



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Office of Professional Accountability
October 2016 Report

Public Safety Committee Briefing
October 17, 2016





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

My cousin had her car stolen this summer and received a call about 11:30 pm one night saying it had been found. The area where the car was located was not a good area of town and she was understandably nervous to retrieve the car. **Officer Kevin Vaughn** led her to the car that night and stayed with her until everything was taken care of, patiently waiting with her and talking her through the process of handling the car since it couldn't be started. She told me she was very thankful for his help and patience that evening. I would like to thank him as well for taking such good care of my cousin.

-K.D.

This afternoon your agency investigated the unexpected death of the father of one of my troopers. I can't speak highly enough about the professionalism and compassion that every member of the Spokane Police Department associated with this incident demonstrated to the trooper, his family and the rest of the WSP personnel who responded to the scene. On behalf of everyone in WSP District 4, please extend my gratitude to all the responding personnel as their exemplary work has left a lasting impression with our agency

-Captain Otis, Washington State Patrol

I wanted to see if you could send Kudos to whomever about **Officers Groom and Storch**. They met me on an apprehension and when the client was not there, the family volunteered where he might be, they voluntarily went and checked and identified that the client was in fact where it was suspected. It happened to be the plasma center and they waited until he was done, respecting his confidentiality, before making contact. I thought it was exceptional teamwork, patience and community stewardship.

-Chad Hamasaki, Frontier Behavioral Health

I just got off the phone with Mr. McCasland who took the time to let us know how incredibly impressed he was by the restraint and professionalism displayed by **Officers Bryer and Yen** who responded to an auto accident and were showered with an "enormous amount of profanity and hand gestures" by the at-fault driver. He said that he has never seen officers treated in that way and was shocked by this woman's behavior (who did this in front of her young child). He went on-and-on about how amazed and impressed he was by Officer Bryer and Officer Yen. He stated that he hoped that the child learned more from the officers' behavior than her own mother's behavior.

-Angie Napolitano, SPD





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through September, 2016 Complaints

Complaints Received:

Total: 68

Closed Out as Inquiries:* 18

*As of October 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.

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: 26 |
| Received by the Spokane Police Department | Total: 42 |
| Internally Generated by the SPD | Total: 9 |





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Categories of Complaints**

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1 and September 30, 2016.

**Note: Some investigations involve multiple allegations.

The most common complaints were for Demeanor and Inadequate Response.

| Allegation | Number |
|--|---------------|
| Abuse of Authority | 2 |
| Assault | 2 |
| Conduct Unbecoming | 4 |
| Crime: Rendering Criminal Assistance and Obstruction | 1 |
| Demeanor | 25 |
| 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 | 20 |
| Planting Evidence | 1 |
| Policy Violation | 5 |
| Racial Bias | 3 |
| Threat | 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 9 months of 2016

Non-Deadly Use of Force

2014 First 9 months: 84 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 9 months: 90 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 9 months: 78 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 9 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 October 1, 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.

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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Peer/Personnel Assistance Team

The Peer/Personnel Assistance Team, also known as PAT, is a unit formed more than 25 years ago to assist employees who have been involved in critical incidents. The mission of the Peer Assistance Team is to provide information and emotional support to employees and their families when personal or professional problems may affect them. Currently, the team consists of 15 members of different ranks and experience levels. Included on the team are two Chaplains, commissioned police officers, and a civilian dispatcher. The Team also works closely with the Spokane Police Department's Psychologist.

A critical incident is defined as "Any situation faced by personnel that causes them to experience unusually strong emotional reactions which have the potential to interfere with their ability to function either at the scene or later" (Jeffery Mitchell, Ph.D. and co-founder of the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation). Some examples of critical incidents include: officer involved shootings, deaths involving children, traumatic deaths of civilians, and traumatic injuries to officers or family members.

The Peer Support Team is specifically trained for support. In fact, all PAT members must attend nationally recognized Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training prior to being deployed in the Peer Assistance Team capacity. Peer support includes the time immediately after a critical incident, as well as future events that may trigger or induce stress in employees and/or family members.

The Team may supplement the Department psychologist, but is not a substitute for mental health professionals. PAT works with the Department Psychologist to conduct training, facilitate debriefings following critical incidents, and quarterly meetings. The quarterly meetings allow the team to review incidents, procedures, and constantly assess the needs of the Department, team, and employees.

PAT has been used in the Spokane Region for a variety of incidents, such as local businesses who have experienced crisis, area police departments within the region who do not have their own peer support system, and other departments within the City. The Spokane Police Department's Peer Assistance Team has been used as a model for other agencies to use in starting their own team.





