



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

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**Office of Professional Accountability**  
**June 2017 Report**

**Public Safety Committee Briefing**  
**June 19, 2017**





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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#### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

The purpose of this memorandum is to recognize the outstanding work performed by members of the Spokane Police Department while working joint investigations with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Spokane Field Office. On March 28, 2017, **Officer Winston Brooks** and members of the PACT team made a traffic stop and subsequent arrest... This arrest led to the seizure of approximately 5 pounds of methamphetamine and ½ pound of heroin. The seizure of this large quantity of controlled substances and multiple firearms was only possible because of the excellent police work performed by Officer Brooks and PACT. The Spokane Field Office would also like to recognize **Detective Michael Bahr** for his assistance in multiple joint investigations. Detective Bahr has written state search warrants, assisted in joint seizures and assisted in the Federal prosecution for controlled substances for multiple investigations involving the ATF and SPD. Additionally, the ATF Spokane would like to commend the Targeted Crimes Unit (TCU) for excellent police work performed by the unit. TCU has an outstanding reputation with AFT Spokane as a highly professional, dedicated, proactive detective unit. While working with TCU, particularly **Detectives Lonnie Tofsrud, Gregory Thieschaefer, and Sergeant Terry Preuninger**, ATF has enjoyed tremendous success in proactive firearms investigations. All of the ATF Spokane Field Office would like the SPD chain of command to be aware of the excellent police work performed by these officers and detectives and all of SPD on a daily basis.

*-Special Agent Adam Julius, US DOJ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives*

Spokane Police Department, Thank you for taking part in Shadle Park's mock crash. We really appreciate you helping us make a difference in our school's lives. We couldn't have done it without you!

*-Shadle Park High School Leadership Class of 2017 & 2018*

In December 2016, Frontier Behavioral Health (FBH) developed a pilot project in partnership with SPD in which a mental health clinician would team with a law enforcement officer to assist in diverting individuals from emergency room visits and provide appropriate resources in the field. **Officer John O'Brien** was one of the first officers assigned to this project due to his involvement with ECIT, his recent training in Motivational Interviewing, and his placement with the downtown precinct. Officer O'Brien has been the primary officer teamed with Matt Emerson, a Mobile Community Assertive Team (MCAT) clinician. Officer O'Brien works in tandem with Emerson using Motivational Interviewing which has resulted in positive interactions with individuals to confirm they feel heard and understood. Officer O'Brien shows a clear commitment to maintaining the ongoing positive relationship between FBH, SPD, and our community. He engages individuals in a manner that conveys respect and a desire to strengthen and sustain relationships with members of our community. The success of our pilot project is largely due to Officer O'Brien. This partnership has resulted in timely assistance to individuals resulting in diversions from more costly services such as emergency departments, jail, or inpatient psychiatric hospitalization. Thank you for selecting Officer O'Brien and embracing this project which is making a difference in the lives of people with behavioral health concerns.

*-Mariah Rhodes, MS, LMHC, CMHS, Director of Transitional Services, Frontier Behavioral Health*





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### Excerpts from Thank You cards from Adams Elementary Students

- “Thank you for letting us have a field trip to the Police Academy. It was an amazing experience. I couldn’t stop smiling.”
- “I couldn’t be more thankful that you hosted that field trip. You guys are super nice. You should be the police men that run the United States of America.”
- “If you ever wanted a new police dog I would give you my dog Sugar. Just send a letter to Adams Elementary.”
- “I wish I could stay there for 3 or 4 months.”
- “Thank you for teaching me the important things that police officers do. Thank you for handcuffing us, and showing how a Taser works (it is so scientific). I love how Zeus went for that obstacle course. It proved that with a lot of training dogs are powerful.”
- “Thank you for letting us come. My favorite part was seeing Zeus and his amazing tricks. He is a funny/pretty cool type of dogs. I also thought us getting handcuffed was awesome. Thank you so much again. It was really fun. I just loved it.”
- “Everything you let us do all of those fun things, so thank you! It was fun when you put the handcuffs on Mrs. Thompson!”
- “I can’t imagine how cool and proud you must feel for helping so many people.”
- “Right now I want to be one of those people and say thank you for your time and shake a person’s hand. Just know that you are amazing.”
- “Thank you for letting us come to your Academy. My favorite was when I saw Zeus on his obstacle course. Seeing his loyalty to his officers made me proud.”
- “I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.”
- “I like the police now. When I grow up I want to become a police officer.”





