



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

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**Strategic Initiatives Division**  
**December 2017 Report**

**Public Safety Committee Briefing**  
**December 4, 2017**





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Today I was stopped by **Officer Kenny Applewhaite** for speeding. I admit I was going too fast. It had been quite a day of my husband getting lost and finding the right way home. Officer Applewhaite went out of his way to help us. He led the way for us to get back home. I just want to say that it is officers like him that make me appreciate more and more what they do for the communities in which they serve. [She didn't get a ticket.]

-M. M.

I wanted to send a quick note on my recent experience with several members of our Spokane Police Dept. Last evening I came home to a strange car parked in my driveway blocking access to my garage. After checking with the neighbors to make certain it didn't belong to anyone associated with them my neighbor suggested calling the police. I wasn't certain what number to call so I utilized 911 but, immediately let the operator know that it wasn't an emergency but that I did need some assistance. I explained the situation and that I suspected the vehicle might be stolen. After she asked me several questions (address, car description, license number, etc.), she then informed me that the vehicle was indeed stolen and it was actively being looked for. She let me know there would be someone there to deal with it. I thanked her, and we disconnected. A few minutes later I was in the house checking on my dogs and my phone rang with "unknown." Normally I wouldn't answer but since I had just called the police I took a chance that it might be a call back. It was and she asked me if I could step out and talk to the officers that were already at my door (really fast). I got the dogs out of the way and invited the two officers in. The first thing they asked was if I would like them to check the house for intruders. I laughed a bit given the dogs were having a fit with them being in the house, and declined saying I wasn't too worried that anything got past my canines. I then led them out to where the car was (all the while my dogs were being obnoxious and jumping all over them) which they laughed off and the pups even got a couple of head scratches. They checked out the vehicle while I tried to give them as much information as I could. They let me know it would be removed shortly and I went back in the house. A while later I was taking something out to the garage and noticed that my alley was now filled with police vehicles. I stepped out into the driveway and observed them dusting the vehicle for prints. They let me know the owner of the vehicle was on her way so I hung around to see how things would go. The officers continued with their work, and answered questions from me while they worked. They were all very friendly and professional. I was concerned about why my driveway was chosen, but they reassured me that it's common for vehicles to be dumped at random. When the owner arrived, they were courteous and professional with her as well. She was obviously very upset over the situation and they handled everything impressively... I was very impressed with all the officers involved.

-J. H.

I want to tell you what a great job your **Officer Seth Berrow** has done in the Chief Garry neighborhood. He has been helpful to many of us. Seth is great at communication and listening to our problems. Problems that have gone on for years are being stopped because of his presence. We really appreciate Seth Berrow in the Chief Garry Park neighborhood. Thank You!

-J. R.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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#### Internal Affairs Unit Update

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

#### Complaints Received:

**Total: 56**

**Closed Out as Inquiries: 9 (As of October 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	<b>Total: 27</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 29</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 3</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 53</b>





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#### Categories of Complaints\*\*

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1 and October 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	8
Disclosure of Confidential Information	1
Excessive Force	4
False Arrest	1
False Reporting	2
Harassment	4
Improper Driving	1
Inadequate Response	16
Misleading Statements	1
Misuse of Department Property	1
Racial Profiling	1
Reckless Driving	2
Sexual Assault	2
Unauthorized Use of Database	1
Unlawful/Improper Arrest	3
Unlawful Search/Seizure	1
Untruthfulness	1

#### Disposition of Allegations (as of October 31, 2017)

Nine cases were determined to be an Inquiry. Eleven were Administratively Suspended. Four cases were Unfounded. Six cases were Exonerated. Two cases were resolved through Mediation. One case was Sustained. A few cases had different findings for multiple allegations. One case had two Sustained findings and one Unfounded finding. Three cases contained Exonerated and Unfounded findings. Once case contained both Unfounded and Not Sustained findings.





