



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

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**Office of Professional Accountability**  
**May 2017 Report**

**Public Safety Committee Briefing**  
**May 15, 2017**





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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#### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Hello,

I wanted to compliment **Officer [Brandon] Lynch** on his professionalism when dealing with him last night. I unfortunately got a call from the General Store informing me my son was in custody for shoplifting. I would have expected to get a call informing me I had won the lottery before getting that call. I got to the General Store and Officer Lynch was kind, courtesy and seemed to care about what was going with my son. Other than a couple speeding tickets over the past 25 years this is my only dealing with the SPD. In any event I'd like to thank Officer Lynch; he is an asset to the SPD.

*-J. R.*

Early this morning at around 2 am a man and woman began banging on my door and ringing my doorbell, as well as testing the door to see if it was locked. I immediately called 911, and within a few minutes an officer was on scene to talk with us and then find the people behind my building and see what was happening. Throughout the hour long process the officer remained extremely patient with the man and woman, and was very helpful when he checked back in with me. I was very nervous and scared but the officer managed to make me laugh and feel better and safer about the entire incident. I didn't get a chance to catch his name or badge number, but I hope there is some way that he can be recognized.

*-K. N.*

On January 19th, at about 9 p.m., I called 911 to report someone shining flashlights into my windows and pounding on my door. Unknown to me, in my sleep I had rolled over on my phone and accidentally dialed 911. Officers were dispatched to make sure that I was safe. I felt so foolish when I realized the flashlights were police officers and was mortified to think that I had taken up precious resources and that these officers had been sent out in the pouring rain to check on me. I did not get the names of the officers that responded to [address removed] on a 911 hang-up check. I did thank them for making sure that I was okay and told them that it is reassuring to know that had I truly been in danger first responder help was there. I wish I had gotten their names so I could direct this e-mail more efficiently to their supervisors.

*-N. B.*

I have been working with **Pamela Samek** of the Spokane Police Dept./Sheriff's Office Records, Swing Shift. This person is incredible. Please let her know that I appreciate all the extra help she has given me with the police reports needed. Thank you.

*-Anonymous*





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#### Internal Affairs Unit Update

#### January 1 through April 30, 2017 Complaints

#### Complaints Received:

**Total: 26**

**Closed Out as Inquiries: 1** (As of May 2, 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: 15**

Received by the Spokane Police Department **Total: 11**

Internally Generated by the SPD **Total: 1**





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#### Categories of Complaints\*\*

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

<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Number</b>
Abuse of Authority	1
Biased Policing	1
Conduct Unbecoming	1
Conflict of Interest	1
Demeanor	4
Disclosure of Confidential Information	1
Excessive Force	3
Harassment	2
Improper Driving	1
Inadequate Response	8
Misuse of Department Property	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

One case was determined to be an Inquiry. Three were Administratively Suspended.





