



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

---

**Office of Professional Accountability**  
**April 2017 Report**

**Public Safety Committee Briefing**  
**April 17, 2017**





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

It is with sincere gratitude that I write you today with thanks for the outstanding response your officers made on the case listed above. My vehicle was stolen from in front of our home, and by possible coincidence, a week later an individual tried to get into my front door while I was home alone. Needless to say, the experience has been a difficult one for me. Two nights ago, an undercover team recovered my vehicle which was being driven by a female. In addition to her, a male has now also been arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle. Specifically, I want to recognize **Officer Traci Ponto** who served as my primary contact. I did not know how to react to the challenges I was facing, or the appropriate questions to ask. Officer Ponto provided guidance for me in a manner that was both clear and caring. Her professionalism, quality persistence, thorough communication and obvious care for her community showed throughout all of our interactions. I have no doubt that Officer Ponto's persistence with her fellow team members ultimately resulted in my vehicle being recovered. I could not have asked for more. **Officer Jason Uberuaga** was the original officer responding following the incident of an individual trying to get into my home. Like Officer Ponto, Offer Uberuaga handled the situation with professional and clear communication. He updated me several times in the days following which helped relax my troubled nerves. I am grateful he took the time to care. Last, but definitely not least, I would like to provide recognition to **Officer Stephanie Kennedy**, who was the officer who pulled over my vehicle and made the arrests. The plates had been removed from my vehicle and replaced with "advertising" plates from a local auto-dealer and a fake paper license was placed in the rear window. Officer Kennedy's savvy attitude and smart mind wasn't fooled. I am extremely grateful that she was paying attention and took action. Chief Meidl, I could not be more pleased with the response of the Spokane Police Department over the past month. Every officer that I encountered was kind, courteous and had an unmistakable dedication to their profession. I am proud to be a citizen of a city with a police force who responds with such integrity and determination to provide quality service.

*-L. S.*

Sergeant Cordis, On March 8, we requested law enforcement to arrest a youth with a warrant. The youth was in an office on the second floor of the Juvenile Court building. **Officer Beau Brannon** responded. This youth, who is large in stature, refused to cooperate. He stated repeatedly that he would not go to detention today. At one point, the youth assumed an aggressive stance toward Ofc Brannon. Ofc Brannon, who knew the youth from previous contacts, was able to verbally de-escalate the youth, and make the arrest without incident. I witnessed Ofc Brannon's work, as did several Probation Counselors. We were all very impressed with Ofc Brannon's level of skill in handling a volatile situation, and preventing it from turning into a violent situation.

*-Tom Davis*

I wanted to say sorry about my actions and behavior in the past. I am trying very hard to stay clean for myself and all you guys and my family. I hope you will forgive me for my past mistakes and lies. I want a better future for me and to stay alive, not to be in a grave. Thank you for always helping me, not sending me to jail. Thanks for helping our community.

*-L.M.*





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Internal Affairs Unit Update

#### January 1 through March 31, 2017 Complaints

##### Complaints Received:

**Total: 21**

**Closed Out as Inquiries: 1** (As of March 31, 2017)

*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.*

##### Prior Year Complaint Totals, 2013-2016

- 2013: 204 Complaints (87 were inquiries)
- 2014: 169 Complaints (101 were inquiries)
- 2015: 109 Complaints (72 were inquiries)
- 2016: 78 Complaints (20 inquiries)

##### Source of 2017 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: 11**

Received by the Spokane Police Department **Total: 10**

Internally Generated by the SPD **Total: 0**





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Categories of Complaints\*\*

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1 and March 31, 2017. \*\*Note: Some investigations involve multiple allegations. Allegations may be for commissioned or civilian employees.

Allegation	Number
Abuse of Authority	1
Biased Policing	1
Conduct Unbecoming	1
Conflict of Interest	1
Demeanor	4
Excessive Force	3
Harassment	2
Inadequate Response	6
Misuse of Department Property	1
Reckless Driving	2
Sexual Assault	1
Unauthorized Use of Database	1
Unlawful/Improper Arrest	2

The most common complaints tend to be allegations of Demeanor and Inadequate Response. In 2016, demeanor complaints made up 30% of allegations and Inadequate Response made up 22% of allegations.

#### Disposition of Allegations

Note: As of March 31, 2017, one case was closed out as an Inquiry.

