



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Office of Professional Accountability
December 2016 Report

Public Safety Committee Briefing
December 12, 2016





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

I requested law enforcement response for two young men I worked with (clients) who wanted to report a serious crime committed against them. Our young adults here have often experienced significant trauma and have not always had positive experiences with law enforcement. Today we had two officers [**Officers Ryan Akins and Ben Maplethorpe**] come to interview the young men. They were both absolutely amazing. They listened, were respectful, and made both young men comfortable enough to tell very intimate details of their lives. I just cannot say enough of how appreciative we are that officers interact with our young people with such professionalism.

-T.C.

I want to thank **Officer John Tyler** for his prompt and professional service he provided to me personally and Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center. Providence security officers and I were contacting a trespasser who was using drugs on hospital property and became extremely hostile as we were asking him to leave. Without warning, the suspect attacked me and other Providence security officers came to my aid. The subject was detained and I called for police. Very shortly thereafter, Officer Tyler arrived to investigate. He was very professional, thorough, and safe in his approach to the scene as he did his investigation. His investigation led to an arrest of the subject and was booked into jail. Providence Security at both Holy Family Hospital and Sacred Heart Medical Center enjoy an incredibly strong sense of partnership and collaboration with the Spokane Police Department. You officers are consummate professionals, service oriented and always willing to go the extra mile to help us protect our staff, patients and visitors. Officer Tyler's response to this call for service was another recent example of this partnership. Again, please extend my sincere gratitude to Officer Tyler and all of your staff for the excellent service they provide to Providence Health Care and the entire community."

-Mark Howard, Security Manager, Providence Health Spokane Campuses

Sergeant [Shawn] Kendall.....Thank you so very much for your safety presentation today. You made us think, look beyond our customary view, and gave us several "tools" to help make our building and personal lives safer. Appreciate your time and candid style. Too bad you were unable to stay for lunch, the conversation continued. Everyone felt your presentation was spot on to what we needed to hear.

-Sharon Closson, Washington Education Association

A couple of weeks ago, **Officer Tim Ottmar** helped me get my motorized wheelchair back. I'm disabled and pretty sickly. I explained to Officer Ottmar what happened and him and another officer went to the residence and got my wheelchair. He brought it back to me in about 2 hours. I want to give him kudos. It blew me away; he was so kind and so quick. He was my hero.

-D.F.





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through November 2016 Complaints

Complaints Received:

Total: 78
Closed Out as Inquiries: 18 (As of December 1, 2016)

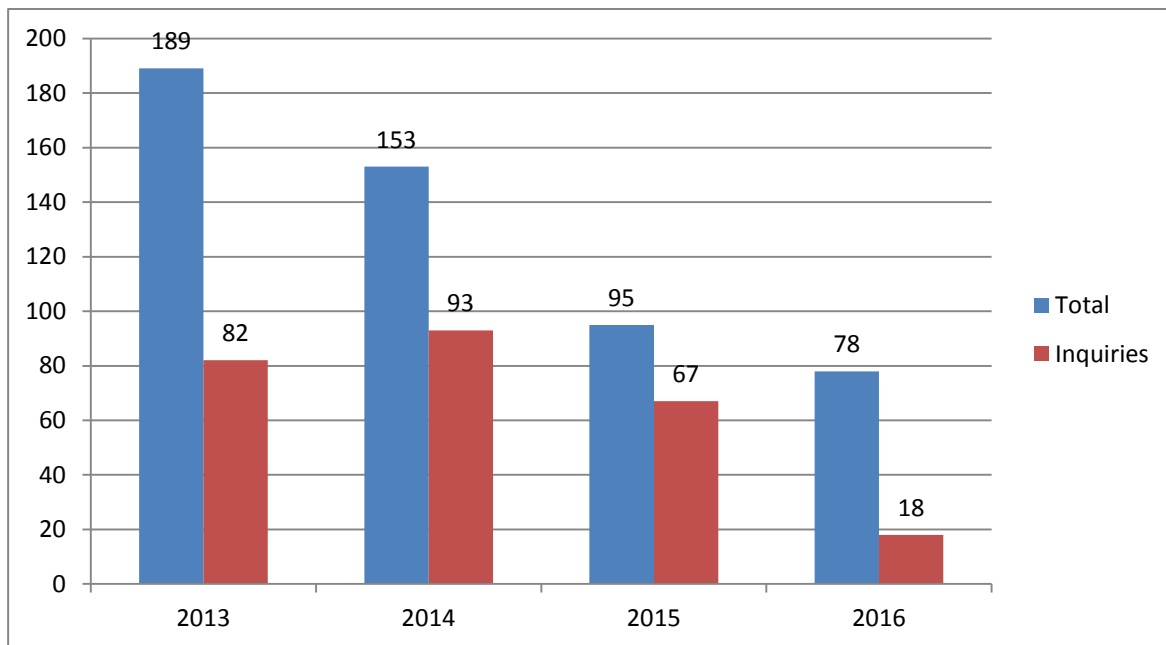
An inquiry is an initial complaint about employee conduct which, even if true, would not qualify as a personnel complaint and may be handled informally by a department supervisor and shall not be considered complaints.