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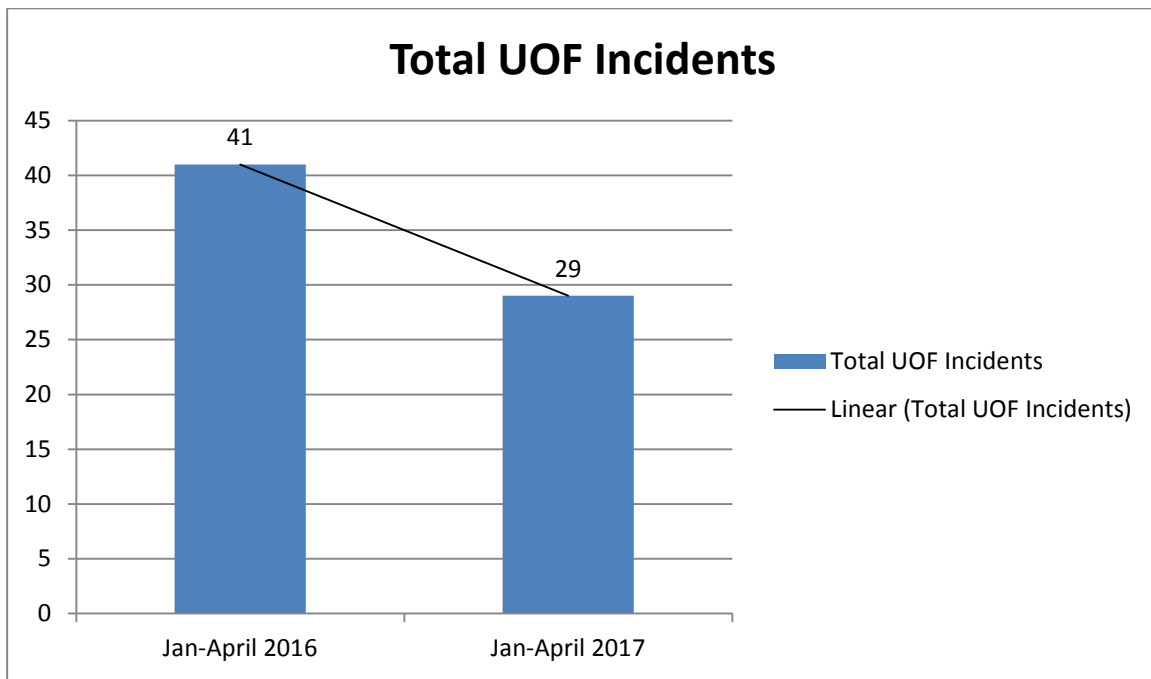
### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Use of Force Update

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

From January 1-April 30 2017, there were 29 non-deadly use of force incidents. During that same time frame in 2016, there were 41 non-deadly force incidents.

At this point, there are 29% fewer incidents than the previous year.



#### Non-Deadly Use of Force Annual Total Incidents 2013-2016

- 2013: 147 incidents
- 2014: 114 incidents
- 2015: 117 incidents
- 2016: 105 incidents

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.





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#### 2017 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-April 30 2017, there was 1 deadly force incident. During that same time frame in 2016, there were no deadly force incidents.

#### Deadly Force Annual Totals, 2013-2016

- 2013: 3 incidents
- 2014: 4 incidents
- 2015: 5 incidents
- 2016: 3 incidents

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

#### Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through April 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 5<sup>th</sup> and Maple. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.





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#### Upcoming Items of Interest

##### Staffing Study

Tim Freesmeyer of Etico Solutions will provide information about staffing and call volume in an interim report, and then will be focused on looking at shifts and then beat design, which will be in the final report. We will be working closely with him over the next several months.

##### Culture Audit/Organizational Action Plan

SPD will be 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 will be based on the information in the Culture Audit and the results from focus groups of employees and community stakeholders. Blueprint 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.

Representatives from the following organizations were sent invitations to participate in the Community Stakeholder Focus Group:

Public Safety Committee  
NAACP- Spokane Chapter  
Lutheran Community Services  
Leadership Spokane  
Chase Youth Commission  
Police Advisory Committee  
Interfaith Alliance  
Hispanic Business Professional Association  
Frontier Behavioral Health  
Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane  
Center for Justice  
Faith Alliance  
Washington State Commission on African American Affairs  
Police Ombudsman Commission  
Spokane C.O.P.S.  
Downtown Spokane Partnership  
Spokane Tribe  
Spokane Public Schools  
Refugee Connections Spokane  
LGBT section of Spokane Bar Association  
Mayor's Advisory Council on Multi-Cultural Affairs  
South Perry Business and Neighborhood Association





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Asian Pacific Islander Coalition  
YWCA - Family Justice Center  
Spokane Fire Department  
East Spokane Business Association  
Hillyard Neighborhood Council  
SNAP Homeless Program  
City Public Defender  
City Prosecutor  
Spokane County Juvenile Court  
Catholic Charities  
Spokane Human Rights Commission  
Homeless Coalition  
The Zone  
Gonzaga University  
World Relief  
YFA Connections  
Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council

Blueprint will provide leadership training and workshops for senior staff in late May.

