



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives Division
July 2017 Report

Public Safety Committee Briefing
July 17, 2017





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Two weeks ago my car was stolen and several officers worked hard to help recover my car, even putting a tracker on my car for 24 hours once it was found in hopes of finding the people who stole the car. Their efforts and compassion are very appreciated. Again, thank you for the service you all do for the Spokane community. It does not go unappreciated.

-Amy Dever

In late May/early June, we had a situation in our neighborhood. The police department was called and responded in a timely fashion. **Officer Dion Mason** was the lead. **Officer Dave Grenon** was also called. Both men monitored the situation and kept the neighbors apprised of the activity as they were able. We all felt safe with a police presence. They contacted the absentee landlord and were able to have him come and solve some problems. The situation was soon resolved. The problem parties are moving on. Your men were great—always professional. Kudos to them!

-M. Z.

Your Academy range hosted approximately 200 retired law enforcement officers for the annual HR-218 qualifications. I would like to compliment and commend the following individuals for going above and beyond in providing their time, expertise, and supervision of the event. Without them, the qualifications could not have been accomplished: **Sergeant Jason Reynolds**, **Sergeant Ron Tilley**, and **Officer Brandon Fabian**. Their range management and safety supervision of approximately 200 retired law enforcement officers of “varying shooting skills” without a single mishap is to be commended. In addition, for several years now, **Sergeant Rob Boothe** has been a great host and facilitator in making sure things run smoothly and everyone is where they need to be when they need to be there. On behalf of myself and the 200 retired law enforcement officers who qualified that day, we say thank you to the above listed personnel.

-Skip Blythe, Riverside Police Department- Retired

Dear Craig [Meidl], Please allow me to thank you and all your officers for how they handled the situation with the gunman driving by the Union Gospel Mission last Thursday. I know you take your job seriously to protect the vulnerable and innocent from harm, and we are so grateful your team acted quickly and wisely to prevent a tragic situation from developing. It's been such a blessing to have you serve alongside UGM at the City-wide Thanksgiving Dinner- I know your heart of compassion for the poor. On Thursday, we saw an example of your team pursuing excellence in what can be a very thankless job; on behalf of our residents, volunteers, and staff at UGM, you all have our deep gratitude! Please pass on our appreciation to the officer who was at the right place at the right time.

-Phil Altmeyer, Executive Director, Union Gospel Mission





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through June 30, 2017 Complaints

Complaints Received:

Total: 38

Closed Out as Inquiries: 5 (As of June 30, 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: 20
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 2
Generated by the Community	Total: 36





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Categories of Complaints**

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1 and June 30, 2017. **Note: Some investigations involve multiple allegations. Allegations may be for commissioned or civilian employees.

Allegation	Number
Abuse of Authority	1
Biased Policing	2
Conduct Unbecoming	2
Conflict of Interest	1
Demeanor	6
Disclosure of Confidential Information	1
Excessive Force	3
False Arrest	1
Harassment	4
Improper Driving	1
Inadequate Response	10
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

Findings have been completed on 17 cases thus far. Five cases were determined to be an Inquiry. Eight were Administratively Suspended. One was Exonerated, one was Unfounded, one was Not Sustained, and one case was resolved through Mediation.





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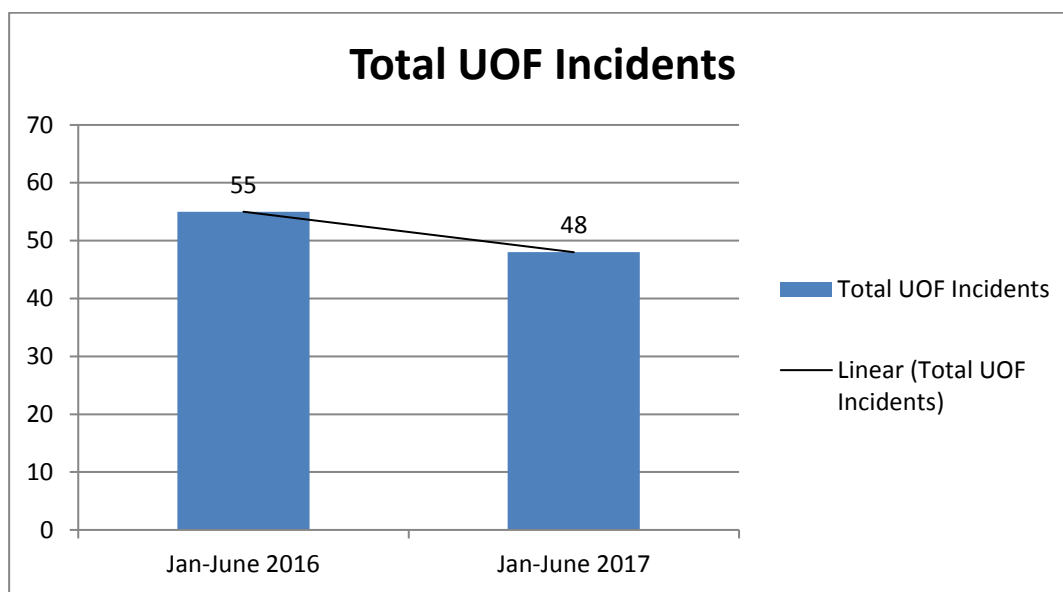
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Use of Force Update

