able to speak to her parents. They are so thankful to everyone who responded to help her and to assist them with any needs. The team was professional and compassionate in answering their questions and standing by their side. Thank you, Kevin, for being there with them on one of the worst days of their lives. They were grateful for your attentiveness to them and your calm manner.*

—S.A.

*He was very appreciative in the message he left. The officers on the call were **Officers Whitney Hagan, Anthony Inman, and Jesse Molina**.*

—C.R.

Chaplains,

On behalf of Cancer Can't and the patients we serve, we want to thank you so much for taking the time to sell and purchase badges to support cancer patients in Spokane. The \$3500 is going to go a very long way in helping many patients. We truly appreciate your support!

—E.G.

*Thank you so much **Lieutenant [Steve] Braun!** You are amazing! So kind, engaging, considerate, and silly. Thank you! We would love for you to come in monthly. Thank you again! Please stay safe!*

—T.N.

*I am emailing to express our gratitude for the officers who responded to a trespassing incident. Both officers I spoke to, **Jackson Henry** and **Michael Brunner** were very polite, calm, and professional. They responded promptly and handled the situation with ease. We greatly appreciate them and their assistance that day, and their service.*

—M.B.

I'm hoping I'll get to work more with SPD. I always learned something while reporting with your officers. I remain a loyal, consistent fan of their work!

—J.H.

*When my sister was found deceased, it was then that I met two Spokane Police officers, a support services officer, and **Amy Ballard**, a Spokane Police Chaplain. Until then, I had never experienced the process that comes into play when a death occurs at a private residence; nor had I realized the full scope of support services Spokane has in place for this type of situation. The police officers were compassionate, respectful, and supportive, and dealt directly with the medical examiner to expedite the process of removing my sister's body from the apartment and ensuring all prescriptions were removed. Although I can't remember the support services officers' name, I certainly felt her presence on site. I imagine under similar circumstances, many families are in shock, at a loss, and in need of these various levels of supportive service. Although my sister had no religious affiliation, Amy Ballard and I briefly discussed her delivering the eulogy at the service. **Chaplain Mickey Tuter** was available and willing to work with us. He stepped up and provided us a heartfelt eulogy that was both accurate and memorable. I can't thank Amy, Mickey, and the Spokane Police Chaplain's Office enough for taking this burden off us.*

—J.W.

