



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Office of Professional Accountability
January 2017 Report

Public Safety Committee Briefing
January 30, 2017





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Officer Yeshua Matthew, I found my friend passed away and you were the officer who responded... and, I believe, just the one God sent us in our great distress. I was so shocked and heartbroken and who knows what kind of impression I left with you but I want to thank you so very much for your kindness as you did a very professional job with compassion and understanding.

-P. M.

Hello, my name is Savannah Johnson and I am a crossing guard in the morning for Garfield Elementary on Washington and Mansfield. This morning **Officer Ken Applewhaite** helped us and got some people speeding through the school zone. I just wanted someone to know that he was very nice and did a great job, and I wanted him to know I say Thank you. Thank you guys, for all you do.

-Savannah Johnson

Just a quick note to say thanks to the policemen at the Women's March yesterday. They were great. I saw one officer asking if he could photobomb some pics. It was nice to see. Thanks again.

-Sheilah Johnson

I wanted to make sure **Officer Brandon Fabian** was acknowledged for his exceptional verbal skills during an intense call last week. An adult inside the house had shot himself while family members were upstairs. The family was visibly distraught and verged on being confrontational with responding units. Officer Fabian spoke to the family members and was what I believe was one of the main reasons they had a change in behavior. Officer Fabian also spoke to other family members as they arrived at the residence and were clearly in crisis mode. The words Officer Fabian chose to use and his demeanor with responding family members soothed a very difficult situation for those involved.

-Officer David Kaurin, Spokane Police Department

I wanted to take the time this morning to give a huge shout out to **Officer Aaron Ames** and **Officer Chan Erdman!** I appreciate the dedication and hard work of the officers we have in our Domestic Violence Unit. Words cannot express how thankful I am for all of the effort and initiative put forth by Officer Ames and Officer Erdman on Tuesday and every day.

-Haley M. Day, Assistant City Prosecutor





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through December 2016 Complaints

Complaints Received:

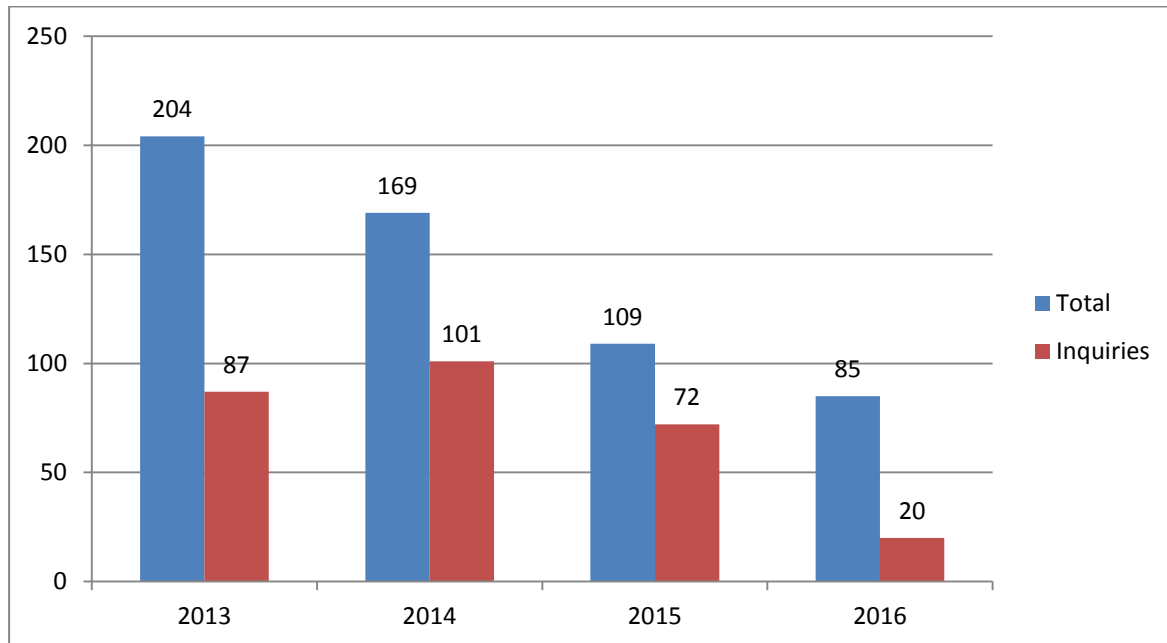
Total: 78
Closed Out as Inquiries: 19 (As of December 1, 2016)

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.

- 2013: 204 Complaints (87 were inquiries)
- 2014: 169 Complaints (101 were inquiries)
- 2015: 109 Complaints (72 were inquiries)
- 2016: 78 Complaints (20 inquiries as of January 10, 2017)

We have experienced a 62% reduction in complaints over the past four years.

