



**SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
**CRAIG N. MEIDL**

---

**Office of Professional Accountability**  
August 2016 Report

**Public Safety Committee Briefing**  
**August 15, 2016**





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

My name is Pastor Shon L. Davis and I am the senior pastor of Jesus Is the Answer City Church. I am writing this letter to express my appreciation and thankfulness for your voluntary donation towards the recovery of our loss and property damage incurred by the recent burglary of our church. I understand that the investigation of identifying the person responsible for the burglary has not been successful. Our church has had to replace several items that were taken, petty cash, and the repair costs of several doors that were broken into. **Detective Bob Mosman** took it upon himself to make a request from the Police Guild Department to help assist with the recovery of the church's loss. Though it is neither the police department's responsibility nor obligation to pay out on victims of crimes, the Guild agreed it would be the right thing to do as a show of a police department that cares for the citizens of its city. Given the current climate of hostility and mistrust between law enforcement and communities of color, knowing that we all tend to paint police as well as citizens with a broad brush, I personally, as an African American pastor and 21 year citizen of the Spokane community, would like to recognize, highlight, and appreciate the intentional efforts that Spokane Police Department is and has been doing to bridge the gap and build that trust and legitimacy between police and community. On behalf of Jesus Is the Answer City Church and the Faith Community, I would like to say thank you to Detective Mosman and the Spokane Police Guild for your in-kind donation and show of support for all citizens of Spokane. [The Guild donated to three churches that were recently burglarized.]

*-Pastor Shon L. Davis*

With this letter I would like to commend and thank **Officer Paul Watson**. My car sputtered to a stop on Maple Street Bridge, and I was stranded. Officer Watson parked behind me to avoid someone crashing into me, came to my car and listened to what happened, and advised me to stay in my car with my seat belt on. He assisted me with getting a tow truck on its way as quickly as possible. Officer Watson stayed with me until the tow truck arrived, almost 45 minutes. He was so calm, so reassuring, and so patient with me even though I was upset. His demeanor and instruction were top notch. That day he was a hero to me.

*- Sue Frasier*

**Officer Yeshua Matthew** responded to Rogers High School in response to a request for assistance from our Campus Resource Officer, Jim Brewer. Officer Brewer was investigating a Domestic Violence incident involving two students. Officer Matthew was gracious enough to take the lead on the investigation after collaborating with Officer Brewer. Officer Brewer later commented that it was such a pleasure to work with Officer Matthew and how professional and thorough he was. I would like to commend Officer Matthew for a job well done and for the manner in which he interacted with Officer Brewer. Not often enough is acknowledgement given to collaborative efforts among agencies.

*-Scott Mullennix, Campus Safety Supervisor, Spokane Public Schools*





**SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
**CRAIG N. MEIDL**

**Internal Affairs Unit Update**

January 1 through July 31, 2016 Complaints

Complaints Received:

**Total: 55**

**Closed Out as Inquiries:\* 17**

\*As of August 8, 2016.

An inquiry is an initial complaint about employee conduct which, even if true, would not qualify as a personnel complaint and may be handled informally by a department supervisor and shall not be considered complaints.

**Most Recently Closed out As Inquiries**

- C16-048: The complainant advised that he has bipolar disorder and was suffering a manic episode at the time he was arrested. He alleged that officers denied him his medication. The Internal Affairs lieutenant studied the complaint and the arrest, and spoke to the complainant. He explained to the complainant that state law dictates that officers make mandatory custodial arrests for Domestic Violence assaults, even if the person is dealing with mental illness. The complainant stated that he was satisfied and understood the position the officers were in. Note: OPO Logue, upon reviewing body camera footage from the incident, did not find a time that the complainant asked for medication and conversely found that the individual said he had taken his medication. He also said that officer interactions were calm throughout.

**Source of 2016 Complaints\***

\*Note: Sometimes a citizen will report a complaint in multiple places, in those cases the place where the complaint was first reported is noted.

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 21</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 34</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 9</b>

**Categories of Complaints\*\***

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1 and July 31, 2016. \*\*Note: Some investigations involve multiple allegations.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

Allegation	Number
Abuse of Authority	2
Assault	2
Conduct Unbecoming	3
Crime: Rendering Criminal Assistance and Obstruction	1
Demeanor	19
Discrimination	1
Driving Complaint	1
Excessive Force	7
Failure to Complete Report	2
False Arrest	1
False Reporting	1
False Statements	2
Harassment	3
Insubordination	1
Inadequate Response	16
Policy Violation	4
Racial Bias	2
Threat	1
Unlawful Entry	2
Unlawful/Improper Search	2
Untruthfulness	1

#### Disposition Definitions

- **Unfounded** - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve department personnel.
- **Exonerated** - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.
- **Not Sustained** - When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the employee.
- **Sustained** - When the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted misconduct.
- **Training Failure** - Deficiency in training was the cause of the alleged act.
- **Closed Due to Mediation** - Is an alternative to the investigation, adjudication and disciplinary process
- **Administratively Suspended-** A complaint that is closed because the investigation is unable to proceed any further due to circumstances outside the control of the investigator (i.e., Involved officer quits/retires, complainant does not cooperate with the investigation, complaint involves the elements of a crime and investigation could jeopardize prosecution, investigative leads are exhausted and no evidence of wrongdoing was uncovered, etc.)





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Use of Force

#### **SPD Use of Force Information: 2014-first six months of 2016**

##### **Non-Deadly Use of Force**

2014 First Six months: 59 incidents

2014 Year Total: 114 incidents

Force to Arrest Ratio: 9,255 arrests; Reportable non-deadly use of force was used in .01% of arrests.