Total Complaints Received

- First 11 months of 2013: 189 complaints (82 were inquiries)
- First 11 months of 2014: 153 complaints (93 were inquiries)
- First 11 months of 2015: 95 complaints (67 were inquiries)
- First 11 months of 2016: 78 (18 have been closed out as inquiries so far)

There is a 59% reduction in complaints since 2013 when comparing January-November data.

Figure 1: Rate of Complaints, January-November, 2013-2016





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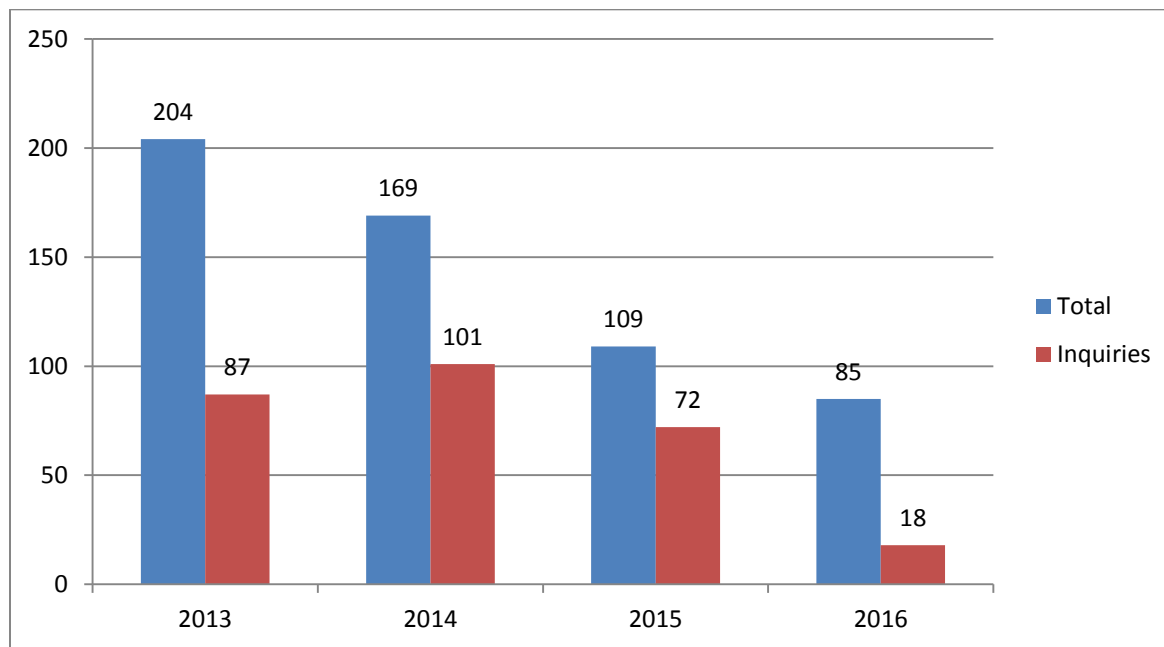
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Full Year Complaint Data

- 2013: 204 Complaints (87 were inquiries)
- 2014: 169 Complaints (101 were inquiries)
- 2015: 109 Complaints (72 were inquiries)
- 2016: Full year data is not available. Based on the rate of complaints received every month (7 per month), the projected estimate would be 85 Complaints with 20 (23%) being inquiries.

