



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Office of Professional Accountability
September 2016 Report

Public Safety Committee Briefing
September 19, 2016





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Dear **Officer [Dean] Draper**,

You stopped me this morning for talking on my cell phone. You were very friendly and professional in your behavior. I was not the same however. This letter is to put my apology in writing to you. Yes, there is a law in the State of Washington against talking on cell phones while driving. Yes, I am aware of this law. And yes, I was breaking that law. The recent attacks on law enforcement are mind numbing to me. I do stand with officers such as yourself. Again, you handled yourself VERY WELL. I did not. Please accept my apology.

-S.W.

Bethany and Katie from SPARC would like to thank the officers who were on the case today [**Sergeant Chris Crane's** team]. She said they all went above and beyond and they are grateful for all the hard work. She was impressed with the Officers and their patience. She would like to pass that on to SPD. She said they worked so well with the client and never appeared frustrated or rushed.

-Shelby Whitworth, Crisis Response Services

I wanted to mention that I appreciate the things you and your fellow officers to do help and protect our community. With so much controversy in the media recently, I think people tend to forget that your job is dangerous and you deal with a lot of unknown situations that could quickly take a turn for the worse. I'm just very glad that even though our police force as a nation has taken on a lot of scrutiny, we still have good people willing to go out every day and try their best to keep our cities safe. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart for your service.

-H.H.

I had the privilege of a ride along and I'd like to tell you about it. The event was an opportunity to really understand the work life of a Spokane Police Officer which is so misunderstood. In the process, I was astonished, amazed, surprised, sometimes frightened and always grateful for what they do and how they do it. I was assigned to **Officer Brandon Lynch**. Our first call was to an inebriated man who was demanding the police removed his ex-girlfriend from the house. Brandon calmed them down and the two thought they could work things out. 15 minutes later the man called 911 again with the same complaint. We quickly returned and within 10 minutes Brandon put an end to all the inebriated histrionics by giving the female a ride to her home on the upper south side. At all times he was quiet, soft-spoken and really nice to both of them. What I've experienced so far indicates our police officers are among the nicest people in our city. Spokane is blessed with one of the finest police departments in the U.S. They are extremely well trained and very committed to the safety of our city. We should also always remember they are really good, decent, and very fine people who are the only thing between us and chaos. Brandon Lynch is one of those guardians, and he showed me the awesome behavior of a world-class police officer. He's the best!

-T.V.





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through August 31, 2016 Complaints

Complaints Received:

Total: 61

Closed Out as Inquiries:* 18

*As of September 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

C16-049: The complainant was upset with a theft ticket that was given to him when he refused to pay in full a company that came to unlock his car for him after he locked his keys in the car. He alleged that he and the locksmith agreed to a 35 dollar fee out of the total 114 dollar bill. He claimed that is a civil agreement between he and the locksmith, and the police should not have been citing him for what he classified as a civil dispute and further claimed that the officer did not have probable cause.

Investigation results: The prosecutor confirmed that the officer had probable cause to issue a citation. The officer's body camera video provided multiple very clear explanations of the steps that the officers would have to take in regards to issuing the citation. The officers involved gave the complainant multiple opportunities to avoid being cited with full warning that a citation would be issued if the complainant did not fulfill the obligations of the transaction. The involved officer also completed a police report. The complainant disagreed with the prosecutor and said he would be representing himself in court. The IA sergeant and Ombudsman concurred that court is the appropriate place to argue the merits of a citation.

C16-058: The complainant advised that an unidentified officer called her, the registered owner of a stolen car, to let her know the car was spotted. The complainant's husband arrived on scene to find the car was missing. Two days later, the car was impounded because the person in possession of it was arrested. The complainant felt the cost to retrieve the car from impound could have been avoided had the officer stayed with the car till the complainant arrived or provided the complainant notice he was leaving the car so that the complainant could send someone from her family who was closer to the location to arrive in the meantime.

Investigation results: The IA Lieutenant reviewed the situation. It was actually officers from another law enforcement agency that recovered and towed the vehicle, not Spokane Police Department.





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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: 22
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 39
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 9

Categories of Complaints**

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1 and August 31, 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	21
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	17
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 8 months of 2016

Non-Deadly Use of Force

2014 First 8 months: 75 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 8 months: 82 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 8 months: 77 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. If officers operated under the original policy in effect during 2014 and 2015, the total incidents for the first 8 months of 2016 would have been 58.

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 8 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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Analysis of Deadly Force Incidents, 2014-present

Incident Disposition

11 of the 12 incidents have been determined to be “Justified” by the County Prosecutor. One of the three deadly force incidents from 2016 is still under investigation by the Spokane Investigative Regional Response (SIRR) team.

In 8 of the 12 incidents (67%), the subject survived. In 4 incidents, the subject died.

