



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives Division
August 2017 Report

Public Safety Committee Briefing
August 21, 2017





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Recently, a family member of mine called to report a prowler in the neighborhood scoping out houses, and my whole family greatly appreciates the fast and effective response by SPD officers. While we were forced to depart soon after the call, the unit leading the response was willing to stop and listen to the brief description of the suspect we were able to provide. While we were unable to observe the actual response beyond the initial arrival, neighbors reported that the responders were swift, efficient and professional in the search for the suspect, and you have our gratitude for that. Spokane Police Department does the city and its citizens proud with the continued professionalism and excellent responses. The whole neighborhood appreciates what officers have done today, and you have my personal thanks as well.

-Ozward Byrd, Hillyard Citizen

I strongly believe from the top to bottom the current DV unit is amazing. They also go above and beyond with any request I need. When the Officers are able to go out and enforce the no contact orders order we get better resolutions.

-Mubarak Abdur Raheem, Assistant City Prosecutor DV Unit, Spokane City Prosecutor's Office

On June 7th, a man stole a Toyota Tacoma in Virginia with the intent to drive to Spokane where his ex-girlfriend was working. Everybody involved in the case believed that the man was headed to Spokane to kill her. Law enforcement in Virginia called her and warned her. She immediately fled. On Saturday June 10th, **Officer Christopher LeQuire**, while off duty, spotted the vehicle outside a restaurant. Officer LeQuire saw the Virginia plates, contacted Radio to confirm the plates, and then watched the vehicle until the PACT team arrived to arrest him. This dedication to duty is highly commendable. After reading the reports, I fully believe that Officer LeQuire's vigilance prevented a homicide. The man had somehow managed to track his ex-girlfriend's whereabouts and made statements that he was headed there.

-Sergeant Jordan Ferguson, Major Crimes Domestic Violence Unit

I just want to say how awesome our PD is! **Officer [David] Dunkin** stopped by to give us a report on a client they had brought to Sacred Heart Emergency Department after we called 911 and they responded to him. What a great feeling that was...especially since he could have just picked up the phone and called us.

-Erin Rojas, Designated Mental Health Professional, Crisis Response Services





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through July 31, 2017 Complaints

Complaints Received:

Total: 42

Closed Out as Inquiries: 6 (As of July 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: 18
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 24
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 3
Generated by the Community	Total: 39





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Categories of Complaints**

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

Allegation	Number
Abuse of Authority	1
Assault	1
Biased Policing	2
Conduct Unbecoming	3
Conflict of Interest	1
Demeanor	6
Disclosure of Confidential Information	1
Excessive Force	3
False Arrest	1
Harassment	4
Improper Driving	1
Inadequate Response	12
Misuse of Department Property	1
Racial Profiling	1
Reckless Driving	2
Sexual Assault	2
Sexual Harassment	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

Six cases were determined to be an Inquiry. Ten were Administratively Suspended. Two cases were Exonerated, two were Unfounded, one was Not Sustained, one case contained Exonerated and Unfounded findings, and one case was resolved through Mediation.





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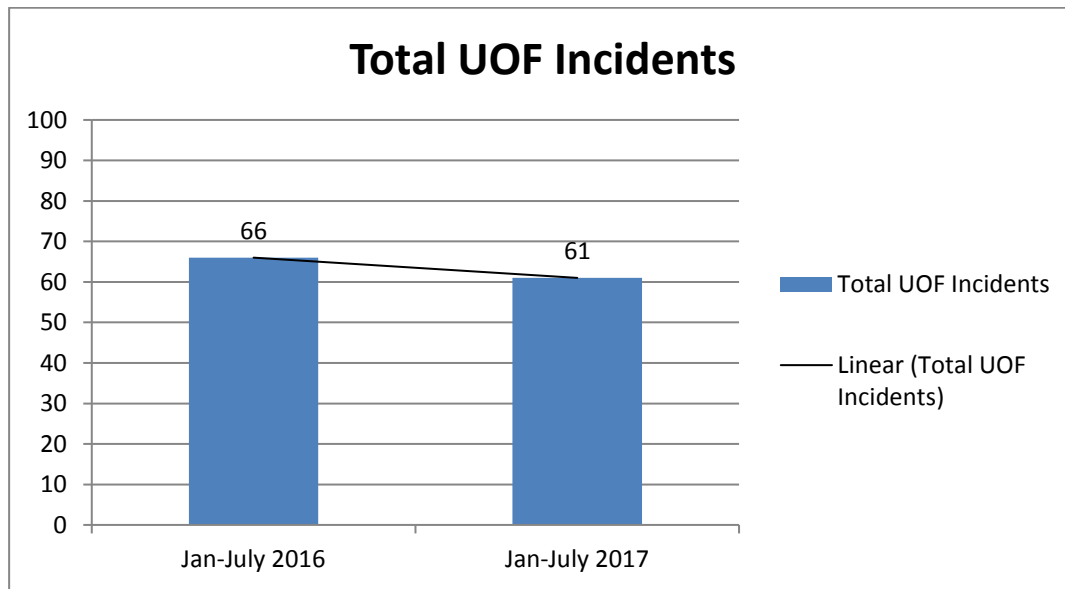
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Use of Force Update