Summary of Inquiry: The complainant alleged that the officer's Facebook profile contained a photo of him with a rifle on his back and as such the photo was inappropriate. The investigation showed that the allegation by the complainant occurred outside of the one year window to report a complaint. Additionally, if the complaint had occurred within the one year time frame, there would not have been a policy violation. Ombudsman Logue certified the complaint on February 17, 2017.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Use of Force Update

##### 2017 Non-Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-March 31, 2017, there were 21 non-deadly use of force incidents. During that same time frame in 2016, there were 30 non-deadly force incidents.

##### Non-Deadly Use of Force Annual Total Incidents 2013-2016

- 2013: 147 incidents
- 2014: 114 incidents
- 2015: 117 incidents
- 2016: 105 incidents

Note: In 2016, SPD policies were revised to include new categories of reportable force. Yet, incidents did not increase. Non-deadly Use of Force incidents have decreased by 29% between 2013 and 2016.

##### 2017 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-March 31 2017, there was 1 deadly force incident. During that same time frame in 2016, there were no deadly force incidents.

##### Deadly Force Annual Totals, 2013-2016

- 2013: 3 incidents
- 2014: 4 incidents
- 2015: 5 incidents
- 2016: 3 incidents

Deadly force rates have stayed fairly constant; deadly force was used an average of 3.75 each year.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

---

#### Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through March 31, 2017)

##### 2016 Case Status

##### **F16-039 (pending DFRB)**

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's administrative investigation is complete. A Deadly Force Review Board (DFRB) will take place April 13, 2017.

##### **F16-040 (Pending Prosecutor Ruling)**

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

##### 2017 Case Status

##### **F17-004 (Under SIRR Investigation)**

Incident 2017-20008511 took place January 16, 2017 in the area of 5<sup>th</sup> and Maple. The incident is currently under investigation.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Upcoming Items of Interest

##### Staffing Study

Tim Freesmeyer of Etico Solutions will provide information about staffing and call volume in an interim report, and then will be focused on looking at shifts and then beat design, which will be in the final report. We will be working closely with him over the next several months.

##### Culture Audit and Engagement with The Blueprint for Building Trust

Gonzaga University released the Culture Audit report on March 22, 2017.

See link for coverage of press conference with Dr. Barbour's presentation of the report:  
<https://my.spokanecity.org/news/stories/2017/03/24/spd-cultural-audit/>

SPD will be working with the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Diagnostic Center to develop an agency action plan, based on the information in the audit and the results from focus groups of employees and community stakeholders. The focus groups are scheduled for April; leadership training and workshops will take place in May.

#### Training Updates

##### Spring In-Service Training

All officers will attend in-service training in April 2017. Civilian In-Service Training was originally scheduled for April 17-21, 2017, but has been postponed to June 2017.

##### Procedural Justice

The DOJ COPS Office is funding "Train the Trainer" training for SPD instructors through the Collaborative Reform Agreement grant. Training is expected to take place in July in Denver, DOJ tells us that the COPS Office provider, Center for Public Safety and Justice at University of Illinois at Chicago, is still developing the training. SPD supervisors have taken Procedural Justice training for supervisors but the entire department will not be trained until SPD instructors have become certified with the Train the Trainer.

##### Citizen Training

The Enhancing the Survival Mindset (ESM) classes for citizens in May 2017 are already full and a waiting list has been established. The Citizens Academy begins May 24, 2017.

<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/citizen/training/>





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### **SPD Participation in Frontier Behavioral Health Pilot Project**

Matthew Emerson, the Supervisor of the Mobile Community Assertive Team (MCAT) wrote a letter to thank SPD for participating in their pilot program of partnering an MCAT clinician with an officer to respond to calls:

Dear Chief Meidl,

I would like to extend a special “thank you” to Officer John O’Brien for his assistance with Frontier Behavioral Health’s pilot project with the Spokane Police Department. As you know, this pilot project involves using a Mobile Community Assertive Team (MCAT) clinician to ride along with an officer to provide immediate assistance to individuals who would benefit from crisis intervention and community resources. This partnership allows MCAT and the officer to divert individuals from emergency departments, jail, and ultimately inpatient psychiatric admission by using other viable community options.

While each officer involved has been helpful, Officer O’Brien has gone above and beyond expectations and is very committed to the goals of the pilot project. He readily shares his knowledge and expertise and is very receptive to information I share about mental health or other community resources. While meeting with individuals in the community, Officer O’Brien actively involves me in the response and encourages individuals to utilize all available behavioral health resources. His approach and rapport with individuals in the downtown area is exemplary of his ongoing commitment, understanding, and use of Motivational Interviewing and his ECIT training.