Type of Call

10 of the 12 of deadly force incidents resulted from calls for service. Calls varied from Person with a Weapon, Stalking, Check Welfare, Suicidal, etc. In one incident, officers had probable cause to arrest the subject for First Degree Robbery and went to the subject’s location to arrest him. In the other incident, officers located the subject as they had a felony warrant to arrest him.

Subject Threat Level

Every subject was armed and clearly threatening himself, officers, or members of the community when deadly force was used. Among the twelve deadly force incidents, six subjects had guns, three subjects had knives, three subjects had automobiles that were used as a weapon, and one subject had a machete. In one case, the subject used two of these weapons. Of the six subjects with guns, half of them (3) had a replica gun.

Intoxication

Most of the time, subjects were under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. In 2014, all subjects involved in deadly force incidents were intoxicated with either alcohol or drugs at the time of the incident. In 2015, four of the five were intoxicated with alcohol or drugs. Details about intoxication levels are not available for all 2016 incidents at this time.

Mental Health Issues

In 2014, half of the subjects were known to have mental health issues. One person had a schizophrenia diagnosis. The other was suicidal and had left a suicide note. In 2015, two of the five subjects were known to have mental health diagnoses (e.g., anxiety, Bipolar Disorder, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder). Details are not available for all 2016 incidents at this time, but it is known that all three subjects had mental health issues.

Subject Demographics

- All subjects were male.
- 11 of the 12 subjects were White/Caucasian. One was Black/African-American.
- Ages ranged from 22-46 with an average age of 33.





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Suicide Call Study

Katy Douglas, an intern from Eastern Washington University, analyzed data from attempted suicide calls for service from the first six months of 2016. The full report will be shared with City Council but here are a few highlights, especially in relation to use of force.

Force, be it non-deadly or deadly, was only used in only 5 of the 556 incidents (0.90%). 551 incidents (99.10%) were resolved peacefully. Hospitalization was the most common outcome for subjects, while 2.70% died.

Only one of those five incidents involved deadly force (see F16-039 under Deadly Force Analysis) and four involved non-deadly force. One instance in which non-deadly force was used was with a subject who was injured on arrival. He was in need of immediate medical attention as he had already slit his wrists and was bleeding out. When officers arrived, he tried to access the weapons on their belts. A lateral neck restraint was used to control the subject to allow him to be restrained and transported to the hospital.

In another instance, officers were called to help a subject who had ingested 1/5th of hard liquor mixed with mental health medication. The subject had barricaded himself in a fenced area of the backyard and was armed with a broken liquor bottle with long shards. Officers attempted to negotiate and to deescalate the subject for over 30 minutes. His verbal statements and he physical attempt to advance on officers necessitated the deployment of the Taser and beanbag rounds so he could be taken into protective custody.

One incident involved an intoxicated subject who had unsuccessfully tried to hang himself who would not allow officers to take him to the hospital. Officers used a Level I lateral neck restraint and body weight to hold him still to restrain him. The subject never lost consciousness and was safely taken into custody.

In one case, the suicidal subject did not respond to the officer's attempts at de-escalation and attempted to take the officer's holstered handgun, saying he wanted things to end. The officer forced the subject to the ground and attempted to use his body weight to hold the subject down until backup arrived. The subject continued to try to grab hold of the officer's handgun. The applied a Level 1 lateral neck restraint (LNR). The subject never lost consciousness and was safely taken into custody.

The report was a comprehensive breakdown and analysis of the 556 suicide attempt and death incidents to which SPD officers responded that occurred between January 1 and June 30, 2016. All of the incidents were initially assigned the call type of SUICA, or suicide attempt or death. In summary, the average subject was a 33.04-year-old white male. 24.82% of subjects had previously thought of suicide, while 14.75% of subjects had previously attempted suicide. 19.06% were intoxicated, 25.18% were mentally ill, and 35.61% had a means/weapon(s) present or used.





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Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through September 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.

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 and is close to completing it.

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 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 (Under SPD Investigation)

Incident 16-155667 took place May 2, 2016 at 2701 W. Sunset Avenue. The SIRR team completed the criminal investigation. SPD is almost done with the administrative investigation; the next step is the Administrative Review Panel.





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Volunteer Services Unit

Reserve Officers

The Reserve program is comprised of men and women who either aspire to be police officers or want to serve on the front line. Reserves are comprised of community members who volunteer their time to fulfill many of the roles handled by full-time, sworn police officers. Currently, there is a Reserve Officer Academy taking place. Reserve officers must pass the physical agility assessment as well as a polygraph, oral board, psychological testing, medical screening and a review by the Chief of Police. Applicants then attend a 270 hour Reserve Officer Academy in the evening and all day Saturdays cumulates with a certification examination administered by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission prior to graduation. A Reserve Officer is fully commissioned while on duty. In 2015, Reserve Officers donated 4,565 hours to the department.