2017 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-June 30, 2017, there were 48 non-deadly use of force incidents. During that same timeframe in 2016, there were 55 non-deadly force incidents. At this point, there are 13% fewer incidents than the previous year.



2017 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-June 30 2017, there were two 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, 2013-2016

- 2013: 3 incidents
- 2014: 4 incidents
- 2015: 5 incidents
- 2016: 3 incidents
- 2017: 2 incidents as of June 30, 2017





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Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through June 30, 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. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.

F17-034 (Under SIRR Investigation)

Incident 2017-20084382 took place May 7, 2017 in the 1300 block of East Dalton. Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) is investigating the incident.

Items of Interest

Staffing Study

Tim Freemeyer of Etico Solutions presented to City Council regarding his patrol workload staffing study on June 26. He will be sending his report by the end of the month.

Culture Audit/Organizational Action Plan

SPD is working with the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Diagnostic Center and The Blueprint for Building a Culture of Trust to develop an agency action plan. The action plan incorporates information from the Culture Audit and the results from focus groups of employees and community stakeholders. The Blueprint consultants facilitated five focus groups in April, including, department leadership, civilian employees, and two focus groups of officers. Blueprint also facilitated a Community Stakeholders Focus Group. In May, the Blueprint consultants held a series of meetings with SPD leadership to present the focal concerns and opportunities reflected in the data. They also facilitated leadership training with senior staff on May 17. The Blueprint consultants met with SPD leadership in June on the development of the action plan and a follow-up meeting is scheduled in July.





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Precinct Highlights

South Precinct

Success Stories

Officer Berrow has been working on seven nuisance houses in the south with success. Three of the houses were connected with criminal and suspicious activity.

- In one case, by Officer Berrow's surveillance, talking to neighbors, and contacting the residents there, the residents ultimately moved out on their own before the eviction process happened.
- He also followed up with a residence which had a previous nuisance letter issued to them but had not been followed up on. After his follow up, Officer Berrow found numerous other complaints and contacted the property manager to advise them he was ready to issue a nuisance infraction. They immediately rectified the situation by issuing a 20 day vacate notice to the renters and sent him a copy.
- One residence was the root of most of the problems in that neighborhood, and he recently compiled enough information to issue a nuisance property notice. Code Enforcement will also be citing the person in charge of that property.

Detective Mosman recently nabbed a repeat burglar on the South Hill. The suspect had been arrested for one of the burglaries because of a video doorbell but had not been apprehended for the first burglary. Detective Mosman watched the video, listened to the 911 calls, and matched the license plate from the first burglary, which linked the suspect to the first burglary. He contacted the suspect, who gave him a full confession.

Downtown Precinct

Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs (SNAP) recognized the Downtown Precinct with a "Value of Community" Partner award in June.

Success Stories

The Downtown Precinct focused on nuisance issues with the Downtowner Motel over the past three months. In March, they initiated a Chronic Nuisance against the Downtowner because of multiple problems (128 police responses in six months). DTP officers along with the Civil Enforcement Unit began working with the owner in the latter part of March and finalized the agreement in late April/early May. Between March and June, there was a 90% decrease in Part 1 crimes and a 78% decrease in calls for service.

A Collaborative Clean-Up

Code Enforcement worked with SPD Downtown Precinct officers, City Street department, Geiger clean-up crews, and City Litter Team to clean up 5,820 pounds of debris from several areas downtown during the month of June. Debris contained human waste and drug paraphernalia (mainly syringes). Under the Maple Street Bridge, 3,000 pounds of debris was removed. See picture below for example.





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Under the Maple Street Bridge-- Before



Under the Maple Street Bridge-- After



3,000 pounds of debris was removed from under the Maple Street Bridge.