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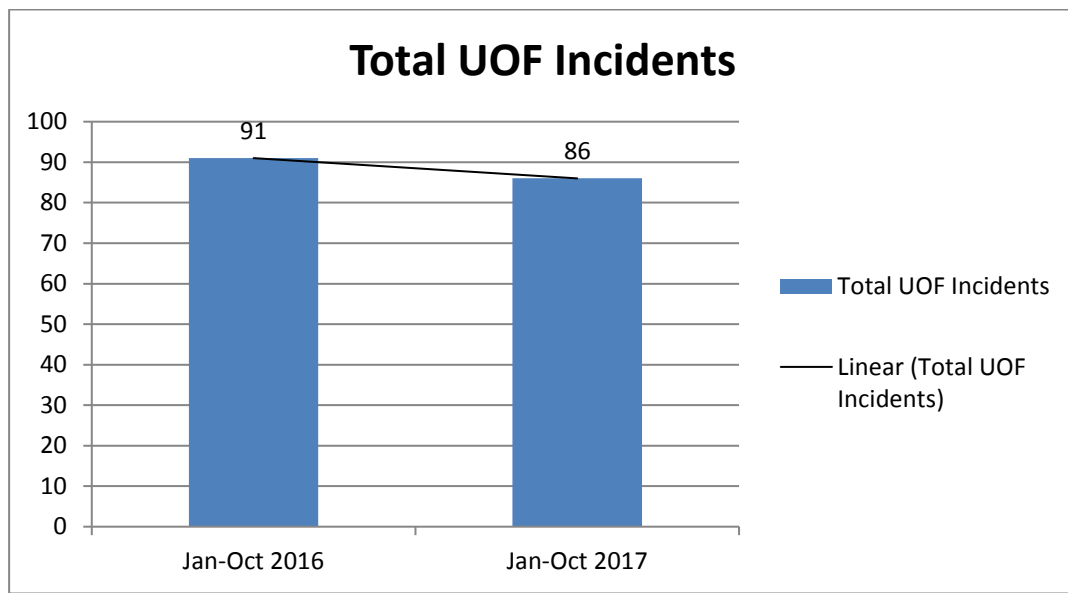
## CHIEF OF POLICE

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#### Use of Force Update

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

From January 1-October 31 2017, there were 86 non-deadly use of force incidents. During that same timeframe in 2016, there were 91 non-deadly force incidents.



#### 2017 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-November 15, 2017, there were five 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 four each year.

#### Deadly Force Annual Totals, 2013-2017

- 2013: 3 incidents
- 2014: 4 incidents
- 2015: 5 incidents
- 2016: 3 incidents
- 2017: 5 incidents as of November 15, 2017





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#### Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through November 15, 2017)

##### 2016 Case Status

###### **F16-040 (Pending Chief of Police review)**

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 complete and the case is with the Chief of Police for review.

##### 2017 Case Status

###### **F17-004 (Pending Chief of Police review)**

Incident 2017-20008511 took place January 16, 2017 in the area of 5<sup>th</sup> and Maple. Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is complete. The case is with the Chief of Police for review.

###### **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 Administrative investigation)**

Incident 2017-10085419 took place July 3, 2017, in the 5900 block of North Mount Vernon Street. Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.

###### **F17-079 (Under SIRR investigation)**

Incident 2017-20185893 took place on 9/18/2017, in the area of Monroe/Sinto. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) is currently investigating.

###### **F17-086 (Under SIRR investigation)**

Incident 2017-20197756 took place on 10/4/2017, in the 2300 block of West Wellesley. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) is currently investigating.





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#### Items of Interest

##### Mental Health Steering Committee's TEAM Conference

SPD's mental health training program is a model of collaboration, with long-standing relationships between police and mental health providers and a strong commitment to improve encounters. Using SPD's Mental Health Steering committee as the vehicle to convene behavioral health stakeholders, representatives from behavioral health outpatient and inpatient providers, department of corrections, local hospitals, providers for developmental disabilities, children services, and law enforcement meet regularly. These stakeholders represent a wide range of perspectives, some working with very specific populations, while looking at response, resiliency, and recovery through the lens of trauma-informed care. The Mental Health Steering committee provides community stakeholders with a venue where community perceptions/concerns can be shared, agency updates can be discussed, and furthering the relationship with all stakeholders can occur. These discussions are used to further refine the CIT and ECIT training curriculum, and policies and practices can be refined or developed to improve encounters with law enforcement as well as each stakeholder.

In addition to the opportunities for continuous quality improvement efforts afforded by the Mental Health Steering committee, a sub-group of the committee have planned and provided the TEAM conference for the last three years, highlighting the collaborative partnership and best practices of mental health professionals and first responders when intervening with the behavioral health population. We have sent 20-25 officers to the TEAM conference each year, which offers officers advanced training on a variety of mental health conditions and therapies, marginalized populations, medication and substances, Mental Health First Aid, cross-system collaboration, and additional Motivational Interviewing.

The 2017 TEAM Conference took place at the WSU Spokane campus on October 24-25. Spokane Police Department was a co-sponsor and provided many instructors and attendees.

ECIT-trained Officer David Dunkin is pictured second from left on the panel, next to Matt Emerson from Frontier Behavioral Health.