2015 First Six months: 56 incidents

2015 Year Total: 117 incidents

Force to Arrest Ratio: 11,899 arrests; Reportable non-deadly use of force was used in .01% of arrests.

2016 First Six months: 55 incidents

2016 Year Total: not available

Context: Arrest totals for 2016 not available until February 2017

There is not a statistically significant difference between the total non-deadly use of force incidents per year from 2014-2016.

Note: In 2016, SPD policies were revised to include new categories of reportable force. If officers operated under the original policy in effect during 2014 and 2015, the total incidents for the first six months of 2016 would have been 43.

##### **Deadly Force**

2014 Year Total: 4 incidents

Force to Arrest Ratio: 9,255 arrests; Deadly use of force was used in .0004% of arrests.

2015 Year Total: 5 incidents

Force to Arrest Ratio: 11,899 arrests; Deadly use of force was used in .0004% of arrests.

2016 First Six months: 3 incidents

2016 Year Total: not available

Force to Arrest Ratio: Arrest totals for 2016 not available until February 2017

The force to arrest ratio stayed the same between 2014 and 2015. 2016 arrest data is not available.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through August 8, 2016)

##### 2015 Cases

##### **F15-039 (Status: Pending Deadly Force Review Board -DFRB)**

Incident 15-149064 took place May 6, 2015 at 5527 N Ash. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office finished their investigation. SPD Internal Affairs completed their review. The Deadly Force Review Board is scheduled for later this month.

##### **F15-061 (Status: Pending Administrative Review Panel)**

Incident 15-257577 took place July 27 2015 at 4120 N. Division. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office finished their investigation. SPD Internal Affairs completed their review. The case is with the Administrative Review Panel.

##### **F15-067 (Status: Under SPD Investigation)**

Incident 15-274070 took place August 8, 2015 at 616 E. Sanson. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office completed their investigation. SPD has begun the internal Investigation.

##### **F15-096 (Status: Pending Deadly Force Review Board -DFRB)**

Incident 15-359223 took place October 12, 2015, at 4118 E. Longfellow St. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office finished their investigation. The prosecutor announced a decision June 1, 2016. SPD has completed the internal investigation; the next step is the Deadly Force Review Board.

##### **F15-102 (Status: Under SPD Investigation)**

Incident 15-392381 took place November 7, 2015 at Division and Olive. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office completed their investigation. SPD has begun the administrative investigation.

##### 2016 cases

##### **F16-039 (Under SIRR Investigation)**

Incident 16-151075 took place April 28, 2016 at the intersection of Pacific and State. The SIRR team is investigating.

##### **F16-040 (Under SIRR Investigation)**

Incident 16-154017 took place May 1, 2016 at the intersection of Division and Main. The SIRR team is investigating.

##### **F16-041 (Under SPD Investigation; Pending Prosecutor Decision)**

Incident 16-155667 took place May 2, 2016 at 2701 W. Sunset Avenue. The SIRR team completed the criminal investigation. SPD has begun the administrative investigation.



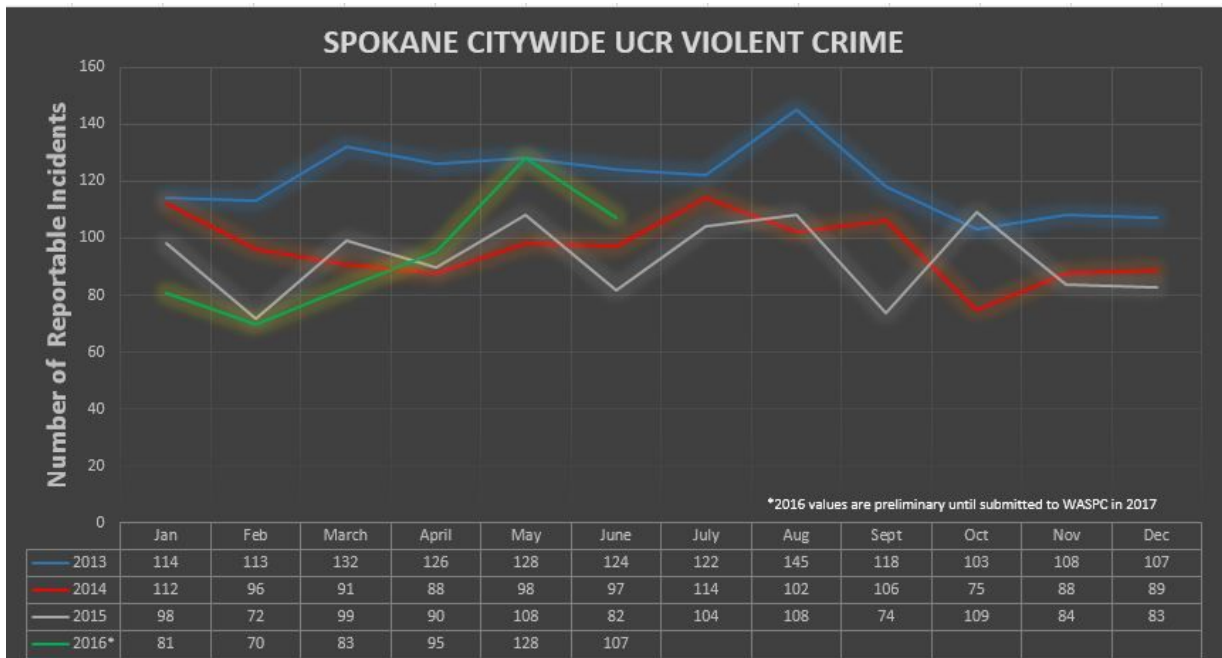
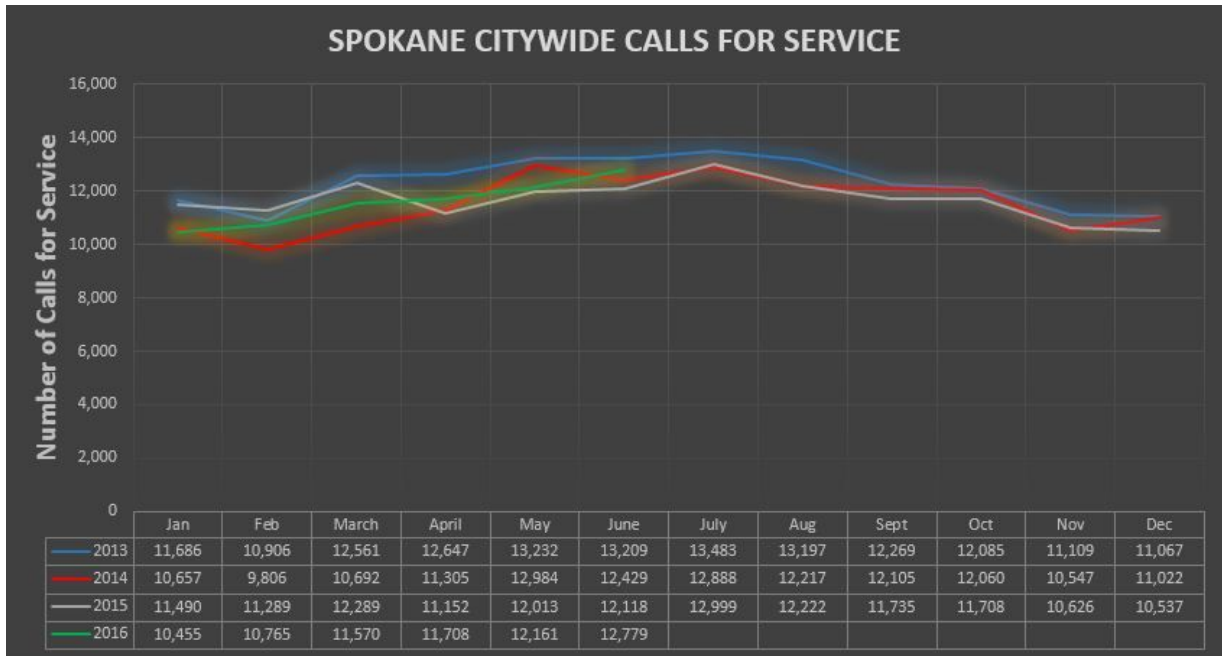


# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Calls for Service and Crime Rates

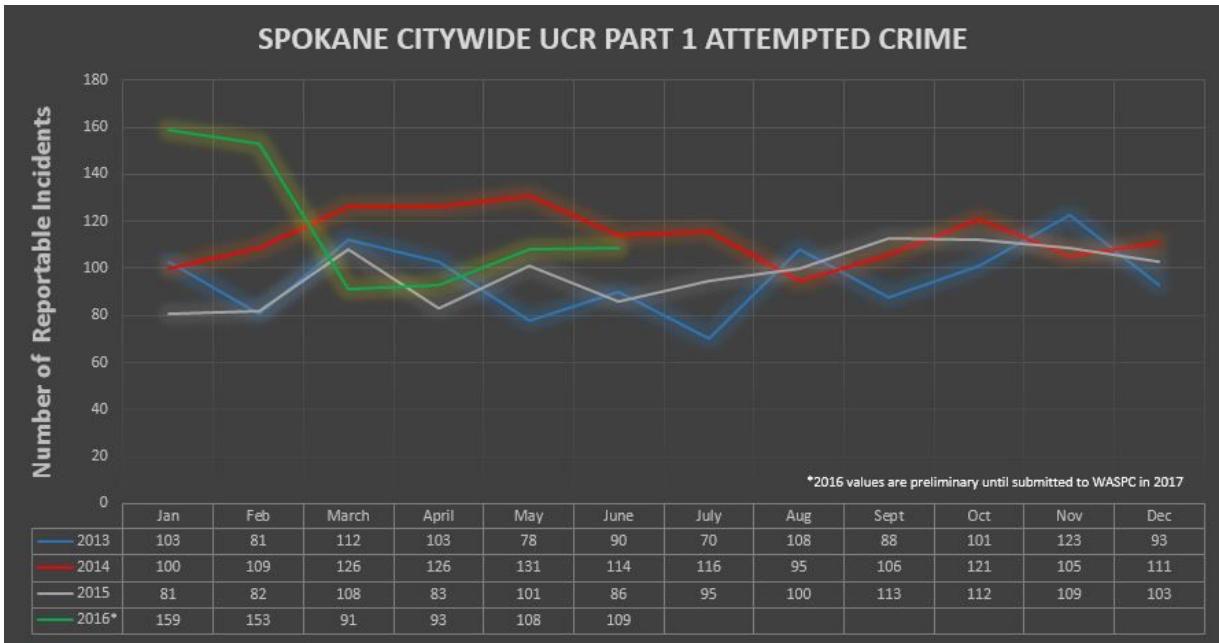
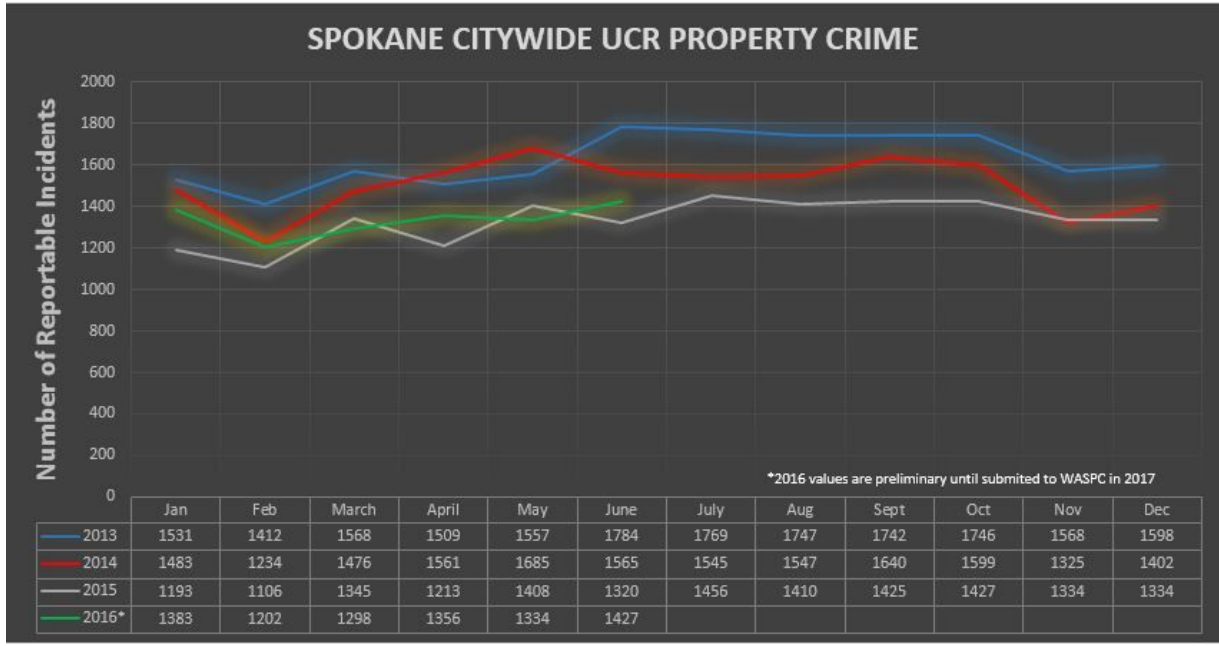




# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL



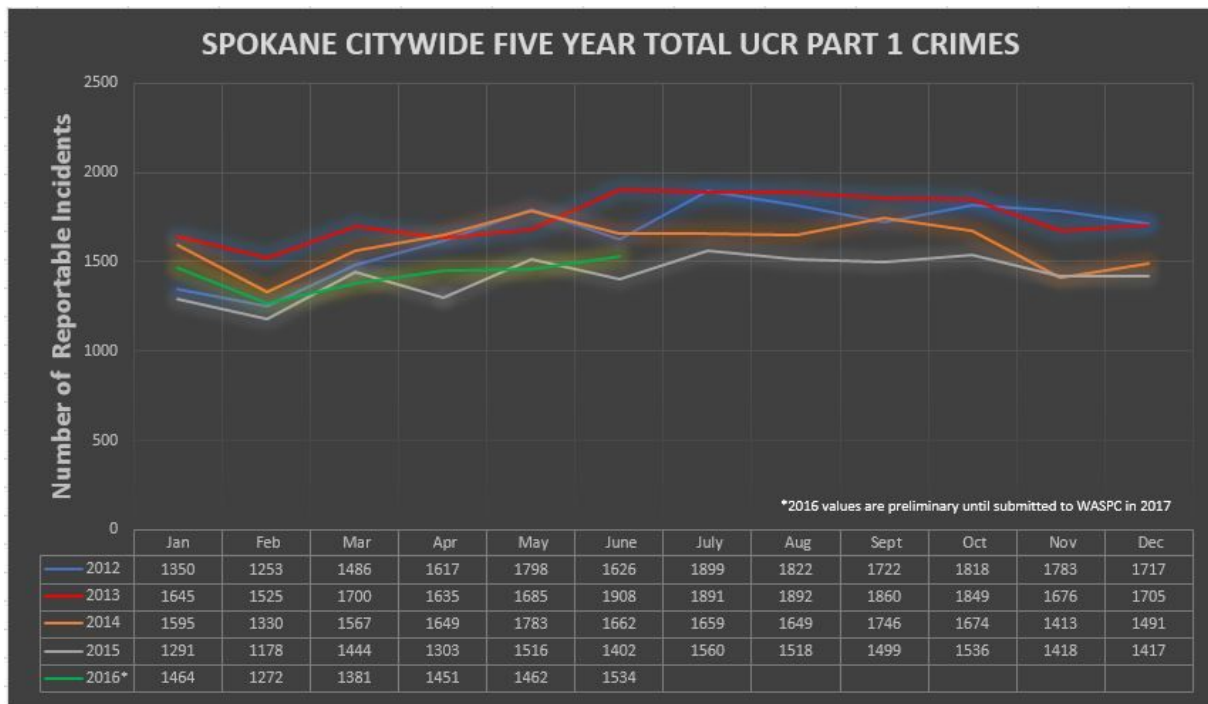
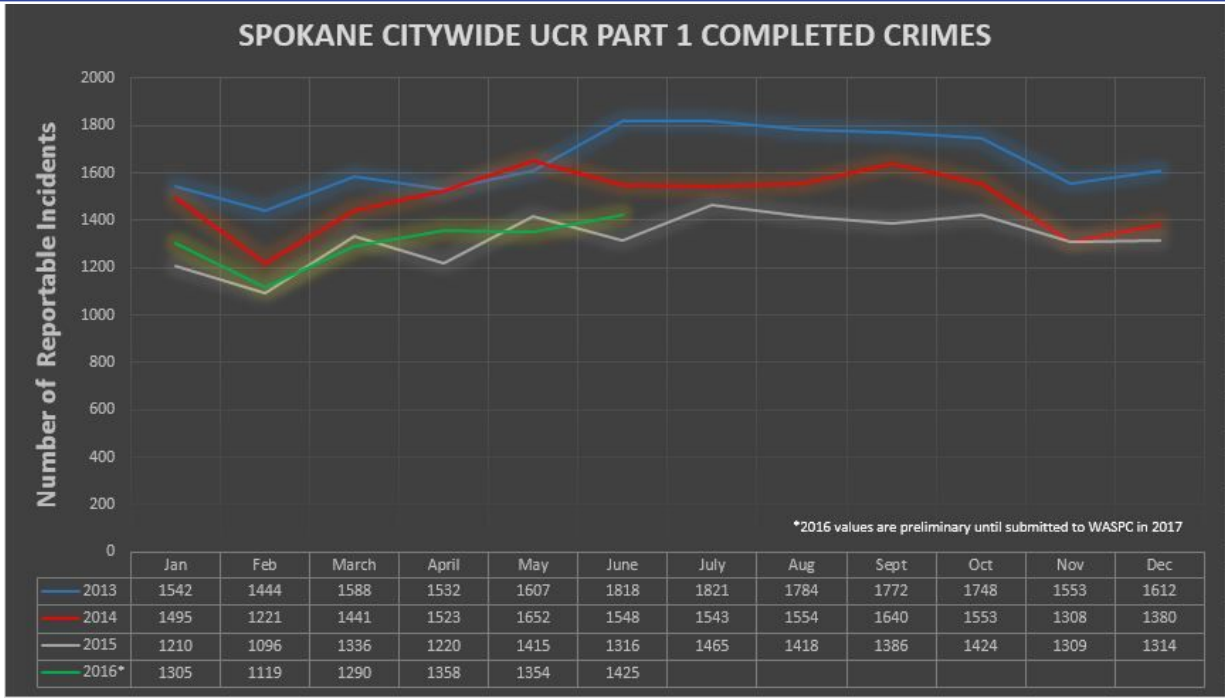




# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL



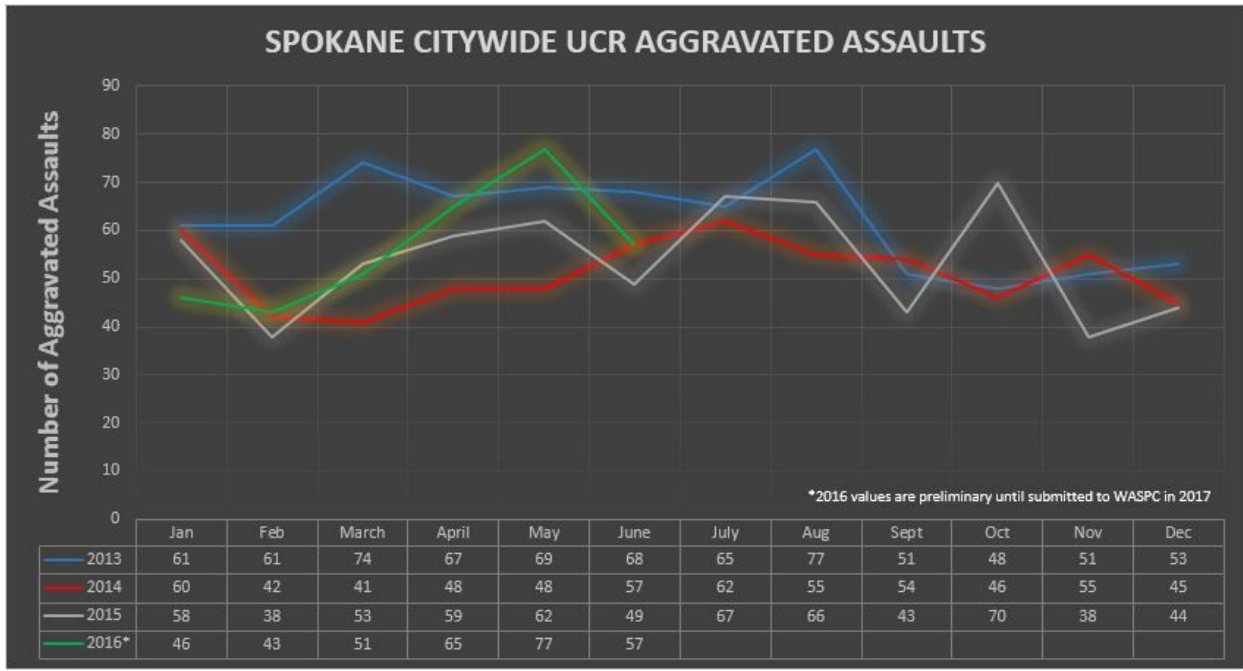


# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

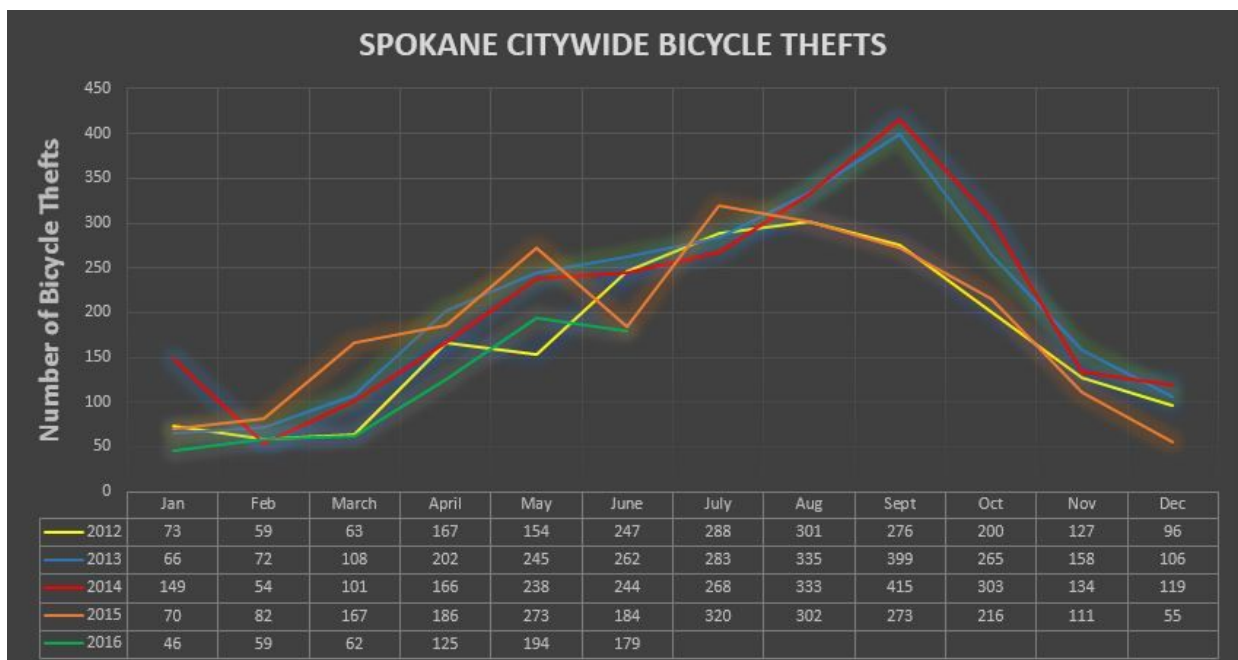
## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Aggravated Assaults



