



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

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**Office of Professional Accountability**  
**November 2016 Report**

**Public Safety Committee Briefing**  
**November 21, 2016**





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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#### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Last Saturday, Amy and I had the opportunity to interact with two SPD officers, **Officers Austin Toal** and **Jeremy Howe**. These officers were professional from the word go, and had to deal with a gentleman that was less than cooperative. He challenged them several times and even went as far as to say to them, “What are you going to do, take me down?” The officers were respectful and deescalated the situation at every step, making the scene safe and showed respect for the client at every step. It was impressive to see the level of professionalism that our officers exhibit.

*-Jason Haynes, MSW, DMHP, CMHS, Crisis Response Services, Frontier Behavioral Health*

I wanted to thank you for keeping us safe. Thanks for protecting us and bringing those that need it to justice. It is a very brave thing that you do every day. I want you to know that it is appreciated.

*-Karina Foster*

**Chief Meidl**, Thank you—and all at the police department—for your loving, dedicated service to all of us in our neighborhood and community. Many of us have personal stories of how you have helped us and our loved ones over the years. We admire your selflessness and sacrifices as you serve each day. We are grateful for your concern for our well-being and for your efforts to develop strong relationships with us as fellow citizens. At our block party recently, children were excited to express their thanks for you and all you do. We hope these cards from toddlers and very young children and youth in grade school life your spirits and help you realize our deep appreciation for you and for your service.

*-Pat Freeman, Children’s Activities Coordinator, Patricia Hansen, Block Party Chairperson*

I want to share my appreciation about **Officer David Kaurin**. My friend was involved in a hit and run accident on the Division Street bridge. She was driving home from work when she was rear ended and the person left after a brief meeting. My friend didn’t know what to do so she came to my home, as we’ve helped her considerably for two years to adjust to a new country and new friends.... she now owns a home, drives, has a full time job, etc. Yesterday Officer Kaurin came to my home and waited to meet with the victim about 1/2 hour or so (she is from another country and learning to speak English). They met, she gave him the information she had, he contacted the other party and after a time, all seems to be made well. Her car will get fixed. Officer Kaurin was extremely courteous talking to Nahrwan. Thank you to Officer Kaurin and the Spokane Police Department for a job well done.

*-Clint Nelson*





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#### Internal Affairs Unit Update

#### January 1 through October 2016 Complaints

##### Complaints Received:

**Total: 75**

**Closed Out as Inquiries:\* 18**

\*As of November 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.

##### Complaints Most Recently Closed out As Inquiries

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

##### Rate of Complaints Received

First 10 months of 2014: 147 complaints (90 were inquiries)

First 10 months of 2015: 95 complaints (67 were inquiries)

First 10 months of 2016: 75 (18 have been closed out as inquiries so far)

##### 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: 30</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 44</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 11</b>





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#### Categories of Complaints\*\*

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1 and October 31, 2016.

\*\*Note: Some investigations involve multiple allegations.

Allegations may be for commissioned or civilian employees.

The most common complaints were for allegations of Demeanor and Inadequate Response.

<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Number</b>
Abuse of Authority	2
Assault	2
Conduct Unbecoming	4
Crime: DUI	1
Crime: Rendering Criminal Assistance and Obstruction	1
Demeanor	29
Discrimination	1
Driving Complaint	1
Excessive Force	9
Failure to Complete Report	2
False Arrest	1
False Reporting	1
False Statements	2
Harassment	3
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





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#### Use of Force Update

#### **SPD Use of Force Information: 2014-first 10 months of 2016**

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

2014 First 10 months: 93 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 10 months: 97 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 10 months: 86 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 10 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 November 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 Administrative Review Panel- ARP)**

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 with the ARP.

##### **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 Administrative Review Panel- ARP)**

Incident 16-155667 took place May 2, 2016 at 2701 W. Sunset Avenue. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office completed their investigation. SPD Internal Affairs completed their review. The case is with the ARP.