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North Precinct

Shadle Park

The Shadle Park area is a focus of a District 3 safety project of which Councilwoman Karen Stratton is involved. The North Precinct has been involved in several collaborative initiatives to target issues both in and around Shadle Park over the last three months, including:

- Working collaboratively with the library to address environmental issues (CEPTED) that should make exterior areas of their building less attractive to campers. This evaluation has occurred and Pat Bonner with the Library is making efforts to implement the recommendations.
- Partnering with the library to limit Wi-Fi access after-hours to discourage people loitering near the Park/ Library.
- Working with Spokane Parks Department to take a zero tolerance stance against park violations, trespassing people from the park that are causing issues.
- Consulting with DSHS as they have found that many juveniles under their authority that flee from group homes will go to Shadle Park.
- Collaborating with Excelsior to address issues that have occurred with some of their residents while in a "run" status in the Shadle Park Area.
- Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) varying their hours and working specials late at night during the weekends to address problems at the park
- NROs reaching out to other locations within the Shadle Park area to let them know of our efforts in the park that will probably displace some transients toward their properties and steps they can do to mitigate potential problems.

The Homeless Outreach program has offered services to many transient individuals in the park.

Summer North Parks Project

The North Side NROs will be making a concerted effort to address parks within their geographical boundaries that present challenges and adversely impact the quality of life within the neighborhood. Officers are increasing their activities and contacts in the selected park throughout the summer and will reach out to their contacts in Patrol and encourage them to make a presence in the selected park on the weekends and nights.

While it would nice to have a presence at all of the parks, the plan is focus on the one park in their area that offers the biggest challenges or obstacles that prevent families or children from frequenting the park and feeling safe while doing so. Each week the North Precinct holds their unit meeting in a North Side City Park that presents challenges for the neighborhood. The venue for the meeting will be determined each week by a different NRO. The goal is to push out the park violators and bring in the families, children and lawful users of the park.





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As an example, Captain Torok has taken on Dutch Jake Park. To outline and illustrate his expectations, Captain Torok is:

- Contacting frequent users (and violators) of the park, explaining to them that they are welcome to use the park in the way that it is intended (no drinking, camping or disorderly behavior).
- Making frequent appearances at the park to include walk thru contacts even if there are no observed park violations.
- Empowering and encouraging frequent users (to include violators) to help maintain their park by freely spreading the word that the cops are arresting or trespassing people from the park for violations.
- Enforcing park violations and trespassing people from the park pursuant to the Parks Department Standard Operating Procedures on exclusions, and doing it in a very obvious way. This also maintains a standard whether it is Police or Parks issuing the violation and/or trespass warnings or arrests.
- Rewarding families for coming to the park with a variety of free vouchers for pizza and/or Slurpees. We are working on getting additional vouchers.
- Enlisting the assistance of neighbors and members within that area in spreading the word on what the Police are doing and encouraging use of the park in order to allow the community to “take back the park.”

Excerpts from a Letter of Appreciation for the North Precinct from Gonzaga University

“I am writing to express appreciation at the Department’s commitment to problem solving partnerships with Gonzaga in Logan Neighborhood matters. I’d like to thank you, your department, and some key personnel for helping the Logan Neighborhood enjoy a more peaceful neighborhood throughout the year, and of course, for another incident-free Hoopfest weekend. The first person to thank for Hoopfest success is **[Captain] Dan Torok**. He has placed emphasis on staying on top of Hoopfest issues. Next, **NRO [Shaney] Redmon** and **Sergeant [Vic] Carroll** took proactive steps by contacting problem party addresses with personnel from my department. By doing so they effectively reduced the incidence of disorder over the weekend. On Saturday, the traditionally busiest night of Hoopfest, **Sergeant [Rich] Meyer** effectively led teams assigned to Logan Neighborhood in managing noise and party calls throughout the evening. Thank you for sending these dedicated officers to us and please share with them how much we appreciate their efforts.

Hoopfest is but one night in June, overall we believe SPD’s commitment to community policing is having a positive impact on the quality of life in Logan throughout the year. You may be aware that the university is especially fond of Officer Redmon and nearly every week are thankful that you have assigned her to our neighborhood. She is tireless in her efforts in providing top quality police service. She and our Crime Prevention and Education officer, Brian Best, work well together. They have transformed how the neighborhood feels about both our organizations. They apply a great deal of push on quality of life issues, problem solving police efforts, and are making a difference through the synergy of working together.”

-Scott Snider, Director, Campus Security and Public Safety, Gonzaga University





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Awards

Several Spokane Police Department employees were nominated for **Lutheran Community Services' Partners in Justice** awards. The Law Enforcement division nominees included **Sergeant Michael McNab, Officer Ben Maplethorpe, David Stone, and Kathy Armstrong**, and Sergeant McNab won the award for the division. Detective division nominees included **Detectives Amy Woodyard and Michael Schneider**. Detective Schneider won the award.