#### Bicycle Theft and Recovery Update

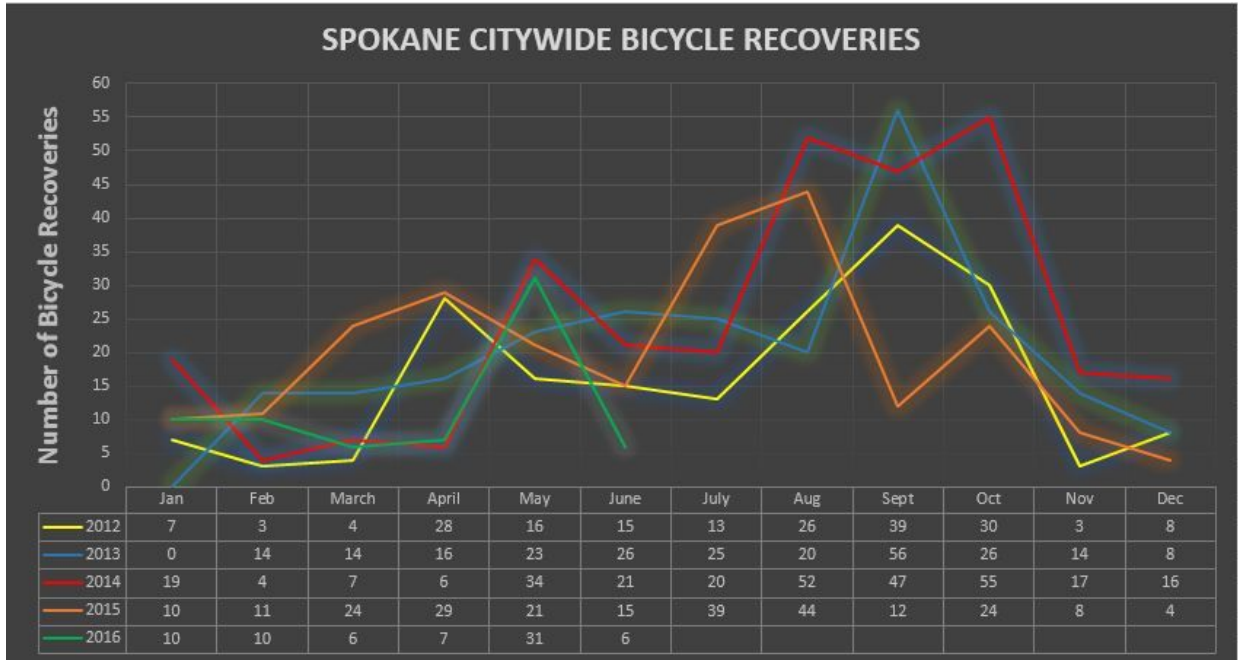




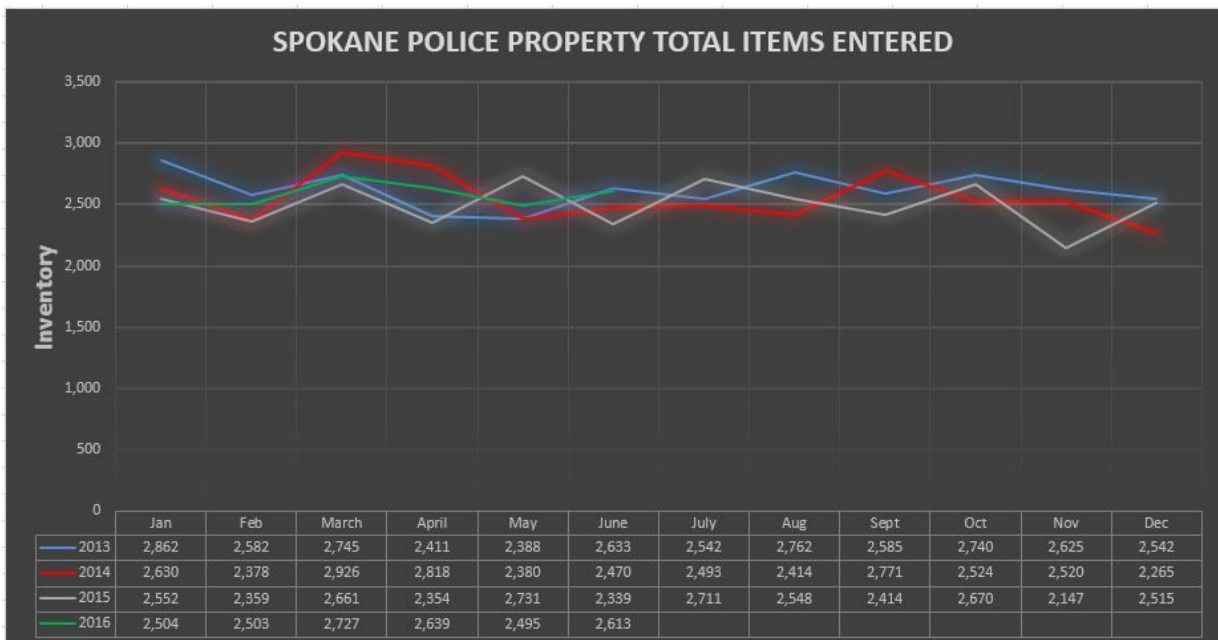
# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL



### Property Unit Update





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Records Unit Update

##### Public Record Disclosures as of 08/03/2016

Oldest request not completed:	09/18/2015
New requests received between 07/11-7/31:	977 records/390 requestors
Total requests started but not complete:*	1365 pending records
*(149 of the requests are very large and the requestors have been provided with an extended completion date.)	
Total requests received this week not yet processed:	124 (oldest date 7/28/2016)
Requests for body camera video:	318**

\*\*One of the requests is for all body camera videos. This request is being provided in installments.

#### Outreach Updates

##### **New Level I and Level II Citizens Academy**

Due to demand, SPD will be holding another Citizens Academy this fall, the second in 2016. A BRAND NEW Level II version of the Citizen's Academy will start October 13th, 2016. Graduates of previous Level I Citizen's Academies helped shape the idea and the curriculum for this new level through their input and desire to learn more about SPD. It will start October 13th, 2016 and take place every Thursday from 6-9:00pm until November 10th.

The Level II Citizen's Academy provides participating community members with an even more in-depth look inside SPD after completing the Level I Citizen's Academy. During Level II, students are introduced to additional police training, facilities, mock police scenarios, and more. Like the Level I Citizen's Academy, the Level II Citizen's Academy will culminate with a graduation ceremony where students will be awarded certificates of completion. This academy was created after feedback from Level I graduates who wanted to learn even more about their Spokane Police Department.

Classes are held at the Spokane Police Academy, located at 2302 N. Waterworks St, Spokane, WA 99212. Sign up by contacting Courtney Shearer at [CShearer@spokanepolice.org](mailto:CShearer@spokanepolice.org) or by calling (509) 742-8100.