Figure 1: Rate of Complaints, Full Year Data 2013-2016





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Categories of Complaints**

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1 and December 31, 2016.
**Note: Some investigations involve multiple allegations. Allegations may be for commissioned or civilian employees.

Allegation	Number
Abuse of Authority	2
Assault	2
Conduct Unbecoming	5
Crime: DUI	1
Crime: Rendering Criminal Assistance and Obstruction	1
Demeanor	30
Discrimination	1
Driving Complaint	1
Excessive Force	9
Failure to Complete Report	2
False Arrest	1
False Reporting	1
False Statements	2
Harassment	3
Inappropriate Touching	1
Insubordination	2
Inadequate Response	22
Planting Evidence	1
Policy Violation	5
Racial Bias	3
Threat	1
Unlawful/Improper Arrest	1
Unlawful Entry	2
Unlawful/Improper Search	2
Untruthfulness	1

The most common complaints were for allegations of Demeanor and Inadequate Response. Demeanor complaints make up 30% of allegations. 22% of allegations are Inadequate Response.





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

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: 32
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 46
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 12

Disposition of Allegations

Note: As of January 10, 2017, many cases are still under investigation. Some investigations involve multiple allegations.

- Sustained: 6 allegations
- Not Sustained: 4 allegations
- Exonerated: 8 allegations
- Unfounded: 11 allegations
- Training Failure: 1 allegation
- Administratively Suspended: 24 allegations

Sustained Allegations:

- Inadequate Response (3)
- Improper Search (2)
- Unlawful Entry (1)





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Use of Force Update

Non-Deadly Use of Force

2013 Year Total: 147 incidents

Force to Arrest Ratio: 10,654 arrests; Reportable non-deadly use of force was used in .01% of arrests.

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 Year Total: 117 incidents

Force to Arrest Ratio: 11,899 arrests; Reportable non-deadly use of force was used in .01% of arrests.

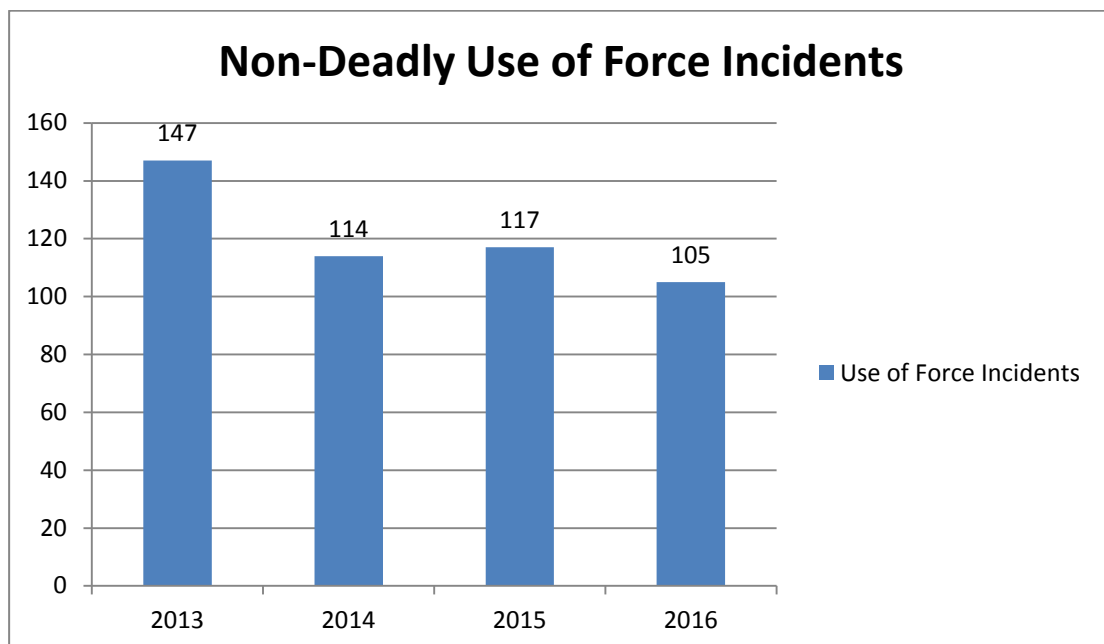
2016 Year Total: 105 incidents

Context: Arrest totals for 2016 not available

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.

Fig. 2: Non-Deadly Use of Force Incidents, 2013-2016





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Deadly Force

2013 Year Total: 3 incidents

Force to Arrest Ratio: 10,654 arrests; Deadly use of force was used in .0003% of arrests.

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 Year Total: 3 incidents

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.

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

Types of Force Used (Reportable to Supervisor: Policy 300.5.1)

In 2016, SPD officers were involved in 105 non-deadly Use of Force incidents and 3 deadly force incidents.