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#### **Records Unit Update**

- The Police Records Unit receives requests for 200 – 750 individual police reports each week.
- The Public Record Act requires agencies to respond to requests within five business days. The request must be the records, a denial with legal explanation, or a time estimate for completion of request.
- Requests must be accepted in any method/format to include by phone, email, mail, fax, in person, oral, or written communications.
- In addition to fulfilling public records requests, the Police Records Unit provides a variety of critical services to SPD, SCSO, Courts, Prosecutors, Citizens, and other community organizations. These services include, but are not limited to, entry of warrants, protection orders, entries of runaway and missing persons, concealed weapons permits, gun purchase background checks, law enforcement background checks, electronic filing and routing of thousands of police reports for both SPD and SCSO.
- Each Records Specialist is responsible for multiple duties each day, which may or may not include public records redaction (PRD).
- Staffing levels in Police Records do not allow for enough manpower hours to dedicate to PRD. On average, we are able to devote less than 40 hours/week of manpower hours towards fulfillment of PRD requests. The majority of those 40 hours are completed on overtime hours.
- Completing a public records request is very time-consuming. Reports must be read and reviewed line-by-line, and Records staff must be well-versed in applicable exemptions and RCWs.
- Currently, the average wait time for a citizen requesting a police report is 90 business days.
- Public record requests for body camera videos are currently being completed by a Records Supervisor due to lack of available staffing at line level.

#### **Property Unit Update**

##### Vehicle Storage:

- Inside vehicle storage is designed for 54. Currently it is at 78 (144% capacity).
- Outside vehicle storage is designed for 20. It currently has 38 vehicles (190% capacity).







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#### K9 Unit Update

The Spokane Police K9 Unit, in partnership with Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Services (SCRAPS) participated in Bark at the Park, a fundraiser for SCRAPS. The K9 Unit has also fostered a few of SCRAPS' high-energy homeless dogs, providing training, socialization, and publicity through the K9 Facebook page to help the dogs get new homes. The K9 Unit provides over 50 demonstrations for schools and various other organizations throughout the year and makes an effort to give back to the Spokane community. With demonstrations, the K9 Unit raised \$1,700.00 for the Ronald McDonald House and \$3,500.00 for the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery and Sacred Heart Children's Hospital.



K9 Officer Hamilton and K9 Dietz with children at Bark at the Park fundraiser for SCRAPS.





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#### Community Training

Sergeant Shawn Kendall, Assistant Training Director and Defensive Tactics Coordinator, has given several presentations with students about safety and situational awareness. These presentations also cover active shooter scenarios. He's recently presented to Spokane Public Schools, Palisades Christian Academy, Youth Leadership Spokane, Crosswalk Youth Shelter and Mukogawa Fort Wright, as well as Work Source, Providence Visiting Nurses Association Home Health and SNAP.

#### Outreach Updates

##### YPI Program

In 2016, 30 more officers have attended YPI for the first time, bringing the total of participating officers to 111 since YPI's inception. In 2016, 105 students have graduated, bringing the total to 320 graduates since YPI's inception. Currently, we are conducting a YPI session at Lewis and Clark High School. Next month, YPI is scheduled for Glover Middle School.

The October YPI session at Rogers High School was extremely successful. According to exit survey data, 100% of participants agreed with the statement, "This program helped me to trust police officers."

3 more officers are becoming instructors. YPI is currently only funded through March and there are several requests from middle schools and outside partners (Crosswalk, Cup of Cool Water) to host YPI sessions.

Officer Jennifer DeRuwe is working with Salvation Army Spokane to recruit YPI graduates for work for the 2016 Red Kettle Season. She is helping kids get to the hiring sessions. She's also planning a Chiefs Hockey game for YPI graduates on November 15.

#### Noteworthy News

Spokane Police Department was recently highlighted on a segment entitled "Roll Call Reality Training: How to render first aid to a downed suspect" on PoliceOne.com. Video of a recent officer-involved shooting, captured by body worn cameras, shows SPD officers rendering first aid to the subject. The caption under the video reads: "It's a tricky transition: One minute you're engaging an armed suspect, the next you're attempting to save the suspect's life. Dave Smith reviews an incident that serves as a shining example of how to render aid when a suspect is down." Spokane Police Department officers were commended for the use of universal precautions, providing effective life-saving first aid, and staying calm during the application of first aid.