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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### Internal Affairs Unit Update

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

##### Complaints Received:

**Total: 32**

**Closed Out as Inquiries: 4** (As of June 1, 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: 16</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 16</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 1</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 31</b>





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#### Categories of Complaints\*\*

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** *received* between January 1 and May 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
Disclosure of Confidential Information	1
Excessive Force	3
False Arrest	1
Harassment	2
Improper Driving	1
Inadequate Response	10
Misuse of Department Property	1
Racial Profiling	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

Four cases were determined to be an Inquiry. Three were Administratively Suspended.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

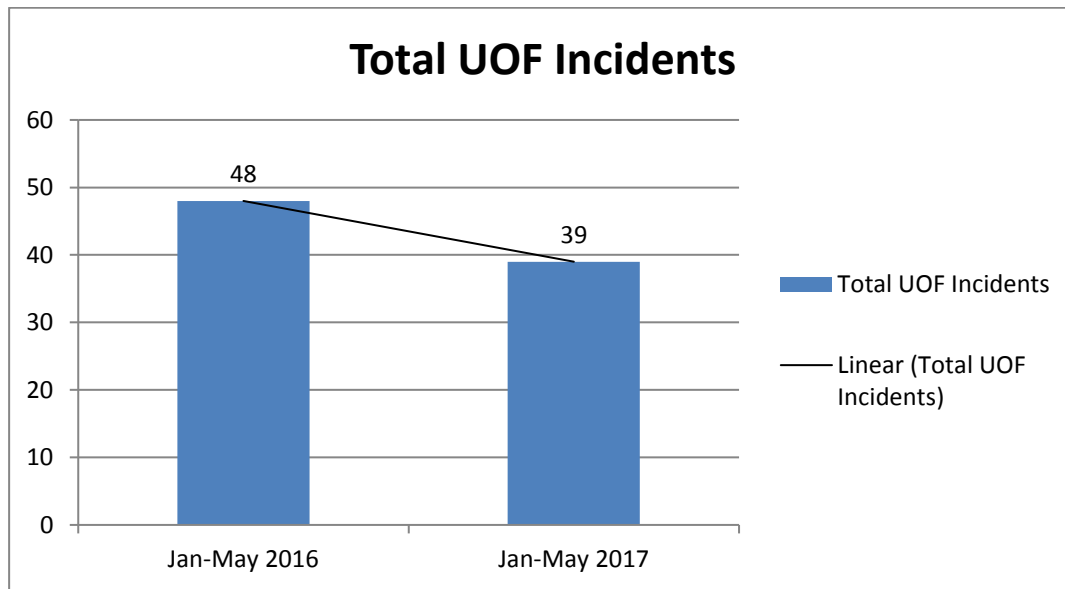
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### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Use of Force Update

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

From January 1-May 31, 2017, there were 39 non-deadly use of force incidents. During that same timeframe in 2016, there were 48 non-deadly force incidents. At this point, there are 19% fewer incidents than the previous year.



##### 2017 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-May 31 2017, there were two deadly force incidents. During that same timeframe in 2016, there were three deadly force incidents. Deadly force rates have stayed fairly 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 May 31, 2017







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## CHIEF OF POLICE

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#### **Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through May 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

##### **SPD Policy Manual Review**

SPD conducted an in-depth review of all department policies in 2016 and revised many of the policies, such as the pursuit policy and body camera policy. The department released over one hundred revised policies in March. There are still many more policies in the revision process; those policies will be released soon. The department is continually reviewing policies and procedures to ensure the Spokane Police Department's policies reflect best practices. The public can access the policy manual at this link:

<https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/police/accountability/police-policy-manual-2017-05-04.pdf>

##### **Staffing Study**

SPD Executive staff met with Tim Freesmeyer of Etico Solutions on May 15. He presented his model at the meeting and is now working on the report.





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#### 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 will be meeting with SPD in June on the development of the action plan.

#### Continued Collaboration with the US DOJ COPS Office

As part of the Collaborative Reform Technical Assistance, the COPS Office is providing a "Peer to Peer" educational trip for SPD. From June 5-7, 2017, Director Jacqui MacConnell, Sergeant Glenn Bartlett, and Officer John O'Brien are visiting Dallas Police Department and Arlington Police Department (Arlington, Texas) to learn about the agencies' best practices in communication, use of force, citizen engagement and outreach, procedural justice, and internal recognition programs and systems in increase accountability.

#### Procedural Justice Training

SPD Sergeants Mike Carr and Sergeant Rich Meyer are attending the Procedural Justice Train the Trainer event in Atlanta, Georgia on June 6-8, 2017. The US DOJ COPS Office is providing their training and travel expenses as part of the Collaborative Reform Agreement.