Deadly Use of Force Incidents

The three deadly force incidents all involved the use of a firearm. However, other types of force were used in those incidents as well. Officers deployed a TASER™ conducted energy device in 2 out of the 3 deadly force incidents. Blunt impact munitions (e.g., “bean bag rounds”) were also deployed by officers in one deadly force incident. Two of the subjects survived the deadly force encounter. One subject succumbed to his injuries. Law enforcement first aid efforts were deployed on all deadly force incidents.

Non-Deadly Use of Force Incidents

Some incidents involved multiple officers and more than one type of force. For example, in the same incident, one officer might use a Takedown Technique to bring the subject to the ground while another officer might use body weight to control the subject while handcuffing.

The Level I Lateral Neck Restraint was the most frequent type of reportable force used by officers in 2016, followed by the use of a TASER™.





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Frequently Used Applications

- The Level I Lateral Neck Restraint (LNR)* was used 34 times. 24 incidents (70%) involved a Level I LNR application with no other force needed in order to take the subject into custody, which did not result in injury to the subject. In 6 incidents, officers used a secondary type of force such as body weight/manual force, takedown technique, etc. In two other incidents, the officer began with a Level I LNR application and transitioned to a Level II application so both techniques are counted.
- Officers deployed a TASER™ 30 times, in 24 of the 105 non-deadly force incidents.
- Body Weight/Manual Force was used in 24 of the incidents.
- Intentional Pointing of a Firearm was used as a tactic 18 times.

Less Frequently Used Applications

- K9 contacts occurred 13 times.**
- The Level II LNR was used 11 times by officers.
- Level 2 tactics (e.g., knee strikes) were used 11 times.
- Blunt impact munitions were deployed 3 times.
- Officers deployed baton strikes 3 times.
- Oleoresin capsicum spray, commonly known as pepper spray, was used 3 times.

*A Lateral Neck Restraint (LNR) is a control technique that involves an officer placing pressure on the sides of the subject's neck, compressing arteries and veins. The LNR impacts the circulatory system while leaving the airway unobstructed and protected during the deployment of this control technique. The Level I LNR involves lighter pressure as the officer does not intend to render the subject unconscious; in many cases, the subject is compliant once placed in the hold. An officer deploying a Level II LNR control technique does so with the intention of rendering the subject temporarily unconscious.

** SPD K9s are used extensively. 2016 K9 statistics are not available at the time of this report; however in 2015, K9s were deployed 1,156 times, to assist with tracking, building searches, perimeter security, evidence finds, and suspect apprehension. K9s were involved in 242 arrests and 28 incidents involving use of force. K9 contacts occurred 28 times, representing 2.1% of total K9 deployments.





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through January 24, 2016)

2015 Case Status

F15-067 (Status: Pending Deadly Force Review Board -DFRB)

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 ready for the Deadly Force Review Board, which is scheduled February 9, 2017.

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. SPD has completed the internal investigation; the next step is the Deadly Force Review Board, which is scheduled January 26, 2017.

2016 Case Status

F16-039 (With Administrative Review Panel)

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 ongoing.

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 Deadly Force Review Board -DFRB)

Incident 16-155667 took place May 2, 2016 at 2701 W. Sunset Avenue. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office completed their investigation. SPD has completed the internal investigation; the next step is the Deadly Force Review Board.

2017 Case Status

F17-004 (Under SIRR Investigation)

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





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Training Updates

Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team Training (ECIT)

In 2015, a select group of officers volunteered to be part of the ECIT team. Several partners from the SPD Mental Health Steering Committee (MHSC) helped create the ECIT curriculum, based on research by WSU. The partners subsequently were involved in a portion of the 64 hours of training for officers who attended the ECIT training (64 hours is in addition to the 40 hours of CIT training all SPD officers received).

ECIT training included mandatory immersion experiences at the methadone clinic in Spokane Regional Health District, Sacred Heart Medical Center, Excelsior Youth Center, and Frontier Behavioral Health (FBH) Crisis Response Center. Other optional immersion sites included time with agencies such as Detox, Homeless Outreach Team, Veterans Administration, FBH Adult Recovery Services, FBH Integrated Co-Occurring Services, and Northwest Autism Center. Mental health professionals participating in the ECIT training also participated in immersion experiences in law enforcement, spending time at the Downtown Precinct and going on ride-alongs with officers.

During the 2015 training, officers received significant training on Motivational Interviewing (MI). Motivational Interviewing (MI) is an established evidence based practice, often used by mental health professionals, originating in the field of substance abuse treatment. MI has been shown to enhance the client's intrinsic motivation for change and improve treatment outcomes. ECIT Officers trained on MI techniques with youth and adults with psychiatric conditions and with practice applying MI concepts to risk assessments for suicide and homicide. They also received training on involuntary treatment assessments and tactics used to apply MI in situations involving people in crisis situations.