Officer O’Brien is always welcoming and has provided me with an invaluable experience. I will be sharing the data and information gathered from the pilot with our COO, Jan Dobbs, to further our working relationship with the Spokane Police Department.

#### **Outreach Update**

##### Get Connected Conference at Whitworth University

Sergeant Bartlett presented to youth at the Get Connected Conference on March 29, 2017. This event exposed students to different career fields. Sergeant Bartlett was able to speak to young people of various backgrounds about a career in law enforcement.

##### Resources for Youth in Crisis

Gonzaga Law and The Spokane County Bar Association presented an education opportunity on March 23, 2017. Officer DeRuwe served on various panels about the juvenile justice system and child welfare system along with other community partners.

##### Refugee Education

Sergeant Bartlett will be conducting a meet and greet event with recent Iraqi refugees at Refugee Connections Spokane later in April. He will also do a workshop with World Relief for newly arrived refugees.







# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Youth and The Force—Spokane County Juvenile Court

Sergeant Bartlett and Detective Green attended “Youth and The Force” on March 17. See below email from Probation Officer Kristi McKethen, Spokane County Juvenile Court:

“For this month’s group Detective Ben Green and Sergeant Glenn Bartlett joined us. I witnessed our two guests, in a very short amount of time build a relationship with a young man who was unhappy with me “making” him come to the group due to his dislike toward Law Enforcement. They created enough trust where he felt comfortable enough to open up and talk about what he had on his mind. The conversations consisted of life altering choices, learning from mistakes, future goals and plans and respect. The young man brought up the topic of respect because of the interactions and experiences he has had in the past with Law Enforcement Officers. He has not felt like he has been able to trust or respect them, until now. The group went so great, there was not a silent moment during the whole group and it actually went over the scheduled end time. After the group was over, I escorted him back to the lobby and he actually thanked me for “making” him come. His ear to ear smile and voiced appreciation was priceless. I am so thankful that we have the kind of mentors among our Law Enforcement Officers, they really made a difference and even offered to continue to mentor him and help him out in other ways later down the road if needed. Thank you Sergeant Bartlett and Detective Green for taking your time to be a positive influence to our kids. I can’t thank you enough!!”

#### Officers in Schools

Officers were invited to several school events by YPI graduates. Officer Jenn DeRuwe attended classes at Ferris and North Central High School. Officers were also invited by PAL graduates to the First Responders Assembly at Chase Middle School (see picture below and short video highlighting the assembly: <https://youtu.be/AIT1AoE3hhg>)





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### OutSpokane LGBTQ Summit

Sergeant Bartlett also attended the LGBTQ Summit on March 18.

#### Youth & Police Initiative (YPI)

SPD recently completed another successful YPI session at Eagle Peak in March. See photo below. Another session at Rogers High School takes place in April.



#### Police Activities League (PAL)

The 2017 PAL season kicks off June 27 and again will feature three Spokane neighborhoods. This year, the Northside location will be Friendship Park rather than Harmon Park, in an effort to connect with the many Marshallese youth that play at Friendship Park. Liberty Park will remain the East side location and A.M. Cannon Park will remain the West Central location.

#### Community Training

Sergeant Terry Preuninger of the SPD SWAT Team conducted three Workplace Violence trainings in the community in March. He also spoke, on behalf of the Targeted Crimes Unit, to criminal justice students at Whitworth University.



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

SPD enjoyed cheering on the Zags!







# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Noteworthy News

The Spokesman Review highlighted SPD's crime-fighting efforts, noting that "in four separate incidents last weekend, Spokane police seized a significant amount of drugs and at least 10 guns from suspects, including a sawed-off shotgun and several military-style rifles."

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/apr/02/spokane-police-seize-another-gun-more-drugs-and-a/>

Another Spokesman story highlighted the new vehicle trespass law designed to curb auto theft:

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/mar/14/spokane-creates-new-vehicle-trespass-law-designed-/>

KHQ posted "Officer helps refugees transition into community of Spokane," a nice story about Sergeant Bartlett's outreach with refugee communities:

<http://www.khq.com/story/34727880/officer-helps-refugees-transition-into-community-of-spokane>