2017 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-July 31 2017, there were 61 non-deadly use of force incidents. During that same timeframe in 2016, there were 66 non-deadly force incidents. At this point, there are 9% fewer incidents than the previous year.



2017 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-July 31, 2017, there were three deadly force incidents. During that same timeframe in 2016, there were three deadly force incidents. Deadly force rates have stayed constant; deadly force was used an average of 3.75 each year.

Deadly Force Annual Totals, 2013-2017

- 2013: 3 incidents
- 2014: 4 incidents
- 2015: 5 incidents
- 2016: 3 incidents
- 2017: 3 incidents as of July 31, 2017





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

2016 Case Status

F16-040 (Under Administrative Investigation)

Incident 16-154017 took place May 1, 2016 at the intersection of Division and Main. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.

2017 Case Status

F17-004 (Under Administrative Investigation)

Incident 2017-20008511 took place January 16, 2017 in the area of 5th and Maple. Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.

F17-034 (Under Administrative Investigation)

Incident 2017-20084382 took place May 7, 2017 in the 1300 block of East Dalton. Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.

F17-053 (Under SIRR investigation)

Incident 2017-10085419 took place July 3, 2017, in the 5900 block of North Mount Vernon Street. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) is currently investigating.

Items of Interest

SPD Deployment of NARCAN for Opioid Overdose

SPD will be deploying opioid overdose kits department-wide starting the last week of August. This project is a collaborative effort between Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program.

Department of Justice COPS Office Collaborative Reform Initiative

Please see the internal progress report in Public Safety Committee attachments.





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Precinct Highlights

Downtown Precinct Highlights

Shawna Sampson, MSW, wrote the following about the Downtown Precinct:

Spokane Police Department's Downtown Precinct exemplifies SNAP's value of community. Led by the former DT Precinct Captain Brad Arleth and current DT Precinct Captain Dave Singley, their community-based policing philosophy has led to an invaluable partnership with SNAP's Homeless Services Department. Their willingness to partner, open communication, and desire to work together to find or create solutions has been instrumental in making the Homeless Outreach Project successful. Frankly, this project would simply not be successful without their support, participation, and compassion for the homeless in our community.

The DT Precinct's Officers aren't just enforcers. They build relationships with citizens, treat them with the utmost respect, and help connect them to resources when needed. They also go above and beyond by providing assistance and their expertise to Homeless Services staff whenever requested. Lastly, they bring a great sense of humor to often heavy situations. We observe Officers sharing a laugh with individuals, including with Homeless Services staff and we always enjoy our interactions with them.

Downtown Projects in July

- **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED):** The Downtown Precinct has ordered the first full-blown CPTED analysis of the Interstate 90/DOT property going through the heart of downtown between Maple and Division. We are working with the city Planning Division and Code Enforcement for a coordinated effort in this area. We are also working on a similar CPTED analysis for the House of Charity.
- **Downtown problem individuals:** Precinct officers have aggressively investigated a small group downtown responsible for a series of assaults and strong-arm robberies. At least five subjects were charged with multiple felonies and SPD is working with Juvenile prosecutors and probation officers. These efforts with Juvenile include asking for restrictive terms of release inhibiting the ability to return downtown and holding the more serious offenders in Juvenile Detention pending trial.
- **Maple Street Bridge and on ramp:** We continue our efforts to keep this area free of people and litter. The Geiger cleanup crews assisted with some minor clean up under the on ramp that accumulated over the last month. They also then went down the hillside for cleanup we could not do in June, removing 500 pounds of debris. Geiger also completed some minor landscaping work to improve visibility.