Senior Volunteers

Senior Volunteers are trained to work the front desk or information booth at the Public Safety Building, work in the Records Division, Crime Analysis Unit, Police Administration, Special Investigations Unit, etc. They also can perform vacation home checks and pick up property/fraud items. Senior Volunteers have training meetings throughout the year and are encouraged to volunteer a minimum of 16 hours per month. In 2015, Senior Volunteers donated 14,631 hours to the department.

CO-OP Program

The Cooperative Education Program (CO-OP) is a joint venture between the Spokane Police Department and local colleges and universities to support SPD's Patrol Division. It is designed to provide non-law enforcement services and tasks that do not require law enforcement power or police legal authority. CO-OPs assist patrol at accident scenes, take cold crime reports, and pick up found property and evidence for the Patrol Division. CO-OPs attend a 40-hour academy and are required to contribute a minimum of 20 volunteer hours monthly (including two monthly evening meetings). CO-OPs must be at least 18 years of age and currently enrolled in college (any field) as a full or part-time student maintaining a 2.5 cumulative GPA. Applicants must possess a valid driver's license. In 2015, CO-OPS donated 1,879 hours to the department.

Explorer Post 941

Explorers are a part of the Boy Scouts of America under their Learning for Life Program. The Post allows young men and women the opportunity to learn about a career in the criminal justice field while serving as volunteer aides within SPD. Explorers participate and are trained in a variety of activities. They participate in state and regional competitions State/Regional/National competitions, volunteer with some specialty teams, and assist with crowd control at civic events. Explorers are 14 – 21 years old (and have completed 8th grade). They must maintain a 2.5 GPA in their school. Explorers are required to attend monthly training meetings and commit to volunteering 16 hours a month. Statewide Explorer academies are held biannually and the Explorer is required to attend one per year. In 2015, Explorers donated 3,546 hours to the department.





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Records Unit Update

Public Record Disclosures as of 08/23/2016

Oldest request not completed:	09/18/2015
New requests received between 08/15/16-8/21	469 records/197 requestors
Total requests started but not complete:*	1332 pending records
*(163 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:	120 (oldest date 8/10/2016)
Requests for body camera video:	338**

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

Department of Justice COPS Office Collaborative Reform

The Culture Audit recommendation is underway. The Gonzaga University research team has met and is preparing their data collection instruments. Research will begin in October.

New CAD/RMS System

SPD will be transitioning to a new CAD/RMS System and the "go live" date is October 3, 2016. No longer will SPD use the Northrop Grumman system but will be using the New World LERMS and Mobile solution. SPD has been very busy preparing for the switch. SPD has been providing officers with ten hours of training during August and early September. Civilians are also receiving training based on their assignment, with additional training for dispatchers and Records Specialists. TARU (Police IT) employees are installing the applications on patrol laptops have the applications and office desktops. With the new system, SPD will no longer be using Universal Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics but will switch to National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

Outreach Updates

Spokane Police Department's Community Outreach Team is at the Spokane County Fair for the full ten days to interact with community members. Several participants of Police Activities League (PAL) and Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) have volunteered join officers in staffing the booth.





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Kids enjoying Spokane Police Department outreach at the fair:



Outreach Lieutenant Matt Cowles reports he has recently been meeting with leaders from OutSpokane, NAACP, Spokane TALL (Transgender community), and Transitions. He's scheduled to meet with the Black Student Union organizations at Whitworth University, Gonzaga University, and Spokane Falls Community College. He is also attending Special Education Parents Advocacy Committee meetings and will be giving a presentation on SPD's initiatives for mental health and disabilities in the coming months.

Lt. Cowles has helped with the English as a Second Language (ESL) Job Fair at Gonzaga University and has been recruiting at Gonzaga as well. Officers have participated in handing out backpacks at Transitions and the Salvation Army backpack/school supply give away. Several officers and civilians participated in Target's Back to School shop with a police officer program.

A fundraiser for Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) program will take place on September 22 and 23. See below

Public Safety Building • 1100 W. Mallon Avenue • Spokane, Washington 99260-0001





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Youth  Police Initiative



For Such A Time...

LIVE

...As This

A "Live" album with Grammy winner Sherman Andrus and Lonny Bingle of "Andrus & Bingle."
 Special Guest: Mike Dwyer

September 22-23

at the Service Station, 9315 N. Nevada St.
 7:00 pm (Doors open at 6:30)

For Tickets
466-1696

"Andrus & Bingle" is:

Sherman Andrus
 Karl Bingle
 Edward Myers
 Danny Cordero
 Jaime Stacy
 Michael Lenke
 Jesse Flanagan
 Charlie Butts

Lonny Bingle
 Joshua Bingle
 Jonathan Bingle
 Trishelle Ruiz
 Angela Nichols
 Roy Jackson
 Mike Dwyer
 Bradley Patton



100% of ticket proceeds to benefit the Youth and Police Initiative!

Publ