### **Precinct Highlights**

#### **Downtown Precinct**

The Downtown Precinct made several arrests of prolific vehicle prowlers during the month of May. Officers also investigated a series of graffiti incidents with little evidence except for a discarded spray can which resulted in the identification of the suspect who had committed the same crimes in Seattle, and will ultimately be charged with a felony after successfully aggregating the incidents. The precinct spearheaded a chronic nuisance process against a business, which led to a number of environmental and management changes, resulting in a significant reduction in calls for service to that location. Captain Singley also noted that officers conducted a lengthy organized retail theft investigation involving the Downtown Apple store. This investigation culminated in the identification and arrest of the suspect who had committed the largest retail theft of an Apple store in Washington.







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## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### **South Precinct Outreach**

Since 2013, the South Precinct team has enjoyed helping with the “Pedaling for Pennies” event for the All Saints School. Participating preschoolers (ages 3-5) acquire donations and sponsors for the event and then ride their tricycles, bicycles, and scooters on a special course set up at the school. Donations go to the “Bite2Go” program through 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Bank, a program that provides weekend food supplies for children in need throughout the school year. The food is non-perishable, kid-friendly, and healthy and safe for children to handle on their own. This year, the kids raised over \$1100.00 for the Bite2Go program.

Prior to the event, Captain Dave Richards and Officer Tim Ottmar visit the school and talk about bike safety along with stranger safety, giving out police stickers and making sure kids have helmets. They also attend the event and cheer the kids on, along with the entire school and their teachers and family members. Pictured below are Captain Dave Richards and Officer Tim Ottmar with the kids after their ride.



#### **Training Updates**

##### **Citizen Training**

The Citizens Academy is currently taking place; graduation is June 21. More information about citizen training opportunities can be found at this link: <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/citizen/training/>





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## CHIEF OF POLICE

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SPD staff celebrate with a proud graduate from 2016 Citizens Academy in the picture below.



SPD also recently held three Enhancing the Survival Mindset (personal safety and situational awareness) courses for the community: May 16, May 31, and June 5.

### Outreach Update

#### Community Impact Award -- Martin Luther King Family Outreach Center

Officer Jenn DeRuwe received the award in recognition for her involvement in reading to children and the PAL and YPI program partnerships with the Center.

#### Youth & Police Initiative (YPI)

SPD held sessions at both Rogers High School and Excelsior Youth Center in May. Garry Middle School will host another YPI session in June.

#### Continued Engagement with YPI Graduates

Officer DeRuwe took 16 YPI graduates to the YMCA Youth Leadership Forum.

On May 31, a recent North Central High School YPI graduate contacted Officer DeRuwe with an update. Officer DeRuwe explains, "The student was so excited to show me his 30 day recovery coin – and specifically mentioned Officer Jay Scott as someone who influenced him. The student asked me to tell





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## CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Officer Scott that he held true to his promise to quit smoking marijuana. He said once he quit, he realized how bad his grades were and contributed other bad things in his life to his marijuana addiction. He took Officer Scott's advice, stopped smoking, improved his failing grades to A's and B's and is on track to graduate next year. He was very proud of his coin and was very appreciate of Officer Scott and the other officers who participated in YPI."

### 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.

### NATIVE Project

Sergeant Bartlett attended the NATIVE Project's Wellness Night, discussing the PAL program and answering questions from parents. Several SPD staff attended the NATIVE Project's Open House on May 26.

### Shiloh Hills Elementary Carnival

On May 23, SPD officers and Pastor Shon Davis hosted a booth at the carnival promoting the PAL program at the nearby Friendship Park this summer on Wednesdays.

### Good Sports Donation to PAL

Good Sports donated \$50,000 of sports equipment to local organizations YMCA of the Inland Northwest, Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County, and the PAL program!







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## CHIEF OF POLICE

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#### Spokane Juvenile Court—Coordination of Services 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.

#### Community Forum: “Building Bridges between Schools, Police, Juvenile Justice, and the Community”

On May 11, the Spokane Police & Community Leaders Faith Alliance partnered with Spokane County Juvenile Justice, Spokane Public Schools, and Spokane Gang-Free Youth to hold a community forum to address disproportionality issues and to share ideas for agencies and schools to be more inclusive in their approach to build partnerships. The forum featured a panel of speakers from various agencies working with youth. Panelists included:

Dr. Raphael Guillory-Moderator  
Oscar Harris-Spokane Public Schools  
Kitara Johnson-Parent  
Nicole Rosenkrantz-Juvenile Court  
Officer Jennifer DeRuwe-SPD  
Fred Shrumpf- Spokane Public Schools  
Officer Ed Richardson-Campus Resource Officer  
Kyiesha Tensley-Student, YPI graduate  
Alise Mnati-Gang-Free Spokane Grant

The forum took place at West Central Community Center. Approximately 40 people attended the forum, not including representatives from law enforcement, juvenile justice, or Spokane Public Schools. The evening began with panel discussion. Then participants broke up into small groups for an hour of small-group discussion facilitated by members of the Faith Alliance/Forum Planning Committee. The evening ended with a question and answer session.