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- **Helping businesses retain shopping carts:** Officers are taking misappropriated shopping carts seen in the downtown core and returning them to businesses, receiving very positive responses from business managers who are sustaining a financial hit when these carts disappear or return damaged. Officers recovered 11 carts on July 28th during one emphasis patrol.
- **Downtown Security Ambassador Training:** The Downtown precinct sergeant is committed to attending quarterly Downtown Ambassador meetings to foster a closer working relationship and provide training as needed.

South Precinct Highlights

Parks / Nuisance Complaints / Urban Camping

Officers Seth Berrow and Tim Ottmar are working on a high-crime property deemed a priority by the neighborhood. They are collaborating with the Civil Enforcement Unit, the Targeted Crimes Unit, and the Patrol Anti-Crime Team to combat the issues caused by this property.

Officer Berrow handled two complaints generated from City Hall regarding urban campers on Front St. and on the Ben Burr trail in Liberty Park. Officer Berrow gave 48 hours' notice to all involved. He returned two days later to tow and impound remaining discarded vehicles. The Street and Parks departments both responded and cleaned up more trash.

Notable Arrests

- Patrol recently arrested a fraud suspect that Detective Ty Snider was investigating. His fraudulent activity involved Western Washington as well as Spokane.
- Officer Tim Ottmar arrested an arson suspect accused of setting fire to apartments in Browne's Addition.

Outreach

The South Perry Business and Neighborhood Association recognized South Precinct officers for their presence at the Perry Street Fair, as many neighbors and fair participants gave positive feedback.

North Precinct Highlights

Parks / Nuisance Complaints / Urban Camping

The North Precinct worked on several issues in the areas around the parks, riverbanks, bridges, and Centennial Trail. Parks included Shadle, Emerson, AM Cannon, Dutch Jake, Mission, Glass, Clark, and Wild Horse. They also worked on the North riverbank between Monroe and Maple Bridge, and the North





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Bank along Centennial Trail along Upriver Drive, Mission Park, over to Gonzaga, and the Centennial Trail on the North Side of River.

Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) continued the **Summer North Parks Project** and added some extra work along the riverbanks and Centennial Trail. In addition to the basic strategies listed last month, NROs also used:

- **Bike Patrol:** NRO Redmon in partnership with Gonzaga Security on bikes spend time in the area of Gonzaga University, Mission Park, the Centennial Trail, and Riverbanks. They contacted numerous subjects not only arresting when need for violations and warrants but offering services when appropriate.
- **Extra Park Patrols:** NROs Wells and Strosahl work known trouble spots, providing education about hours the parks and park parking lots are closed. When appropriate, they trespass people violating the park rules and hand out some Slurpee and pizza coupons to people obeying the rules.
- **Urban Camp Cleanups:** NRO's Redmon, Wells, Hice, Ponto and Sgt. Carroll spent time working in cooperation with Parks, Code Enforcement, Homeless Outreach, and others to get the illegal campsites posted, offer services, vacated, and then cleaned up. These areas included parks, parking lots, under bridges, and along the riverbanks and Centennial Trail.

Nuisance Properties

All NROs work on several nuisance properties as part of their daily routine. These are not easy to shut down, as it takes months of information gathering with the help of the neighbors, other city departments, and other agencies. NROs use the information gathered to seek compliance from tenants, landlords and/or owners. Some are vacant homes with squatters, some are rentals with tenants that create havoc in the neighborhood, and some are drug flop or sale locations. The hardest ones are the owner occupied residences. Officers must take steps to ensure everyone's rights are not infringed upon. This can be frustrating for neighbors that feel their rights are infringed upon because of the nuisance. When compliance cannot be gained voluntarily, NROs work with SPD's Civil Enforcement Unit and other city departments to shut the nuisance property down through the courts.

In July, information gathered on a nuisance house at Wabash gave Patrol Officer Hayward enough probable cause to obtain a signed search warrant for drugs. The search not only yielded drugs but guns and explosives. **The warrant utilized the NRO, Patrol, Drug Unit, SWAT, and EDU** working together. **NRO Cler** was then able to get assistance to vacate and board up the house with the help of **CEU, Code Enforcement, and other city departments**. Everyone, including the neighbors, working together made this success possible.

Outreach

Police Activities League (PAL): North NROs Wells, Hice, Ponto, and Detective Oliver have participated in the PAL program in AM Cannon and Friendship Parks. Lt. Anderson and Captain Torok have also dropped by each day.