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#### Precinct Highlights

##### South Precinct

Notable recent arrests:

- Detective Ty Snider has been working on a very complicated bank fraud case that involved the federal government as the victim. The evidence obtained led to the arrest and charges on a suspect for fraud of over \$98,000 locally and will likely lead to more fraud cases on the west side of the state.
- Detective Bob Mosman arrested a suspect after a two week investigation on charges of Reckless Endangerment (two counts) and felony malicious mischief (two counts) when victims took pictures and videos of the suspect after he threw large rocks at their vehicles and threatened them. The suspect had been intimidating residents in the south Regal neighborhood for the past 3 months.
- Neighborhood Resource Officer Tim Ottmar recently arrested two suspects implicated in residential burglaries. The suspects were also stealing vehicles.

##### North Precinct



Neighborhood Resource Officer Scott Hice took it upon himself to transform his patrol car into the Batmobile on Halloween. Officer Hice decided it would be fun to visit elementary schools dressed as the caped crusader. Officer Hice is the NRO for Hillyard and visited quite a few schools in the area.







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Officer Scott Hice spent all weekend decorating his patrol car with his dad, cutting out the Batman logos and painting things to make it realistic. KXLY featured Officer Hice's Batmobile:

<http://www.kxly.com/news/local-news/spokane-police-officer-transforms-patrol-car-into-batmobile/649901384>

I (Batman) spent Halloween in Spokane visiting some of your local schools and handing out candy. Kids of all ages were excited to spend time with the Caped Crusader and it was great fun for all. While in Spokane, I had the opportunity to see SPD Personnel in action. I have requested that I be allowed to build an Emergency SPD Signal in Gotham in an effort to signal Spokane's Heroes in our time of need or when Batman needs back up. Unfortunately, Chief Meidl advised that Spokane needs its Heroes here at home, and that I would have to settle for Superman or Wonder Woman.

Thank You Spokane for your Hospitality.... Kids stay away from drugs and listen to your parents. Parents, hug your kids and tell them they are loved.

*Batman*

Officer Hice also made national news! ABC News and Good Morning America featured Officer Batman.

[http://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/batman-cop-surprises-elementary-school-students-tricked-batmobile/story?id=50859363&cid=social\\_fb\\_abcn](http://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/batman-cop-surprises-elementary-school-students-tricked-batmobile/story?id=50859363&cid=social_fb_abcn)

Excerpts from ABC News article:

"That's the best part. The kids get so excited," Hice told ABC News of his clever transformation. "It's not just the little kids, but that's my favorite. They get the most excited. They really think I'm Batman and ask me if the Batmobile flies." He added, "It's timeless. I had old people coming up excited about it. It's a lot of fun because every generation can connect to that."

It was a treat for the 6th-graders at Whitman Elementary who graduated from a gang-resistance education program on Halloween. But once the other grades got wind that Batman was outside, they all ran out to give him high-fives and hugs too.

Principal Jody Schmidt said it was "a really positive experience" for her students who "at times, don't have positive relationships with our police department. It was a way for them to build that community with our local law enforcement," she told ABC News. "For our kids, it was a really positive experience. The more they can interact with our law enforcement, the better relationships they build, and that's a really great thing."

The officer said more than anything, dressing up is "a great way to get out and connect with people. Smiles everywhere you go, waves," said Hice. "We're really blessed in this area. It's just a chance to get out and spend some time with people to let them know we're human and like to have fun just like everyone else."





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#### More Halloween Festivities



Community Outreach Officer Jenn DeRuwe also attended Halloween festivities at West Central Community Center on October 27, greeting the 400+ people in attendance.

She reunited with many children who had participated in the Police Activities League (PAL) earlier this year.

She also attended Halloween activities at Northtown Mall on Halloween.

#### Outreach Update

#### Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Mayor's Advisory Committee on Multi-Cultural Affairs (October 3)
- Rotary Club presentation (October 5)
- Homeless Coalition meeting (October 5)
- Women's Luncheon (October 7)
- Vietnamese Association (October 8)
- World Relief Refugee Orientation (October 10)
- Enhanced CIT training (October 10)
- Procedural Justice for Community class (October 14)
- Coordination of Services (October 16)
- School Community Partnership Committee meeting (October 17)
- True Talk Thursday Criminal Justice reform- GU Law School (October 19)
- TEAM Conference for First Responders and Mental Health Professionals (October 24-25)
- West Central Community Center Halloween event (October 27)
- Halloween at Northtown (October 31)





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Officer Jenn DeRuwe has been following up with Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) graduates and strengthening relationships with Spokane Public School partners.



YPI participants recently attended a YPI Hiking Trip at Riverside State Park, hosted by Spokane Police.