According to the projection, we will likely see a 58% reduction in complaints over the past four years.

Figure 2: Rate of Complaints, Full Year Data 2013-2016





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Categories of Complaints**

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1 and November 30, 2016.
**Note: Some investigations involve multiple allegations. Allegations may be for commissioned or civilian employees.

Allegation	Number
Abuse of Authority	2
Assault	2
Conduct Unbecoming	5
Crime: DUI	1
Crime: Rendering Criminal Assistance and Obstruction	1
Demeanor	30
Discrimination	1
Driving Complaint	1
Excessive Force	9
Failure to Complete Report	2
False Arrest	1
False Reporting	1
False Statements	2
Harassment	3
Inappropriate Touching	1
Insubordination	2
Inadequate Response	22
Planting Evidence	1
Policy Violation	5
Racial Bias	3
Threat	1
Unlawful/Improper Arrest	1
Unlawful Entry	2
Unlawful/Improper Search	2
Untruthfulness	1

The most common complaints were for allegations of Demeanor and Inadequate Response. Demeanor complaints make up 30% of allegations. 22% of allegations are Inadequate Response.





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Complaints Most Recently Closed out As Inquiries

No cases were closed out as Inquiries in the last 30 days.

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	Total: 30
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 48
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 12

Disposition of Allegations

Note: As of December 1, 2016, many cases are still under investigation. Some investigations involve multiple allegations.

- Sustained: 6 allegations
- Not Sustained: 3 allegations
- Exonerated: 6 allegations
- Unfounded: 9 allegations
- Training Failure: 1 allegation
- Administratively Suspended: 24 allegations

Sustained Allegations:

- Inadequate Response (3)
- Improper Search (2)
- Unlawful Entry





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Use of Force Update

SPD Use of Force Information: 2014-first 11 months of 2016

Non-Deadly Use of Force

2014 First 11 months: 106 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 11 months: 102 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 11 months: 95 incidents

2016 Year Total: not available

Context: Arrest totals for 2016 not available until February 2017

Note: In 2016, SPD policies were revised to include new categories of reportable force.

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 11 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.





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Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through December 1, 2016)

2015 Cases

F15-061 (Status: Pending Deadly Force Review Board -DFRB)

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 Deadly Force Review Board is scheduled.

F15-067 (Status: Pending Deadly Force Review Board -DFRB)

Incident 15-274070 took place August 8, 2015 at 616 E. Sanson. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office completed their investigation. SPD Internal Affairs completed their review. The case is ready for the Deadly Force Review Board.

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: Pending Administrative Review Panel- ARP)

Incident 15-392381 took place November 7, 2015 at Division and Olive. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office completed their investigation. SPD Internal Affairs completed their review. The case is with the ARP.

2016 cases

F16-039 (Under SPD investigation)

Incident 16-151075 took place April 28, 2016 at the intersection of Pacific and State. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office completed their investigation. SPD is beginning the administrative investigation.

F16-040 (Under SIRR Investigation)

Incident 16-154017 took place May 1, 2016 at the intersection of Division and Main. The case is with the Prosecutor.

F16-041 (Status: Pending Deadly Force Review Board -DFRB)

Incident 16-155667 took place May 2, 2016 at 2701 W. Sunset Avenue. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office completed their investigation. SPD has completed the internal investigation; the next step is the Deadly Force Review Board.





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Property Unit Update

Vehicle Storage:

- Inside vehicle storage is designed for 54. Currently it is at 69 (128% capacity).
- Outside vehicle storage is designed for 20. It currently has 37 vehicles (185% capacity).

Outreach Updates

Chiefs Hockey Game

On November 15, several graduates of the Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) program and SPD officers went to a Chiefs Hockey game.



Special Needs Station Visit with the Isaac Foundation

On November 27, children with special needs were able to come meet first responders in all their gear, check out the vehicles and familiarize themselves with the sights and sounds of the Spokane Fire Department and Spokane Police.





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Youth & Police Initiative (YPI)

SPD completed another successful YPI session at Lewis and Clark High School with 11 students graduating and numerous officers participating. SPD just began another YPI session at Glover Middle School.