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Below, Officer Wells congratulates participants at PAL who were recognized for their excellent behavior. Excelsior Youth Center donated socks as prizes for those youth showing the core values of respect, honesty, integrity, leadership, and sportsmanship.



Hiring and Training Updates

Hiring Workshops

In an effort to remove the barriers that prevent recruiting a more diverse police force, SPD held several Hiring Workshops around the community during the month of August to prepare applicants for what to expect. The workshops prepare applicants for the Public Safety written test, explain the hiring process, and answer questions about the department and include a presentation from Civil Service.

Upcoming tests are August 26 and October 14, 2017, and SPD will hold more workshops closer to the October testing date.

SPD also advertised the workshops with a blog, advertisement in The Black Lens newspaper, and promotion on Facebook. In addition to the workshops, SPD had a booth at the *Julyamsh* powwow and will have a booth at the Gathering at the Falls. Leaders are working on a recruiting video.



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Pictured below: Sergeant Reese presenting at the hiring workshop at East Central Community Center.



Outreach Update

Media Academy

Members of the media attended the SPD Media Academy on July 22, 2017. Instructors gave attendees the contact information for the academy staff members and suggested they feel free to contact staff with any questions regarding police training. Academy staff felt the training went well and they encouraged all attendees to go on an officer ride-along.

Citizens Academy

SPD will be holding another Level I Citizens Academy this fall. More information will be available soon.

Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Met with The Native Project reference the NAACP meeting and to address any concerns on July 16.
- NAACP meeting July 17.
- Pink Glove Video filming in support of cancer awareness on July 20.
- Planning 25th Annual Cops and Kids event- Met with Spokane Public Schools and Downtown Spokane Partnership.
- Coordination of Services (COS) at Juvenile Detention on July 24- Met with approximately 15 youth and their parents/guardians. All youth are in diversion. The program is designed to provide youth and their parents information to help reduce recidivism.

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- Officer Jenn DeRuwe recently visited a Girl Scout camp to speak about being a female police officer.
- Police Activities League (PAL) every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in July.

Police Activities League (PAL)

Spokane Police Activities League (PAL) engages participating youth in positive athletic and academic programs, including gang and drug intervention and prevention. PAL bridges the gap between Spokane Police officers and potential at-risk youth in our community through fun and educational summer activities. Activities offered: STEM, Basketball, Track, Baseball, Flag Football, Golf, and Soccer. SPD works with various community partners to provide a great experience for youth. Spokane Library is a new partner providing literacy activities and encouraging youth to check out books this summer.

More than 470 youth are participating in PAL during the 2017 season, participating in sites in West Central, East Central, and North.

2017 is our second season of partnering with the NATIVE Project's youth program. Some of the youth from the NATIVE Project are pictured below.



Youth & Police Initiative (YPI)

SPD continued outreach with graduates, going to a Spokane Indians baseball game, kindly donated by the Spokane Indians through the Take Me Out to the Ball Game program.

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Specialty Team Outreach

SWAT recently put on a reading program for 180 area kids through Salk Middle School. Below: the SWAT team meeting youth and showing them equipment.

SPD's EDU (Explosive Disposal Unit) visited a Robotics STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) class and interacted with West Valley elementary school youth. See bomb robot below.



Noteworthy News

KXLY featured Spokane Police Activities League (PAL) in the following link:

<http://www.kxly.com/news/local-news/police-activities-league-strengthens-community-law-enforcement-relationships-1/585787319>

KHQ also highlighted the PAL program and its effects on keeping teens engaged in healthy activities:

<http://www.khq.com/story/35937211/spokane-police-activities-league-keeps-kids-out-of-trouble>

**KHQ featured Officer Jenn DeRuwe and the PAL program for their Hometown Heroes series
Spokane Police Activities League creates summer fun:**

<http://www.khq.com/story/35944291/spokane-police-activities-league-creates-summer-fun>

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KHQ covered SPD's hiring workshops:

<http://www.khq.com/story/36083683/spokane-police-hold-hiring-workshops-in-hopes-of-drawing-more-officers>

The Black Lens interviewed Officer Kenny Applewhaite about his experience as a Black police officer in Spokane: "I Feel Like I'm Making a Difference with What I'm Doing"

http://blacklensnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/August-2017_Final.pdf (page 22)