Hiring & Training Updates

Civilian In-Service

SPD held the first Civilian In-Service in June. Employees received an update from Chief Meidl, had the opportunity to ask questions, learned about the Hope Animal-Assisted Crisis Response Program, experienced an abbreviated Deadly Force Review Board presentation, learned about the department's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and Enhanced CIT programs, and received training in Verbal Defense and Influence.

Upcoming Public Safety Tests

The next Public Safety Tests in Spokane will take place on August 26 and October 14. In an effort to reach the widest audience and recruit a diverse applicant pool, SPD will be working with stakeholders to get the word out about the tests and hold workshops/information sessions in preparation for the upcoming tests.

Outreach Update

Youth & Police Initiative (YPI)

SPD held a Youth & Police Initiative session at Garry Middle School in June. Sergeant Bartlett also attended Youth Leadership Spokane with a YPI graduate. The Spokane Indians donated 20 tickets to SPD through their Take Me Out to the Ball Game program, and SPD will be taking YPI graduates to a game later this summer.

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. The 2017 PAL season began June 27 and takes place in three Spokane neighborhoods: West Central, East Central, and North.





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Outreach with Refugee Communities

Sergeant Glenn Bartlett attended a Refugee Provider meeting and a World Relief Refugee Orientation. Also, several SPD employees attended World Refugee Day on June 17. Pictured below are Officer Matt Stewart and Officer Stephen Anderson with community members of all ages. Photo credit: www.keithcurryphoto.com. See more of Keith Curry's photographs of the event featured on the Refugee Connections Spokane Facebook page.



World Refugee Day



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Officers Matt Stewart and Stephen Anderson show kids the police car at World Refugee Day.

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Summertime provides many opportunities for outreach. Pictured below, SPD Traffic Unit Officers Chris Lewis and Kenny Applewhaite show kids their motorcycles.



SPD's Partnership with Spokane County Juvenile Court

- Youth and the Force: On June 16, Officers Micah Prim, Joe Dotson, and Detective Ben Green spoke to teens at the Youth and Force program at Spokane County Juvenile Court. Officers interacted with the youth present. According to Juvenile Probation counselors, "The message was clear... nobody is perfect and we all make choices we may not be happy about but don't let those choices define you as life moves on. I think the kids appreciated hearing the struggles that the officers had been through themselves, it definitely backs up the point we are trying to relay to the kids that we are all human and especially our police officers who have a difficult job to do."
- Coordination of Services (COS) Program: SPD continues to provide outreach to youth and families participating in the Diversion program and in the low-risk caseload. The goals of the program are to reduce recidivism and to link community services for participating youth and their families. SPD staff presented on June 20.
- SAC School: Detective Ben Green spends time working with youth at the Structured Alternative Confinement (SAC) School. SAC promotes education, accountability, and positive change for youth under the jurisdiction of the court. Educational Service District 101 operates the SAC School program.





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Outreach Unit Summary

- YPI at Garry Middle School (5/30, 5/31, 6/1, 6/6 6/7)
- Holmes Elementary Fair/ PAL sign up 6/1
- Met with Dallas and Arlington Police Departments (6/5- 6/12)
- Met with OutSpokane reference Pride Parade (6/7)
- Unity in the Community planning meeting (06/13)
- Youth leadership Spokane Graduation with A YPI Graduate
- Refugee Provider meeting (6/14)
- Youth and The Force at Juvenile (6/16)
- Refugee Orientation (6/16)
- World Refugee Day (6/17)
- COS (Diversion) at Juvenile Detention (6/20)
- SAC School presentations
- Contacted MLK Center and Vanessa Behan (6/20)
- Provided Native Project with UOF numbers 6/21
- Police Activities League (6/27-06/29)

Volunteer Spotlight

On June 21, SPD celebrated with longtime Senior Volunteer Paul “Bill” Town as he turned 90 years old! Bill has volunteered with SPD for 28 years, and has volunteered over 11,750 hours with SPD. He recently received the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for his service to SPD.





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Before coming to SPD, he served in the Marine Corps and then worked for Pacific Telephone Company for 35 years. He has also served as a Marine Corps Chaplain for over 30 years. He and his late wife Arlene joined SPD's Senior Volunteer program back in 1989 and Bill has been a steadfast help to us since. Bill is usually near the Records window, helping citizens and employees.

Noteworthy News

Spokane police arrest armed burglar in East Spokane within minutes Police arrest convicted felon with citizen's help

Fox featured a story about the quick arrest of an armed burglar, a convicted felon with a loaded gun, methamphetamine, and the victim's wallet.

<http://www.myfoxspokane.com/spokane-police-arrest-armed-burglar-in-east-spokane-within-minutes/>

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

<http://www.khq.com/story/35763911/spokane-police-fight-summertime-crime-with-fun>