##### **Police Activities League (PAL)**

The Police Activities League (PAL) doubled its reach again this summer, serving over 300 kids. In 2015, the program had tripled its reach when it expanded to three neighborhoods, reaching approximately 150 youth.

Spokane Public Schools' STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities have been a big hit. Officers and other community leaders assist kids in learning activities, such as electrical circuits, physics demonstrations, and building structures. Please see photos of learning below.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL



Officer Matt works with youth at Liberty Park.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL



Officer M. Stewart and team learn about physics.

### **#SpokaneStrong Neighborhood Safety Outreach Campaign**

In an effort to continue crime prevention efforts throughout our community, and to continue the momentum from Spokane's National Night Out Against Crime, the City of Spokane is partnering with Spokane C.O.P.S. to launch the #SpokaneStrong Neighborhood Safety outreach campaign.

Volunteers can sign-up via Volunteer Spokane at <http://www.volunteerspokane.org/SpokaneStrong> to go door-to-door getting to know their neighbors and help distribute information on safety tips (provided by the Spokane Police and Fire Departments), important neighborhood resources and ways to get involved in neighborhood safety efforts. When signing up on Volunteer Spokane, volunteers will be able to watch an introductory video, view instructions and find details on how to get started.

"Partnering with our community through volunteers and great partners like Spokane C.O.P.S who work hand-in-hand with law enforcement help us all reach our common goal - a beautiful, vibrant and safe city to live, work and play in," says Spokane Police Chief Craig Meidl. The goal of the #SpokaneStrong Neighborhood Safety Outreach Campaign is to establish a neighborhood safety prevention mindset. Neighborhood safety takes a community effort and helps the efforts of our first responders.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Implementation of DOJ Recommendations: Progress Report as of August 8, 2016