ECIT training is ongoing. In December 2016, a total of 31 ECIT officers received three days of Motivational Interviewing training, facilitated by MI expert Casey Jackson. He has been training on Motivational Interviewing since 2002, and is a member of the international Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT) since 2008. He has provided over 500 trainings to professionals in healthcare, mental health, chemical dependency, juvenile justice, probation, corrections, drug courts, vocational rehabilitation, schools/universities, blind and deaf services, and child welfare. Mr. Jackson provided additional training in January 2017 where officers were able to use scenarios and body camera video to code encounters for fidelity to MI. Mr. Jackson offered the training at no cost to SPD.

Mr. Jackson hopes to help SPD achieve better outcomes through training on the science behind effective communication, with scenarios that are tailored to law enforcement. MI has great potential as another tool for officers to effectively communicate with people and elicit cooperation and voluntary behavior change. Examples of desired behavior change could be deciding to accept help in a mental health crisis situation, leave a situation voluntarily with an officer without fighting, or not go through with their plan to jump off a bridge.





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

One of the principles of MI is providing empathy through reflective statements. The MI training intends to enhance officers' empathy skills and their increase their ability to maintain equipoise in difficult situations. When officers use communication techniques that make people feel heard and understood, it breaks down resistance and tends to de-escalate situations.

SPD officers felt the training was very effective. 100% of officers responded that the training was a good use of their time, and 100% agreed with the question, "Do you think MI could make a difference in your contact with people?"

Officers look forward to continuing their training in MI and SPD is very grateful to Mr. Jackson and the partners from the Mental Health Steering Committee for their help in developing the ECIT program.

Use of Force Training Update

In 2013, use of force training was not nearly as robust as it is now. While patrol officers had to re-certify annually with the TASER™ device, they did not annually re-certify on other control tactics or techniques or defensive tactics. Now there is consistent training on other available options. Officers receive annual recertification training on OC (pepper spray), Baton, and Lateral Neck Restraint (LNR) in addition to the TASER™. Defensive Tactics re-certification is also held annually at in-service. All officers will recertify in Force Options in January and February 2017.

The focus of our use of force training is not on just the correct physical application of a technique; the focus has shifted to include more training around decision-making related to use of force. Reality-Based Training allows officers to experience realistic, stressful scenarios that include debrief sessions to discuss their decisions.

Department-wide Use of Force Report Writing Training, along with in-service training on use of force policies, has led to better understanding about our policies.

The quantity and quality of use of force training has increased.





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Outreach Update

Youth & Police Initiative (YPI)

SPD completed another successful YPI session at Shadle Park High School in January. Survey results are back from the YPI session at Glover Middle School in December.

85% agreed: **This program helped me trust police officers.**

85% agreed: **This program helped me to understand why police officers do some things on the job.**

92% agreed: **The experience of getting to know Spokane Police officers was excellent.**

92% agreed: **The overall YPI training program was excellent.**

Police & Community Forum -- January 17, 2017

This forum took place at the Service Station. Approximately 40 people attended the forum.

The evening began with panel discussion and transitioned to a question and answer session. Then participants broke up into small groups for an hour of small-group discussion facilitated by members of the Faith Alliance/Forum Planning Committee.

Panelists included:

- Dave Brown Eagle, Spokane Tribe Business Council
- Chrissy Davis Jones, Spokane Community College
- Sergeant John Griffin, Spokane Police Department
- Pastor Andre Dove, PRIDE Prep
- Officer Micah Prim, Spokane Police Department
- Shaun T. Greer, Spokane County Bar Association
- Imani Dixon, Youth & Police Initiative graduate and student
- Officer Scott Hice, Spokane Police Department

Participant survey responses were overwhelmingly positive. 100% of participants agreed with the question: **Do you feel this event gives the community a chance to be heard?**

The next Police & Community Forum will take place in February 2017; details TBA.





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Noteworthy News

A story involving **Officer Tim Schwering**, former Director of Strategic Initiatives, became national news, featured on People and CNN. Officer Schwering risked his life to save a woman from a burning car.



<http://people.com/human-interest/washington-police-officer-saves-woman-burning-car/>

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/23/us/burning-car-police-rescue/>

The Spokesman Review highlighted **Officer Traci Ponto** in the Difference Makers series of profiles of “people who made a difference to our community during the past year.”

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2016/dec/29/spokane-officer-builds-rapport-with-west-central-r/>

KREM recently highlighted Spokane Police Department’s **YPI program** and interviewed several youth participants at Glover Middle School.

<http://www.krem.com/news/local/spokane-county/local-program-breaks-down-tension-between-youth-and-police/366069770>