New Developments

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Lt. Matt Cowles and Officer Jenn DeRuwe were asked to participate in the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 19 at the Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ. They helped read the names of those lost to violence and suicide. Lt. Cowles said he was humbled to be invited and to be part of the movement.

East Central Community Center Food Bank

Lt. Cowles is working on sustainable involvement by officers to help at the ECCC Food bank disbursing food to the community. Officers on 3 occasions have helped. Also, SPD Volunteer Services is now working with ECCC to provide sustained involvement.

Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center

When notified about the racist graffiti, SPD officers responded to the center and played with the children there while staff worked out details of recovering the damage. Several SPD employees, sworn and civilian, participated in the vigil to stand in solidarity.





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Standing United Against Hate (SUAH)

SPD officers participated in the SUAH work group meeting hosted by the City / Downtown Business Association and the SUAH press conference.

Student Solidarity Rally/Unity March

Lt. Cowles was contacted by a GU student who had, using social media, organized a Unity March that potentially had over a thousand participants lined up. He worked with them to negotiate risks and manage the large crowd through SPD's TAC Team, Special Events Planning and Command Staff. He also joined the peaceful rally at the Spokane County Courthouse.

Para Vida

SPD has begun an outreach with the Para Vida recovery program. The initial plan is to introduce officers to the program and possibly hold an exhibition basketball game between the department and recovering(ed) addicts to show mutual support and acceptance after addiction.

Holiday Activities

SPD Outreach officers also helped with some holiday activities. On November 19, they joined Thanksgiving activities at the Boys and Girls Club. Various SPD employees are adopting families from Salvation Army. About three dozen SPD employees are participating in three Salvation Army Clothe-A-Child events during the first week of December.

New Collaboration with Fairchild Airforce Base

The parties discussed Police Week activities and discussed the possibility of assisting with outreach activities on base, including Isaac Foundation station visits. Lt. Cowles also finalized Fairchild's involvement in the upcoming Youth and Justice Forum.

ARC of Spokane Event

10 SPD employees attended a "drop in" event at the ARC. The officers played games like "Pin the Badge on the Officer," helped with puzzles, drawing, and just had fun meeting with adult clients from ARC. Officers brought a police car for clients to enjoy. The event was light hearted and aimed at creating camaraderie between officers, clients, and staff.

Police & Community Forum on November 17

This forum took place at East Central Community Center. Approximately 90 people attended the forum.

The evening began with panel discussion. After two questions, participants broke up into small groups for an hour of small-group discussion facilitated by members of the Faith Alliance/Forum Planning Committee.





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Panelists included:

- Raphael Guillory, Eastern Washington University
- Sergeant John Griffin, Spokane Police Department
- Leon Covington, Deaconess Hospital
- Chrissy Davis Jones, Spokane Community College
- Captain David Ellis, Spokane County Sheriff's Office
- Anna Bondarenko, Refugee Connections Spokane
- Michael Jepson, OutSpokane
- Officer Stephen Anderson, Spokane Police Department
- Vang Xiong X. Toyed, Asian Pacific Islander Association

Participant survey responses were overwhelmingly positive.

90% of participants agreed with the question: **Did this event help build your trust or even stir up interest to want to build trust?** 5% were neutral; 5% disagreed. Of those who agreed, 59% strongly agreed.

86% of participants agreed with the question: **Do you feel this event gives the community a chance to be heard?** 0% were neutral; 14% disagreed.

The next Police & Community Forum will take place in January 2017.

Noteworthy News

Spokane Police Department was recently highlighted on a segment entitled "Mental & Behavioral Health" on KSPS Health Matters. The panel discussed treatment options including medication and psychotherapy, and SPD's Sergeant Dan Waters was interviewed about his role as the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training manager. The segment also shows video footage of SPD officers responding to a suicidal man and how their CIT training helps them remain calm and show compassion.

KXLY also recently featured SPD's role in responding to suicides. On November 23, KXLY aired a feature about a man who had tried to commit suicide by displaying a gun to SPD officers, but officers were able to safely take him into custody and to the hospital. The man later contacted KXLY to talk about his story and thank the officers for helping him.

<http://www.kxly.com/news/spokane-news/man-who-attempted-suicide-by-cop-meets-officers-who-saved-his-life/42593954>