Survey data showed a positive response from attendees.

- 94% of participants agreed with the question: “The forum’s purpose is to build bridges between schools, police, juvenile justice, and the community. Do you think this event was effective in building bridges?”
- 88% of participants agreed with the question: “Was this event effective in promoting collaboration between schools, police, juvenile justice, and the community?”
- 84% of participants agreed with the question: “Do you feel this event gives the community a chance to be heard?”





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Junior League Literacy Fair

SPD outreach team participated in the Junior League Literacy Fair at West Central Community Center on May 6.

#### Building Healthy Youth

Officer DeRuwe attended this event at the EWU Riverpoint campus, which was designed to provide participants with the knowledge and skills to address community issues associated with substance use among youth.

#### East Central Community Center

On May 25, Officer DeRuwe attended a community meeting at ECCC.

#### ISAAC Foundation Special Needs Station Visit

A patrol officer on the ECIT team attended this event on May 21.

#### St. Charles School Fun Run

On May 12, Sergeant Bartlett and Officer DeRuwe took part in the event.

#### All City Civic Military Luncheon

Sergeant Bartlett and Officer DeRuwe, along with SPD Command Staff, attended this annual event on May 18.

#### Big Brothers and Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake

On May 5, Officer Kenny Applewhaite and Sergeant Glenn Bartlett participated in this event.

#### OutSpokane

Officers attended the OutSpokane meeting in May to address any concerns from people and to get input on strengthening the relationship. They were invited to the LGBTQ Summit—date to be determined.

#### Rally in Support of Salish School of Spokane

Sergeant Glenn Bartlett and Officer Jenn DeRuwe attended the Rally in Support of Salish School of Spokane to show SPD support of the school that was recently hit with racist graffiti.

#### "Understanding the Cultures and Intergenerational Trauma in Native American Families"

Officer DeRuwe attended a community training on May 2 by Dr. Martina Whelshula, hosted by Spokane County Juvenile Court. The training included learning about the neuroscience of culture and ways in which professionals can support culturally diverse populations.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Mental Health Steering Committee

Captain Keith Cummings and Jan Dobbs, Chief Operating Officer of Frontier Behavioral Health, have co-chaired the Mental Health Steering Committee since its inception in 2012. Captain Cummings retires in June and Captain Tracie Meidl will become the new Co-Chair of the committee. Captain Cummings received the Community Partner Award by Frontier Behavioral Health. The inscription read, "Thank you for your dedication and years of service in our partnership to better the lives of individuals confronting the challenges of mental illness. Your generosity with your time, your unfailing commitment, and your invaluable contributions to this endeavor have truly been inspirational."

#### Kids Fishing Day

Several SPD officers representing the Spokane Police Guild [Kenny Applewhaite, John Yen, Tim Ottmar, Glenn Bartlett] volunteered for the Kids Fishing Day. Pictured here are Bartlett, Yen, and Applewhaite.







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## **CHIEF OF POLICE**

### **CRAIG N. MEIDL**

#### **Noteworthy News**

##### **“K9 to 5”**

##### **KSPS Northwest Profiles—Spokane Police K9 Unit**

KSPS featured SPD's K9 Unit recently. The eight-minute clip provided information about how law enforcement use police dogs in the field. The segment provided interviews with each K9 handler.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWcEFI\\_z7g8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWcEFI_z7g8)

##### **Police arrest convicted felon with citizen's help**

Spokane Police have arrested a convicted felon and suspected drug dealer with more than \$7,000 in his pocket and a gun in his waistband, thanks to a good Samaritan's help.

[www.kxly.com/news/local-news/police-arrest-convicted-felon-with-citizens-help-1/511676516](http://www.kxly.com/news/local-news/police-arrest-convicted-felon-with-citizens-help-1/511676516)

##### **Community helps SPD find hit and run suspect**

"Every now and then the community cooperation comes together and justice is served," said Ofc. Shane Phillips with the Spokane Police Department, "and this was one of those cases, so thank you to everybody who helped."

<http://www.kxly.com/news/local-news/community-helps-spd-find-hit-and-run-suspect-1/470933632>