Recommendation	Action	SPD Progress	
4.1	Train officers on use of force reporting	Officers trained through report-writing class, In-service, and Force Options re-cert. Supervisors also trained through the Sergeant Academy and Supervisor Training.	Completed
4.2	Officer-Involved Shootings should be classified as Use of Force Reports	Policy changed—IA supervisor does the UOF report. Also in practice	Completed
4.3	SIRR team should develop a common template for all deadly force incident files.	Template developed	Completed
4.4	SPD should develop a formal way to track the investigatory process and include this tracking sheet with every deadly force file.	Tracking sheet developed	Completed
4.5	All documentation from Use of force (UOF) files should be in one location and should be audited	All documentation files (including photos and body cam video) are in Blue Team and are audited	Completed
4.6	Participate in Culture Audit	SPD has a contract with Gonzaga University to conduct the research on this project. Doctoral students will begin research September 2016.	In Progress
4.7	Provide annual UOF report	Done on a mid-year and annual basis	Completed
4.6	Share UOF report with community	Shared on website, through email, and in presentations	Completed
4.9	Provide further analysis of UOF incidents with officers who have had more than 4 incidents per year	Analysis done for 2014 and 2015	Completed
5.1	SPD leadership should regularly meet with employees	Leadership has met with employees at every in-service of 2015 and 2016; also Vertical Advisory Committee was created.	Completed
5.2	Update promotional training requirements and develop mentoring	New Detective School, Sergeant Academy, and Corporal Academy; also mentors for new Sergeants and Detectives. Promotional training materials were developed.	Completed





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

5.3	Procedural Justice Training for all employees	All supervisors trained in Jan. 2016; SPD will host a Train the Trainer session later when available through COPS Office and will train the rest of employees	Completed
6.1	Formalize Early Intervention System process	Policy formed and EIS implemented	Completed
6.2	EIS should also track sustained complaints and completed training.	Policy includes those items	Completed
6.3	EIS triggering criteria should be four use of force incidents per officer per year.	Policy includes recommended threshold	Completed
6.4	SPD should establish both periodic and ad hoc procedures to update its policy manual annually.	Policy updated; audit scheduled this fall	Completed
6.5	Update Use of Force policy	UOF policies revised	Completed
7.1	Revise Training policy	Policy updated	Completed
7.2	Establish Training Plan Committee and develop annual plan	Training Plan Committee in place, along with Training Plan	Completed
7.3	Develop a data collection and evaluation capacity for training conducted throughout the department	Purchased and implemented Training software	Completed
7.4	Re-examine policies, procedures, and training on the use of the lateral neck restraint (LNR)	Policy revised; training increased	Completed
7.5	Update rifle policy	Rifle and firearms qualification policies revised	Completed
7.6	Institutionalize CIT training with CIT refresher	CIT refresher training implemented—200+ officers have had it; everyone takes it within two years of taking CIT	Completed
8.1	Begin the administrative investigation of critical incidents after the SIRR team completes its criminal investigation	Policy updated—also in practice. Also, SPD is releasing available body camera video and reports as soon as possible	Completed
8.2	Expand the scope of the ARP finding determinations to include officer tactics and decision-making and policy	Item has been initially discussed—will be explored during contract negotiations with the bargaining units.	In Progress







# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

	violations outside the use of force		
8.3	Update ARP policy	Initially discussed at labor management—policy can be updated after changes are negotiated in contract negotiation	In Progress
8.4	Create a system to track recommendations from IA complaints, pursuits, etc.	Tracking system created and in use	Completed
8.5	Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB) should be formally implemented and meet monthly	UOFRB in place; meets monthly	Completed
8.6	Include Ombudsman in the ARP for deadly force cases	This item requires a change in the contracts of both bargaining groups. Will be explored during contract negotiations.	In Progress
8.7	Re-assess purpose of the Deadly Force Review Board (DFRB)	New policy developed for DFRB	Completed
8.8	Formalize the new IA training requirements and guidelines in the department's policy manual	New Standard Operating Procedures for IA--communicated these changes to the department and community stakeholders.	Completed
9.1	OPO should formalize roles and responsibilities of the Ombudsman and Commission	This is an OPO recommendation. OPO Logue is almost done with a draft. He can provide the specifics.	In Progress
9.2	OPO should collaborate with SPD to leverage outreach	While this is an OPO recommendation, SPD has met with the OPO and provided outreach contacts.	In Progress
9.3	SPD should continue to integrate OPO into review mechanisms; OPO and OPOC should attend SPD training relevant to use of force	While this is an OPO recommendation, SPD has invited the OPO and OPOC to training. SPD has the OPO attend DFRB meetings and the OPO receives all the UOFRB meeting info along with the SPD Chief.	In Progress
9.4	OPO should increase awareness of its reports	CNA confirms the OPO office has increased awareness of its reports.	Completed
10.1	Develop Community Outreach Strategy	Developed the strategy in 2015; revised for 2016	Completed
10.2	Leverage existing or past outreach programs to increase active engagement with the community	Expanded youth outreach programs: PAL and YPI. Built on existing programs. Began monthly community forums. Continuing to expand outreach.	Completed
10.3	Hold a citizen's academy on	Done in 2015 and 2016. Also established the	Completed





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

	an annual basis	one-day Community Academy, done in 2015 and 2016.	
10.4	Chief's advisory council	SPD has the Police Advisory Committee and the Faith Alliance	Completed
10.5	Conduct staffing analysis	The Diagnostic Center is looking at SPD's operations and resource allocation for crime reduction and community policing. While we began working with the Diagnostic Center in early 2015, the demand for their services meant SPD's engagement didn't truly begin until 2016 and is still in progress. Etico Solutions' patrol staffing study is also in progress.	In Progress
10.6	SIRR should revise its media relations protocol for deadly force incident. In addition, SPD should continue to utilize and improve virtual and more traditional methods to maintain communications with interested community stakeholders after a critical incident.	All SIRR agencies are using a media template. If appropriate and when possible, SPD will reach out to community organizations whose clients or members are affected by the incident.	Completed
10.7	Routinely survey the community	SPD commissioned a city-wide survey in 2015. Also surveyed community organizations and partners, and did the CP-SAT survey. All outreach programs have surveys. SPD will continue to survey the community.	Completed