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Records Unit Update

Public Record Disclosures as of 10/3/2016

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|---|-----------------------------|
| Oldest request not completed: | 09/18/2015 |
| New requests received between 08/15/16-8/21 | 607 records/272 requestors |
| Total requests started but not complete:* | 1418 pending records |
| *(209 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: | 227 (oldest date 9/20/2016) |
| Requests for body camera video: | 346** |

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

Outreach Updates

Spokane Police Department's Community Outreach Team

Isaac Foundation Station Visits: SPD Officers trained in Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (ECIT) are participating in this monthly event helping persons with Autism and their families learn about and become familiar with first responders. It is also an opportunity for officers to have first-hand interactions with persons with disabilities all along the Autism Spectrum. Officers bring their patrol cars and are in full uniform. Participants learn "fist bumps, no hugs" and children learn socially and safe behaviors around first responders. These visits will continue monthly for the foreseeable future. The visit was featured in front page article of the Spokesman:

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2016/sep/26/spokane-police-firefighters-helping-kids-with-auti/>

Odyssey Youth Movement: Lt. Cowles attended a meeting of Spokane TALL and discussed plans for the Transsexual "Day of Remembrance" upcoming in December. SPD will be participating in the event, possibly reading names during the ceremony remembering those Transsexuals murdered worldwide in the last year. Lt. Cowles also attended the formal greeting for the new director of Odyssey, Courtney Lehman. This was an opportunity to welcome her to her new position as well as network with the members of Odyssey.

Whitworth Black Student Union Forum: Officer Applewhaite and Lt. Cowles attended (as the primary guests) at a formal panel interview of officers at Whitworth. Lt. Cowles had reached out to the BSU president to make a connection with her organization. Students and other invited guests (about 40 people) came and asked the officers questions. The initial meeting was slated for one hour, but stretched out to nearly three hours total. Lt. Cowles has





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future events scheduled with Gonzaga and SFCC Black Student Union organizations and Gonzaga's Latino Culture Club.

Touch a Truck: SPD participated in the program at SCC where different businesses and government agencies brought their "trucks, helicopters, cars, and buses" for children (and parents) to climb in, through, on, around. The event was well attended by a large number of people and provided an opportunity for kids and families to learn about different vehicles and ask questions to the professionals who use them!

Shriner's Duck Waddle: Shriner's hospitals held a fund raiser event at Riverfront Park and invited SPD to participate with a booth. Lt. Cowles brought a patrol car and volunteer/hiring materials (and a rubber duck) to promote our department, answer questions, and be present and available for participants.

OutSpokane networking lunch: Lt. Cowles was invited to attend a 'networking' event with OutSpokane. This provided an opportunity to meet more persons within the LGTBQA community and continue providing outreach to the larger community in our area.

SCC Courageous Conversations: Lt. Cowles was made aware of SCC hosting an event at SCC called "Courageous Conversations – Black Lives, Blue Lives, All Lives Matter." SPD was not invited to this public forum on the topic but because of the content Lt. Cowles went to be part of the discussion. He also invited NAACP President Phil Tyler who also participated. The event was well attended with about 50 people in the audience. There was lively discussion and for all intents and purposes was a success.

Youth & Police Initiative (YPI): The team has started YPI sessions again with the first one being at Rogers High School in October. The session is underway with about 20 at risk students. There has been great discussion and very good progress with the kids so far.

Officer DeRuwe and several YPI graduates enjoyed sharing testimony about the program at a benefit concert for YPI by Andrus & Bingle September 22-23, 2016.

Spokane Public Schools ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs): Based on new connections that were made at the West Central Wellness Program, Officer DeRuwe has started visiting Spokane Public Schools ATOD resistance courses. Students are referred to the classes as a referral after an incident involving drugs/alcohol.





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2016 School-Justice Partnerships Certificate Program in Washington D.C.: Officer DeRuwe was invited to attend this conference / certificate program. The program is designed to provide school and district staff, court professionals, juvenile justice, law enforcement, child welfare and other child serving leaders with the knowledge and understanding necessary to address the educational and related needs of children known to, or at risk of entering, the juvenile justice system. Officer DeRuwe enjoyed the discourse and learning about national programs to interrupt the “school-to-prison” pipeline. The program also included courses on Youth and Trauma. This was a 5 day event in D.C. that was fully funded (no cost to SPD to participate).

Below, Officer DeRuwe pictured with local juvenile justice leaders at the event.