### **Training Updates**

#### **Citizen Training**

The Enhancing the Survival Mindset (ESM) classes for citizens in May 2017 are already full and a waiting list has been established. The Citizens Academy begins May 24, 2017.

<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/citizen/training/>

### **Outreach Update**

#### **Our Town Gala Benefits SPD Youth Programs**

The Our Town Gala took place on April 28, 2017. Proceeds from the event benefit the Mayor's Youth Initiative, a collaborative summer youth program between the Spokane Police Activities League, the Spokane Public Library and the Chase Youth Foundation funded through the Inland Northwest Community Foundation.

The following video was featured at the gala, highlighting SPD youth programs:

<https://vimeo.com/215570265>







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#### Youth & Police Initiative (YPI)

SPD completed a successful session at Rogers High School in April. A session takes place at Excelsior Youth Center in May.

#### 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.

#### Continued Engagement with YPI Graduates

15 YPI graduates volunteered during Cleaning of the Corridor on April 29th. They volunteered to paint the foyer of the Corbin Senior Center. United Way provided a small grant to buy lunch and T-shirts for the volunteers. See photo below.



#### Marshallese Graduation

Sergeant Bartlett and Officer DeRuwe attended the Marshallese graduation at Shaw Middle School on April 22. More than 350 Marshallese community members attended.





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#### African American Graduation

Chief Meidl, Captain Tracie Meidl, Sergeant Bartlett and Officer Jenn DeRuwe attended the African-American graduation on April 22 at the request of YPI graduates and celebrated with 7 Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) graduates.

#### Youth and the Force

On April 21, Officers Prim, Higgins, Quarles and Sergeant Bartlett spoke to teens at the Youth and Force program at Spokane County Juvenile Court. Officers interacted with the youth present. One of the youth is expecting a baby, and Officer Higgins approached her at the end of the group to let her know he has a lot of baby clothes his youngster has grown out of and would like to give them to her. The teens and staff were very appreciative.

#### Connecting with Families and Individuals on the Autism Spectrum

SPD officers enjoyed being part of the Steps for Autism Walk and Fun Fair Event on April 22. Over 600 families participated and the Isaac Foundation received very positive comments about the activities with law enforcement.

#### Arc of Spokane Safety Rally

Officer John O'Brien, Sergeant Dan Waters, and Lieutenant Matt Cowles attended the 2017 Safety Rally, an annual event hosted by the Partnership 4 Safety with The Arc of Spokane. The Safety Rally is a student-led resource and personal safety fair for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in middle school, high school, and transition programs. Students learn about personal and community safety and interact with first responders.



Public Safety Building • 1100 W. Mallon Avenue • Spokane, Washington 99260-0001





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#### Connecting with First Responders—For Parents and Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

SPD and Spokane Fire partnered with the Arc of Spokane and the ISAAC Foundation for an evening of “Connecting with First Responders” on April 21. The evening gave parents and guardians a chance to ask questions from first responders and gave them tips to promote positive interactions between children and first responders.



#### Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center- Dinner and Silent Auction

Chief Meidl, Director MacConnell, Captain Meidl, Sergeant Bartlett and Officer DeRuwe attended the Dinner and Silent Auction on April 28 to benefit the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center.





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#### Spokane Police Department Awards

The department's Awards Ceremony took place on March 30, 2017. Officer Casey Jones was named 2016 Employee of the Year for the Spokane Police Department. An excerpt from his nomination reads: "While Officer Jones has been with the Spokane Police Department, he has worked very hard to establish a reputation of hard work, solid investigations, and a self-initiated ability to repeatedly catch criminals. He shows up every day with a smile on his face and positive attitude. He is dedicated to community outreach and engages members of the community who are traditionally more cautious of the police. Because of his dedication, service, and professionalism, he has brought a positive light on the Spokane Police Department."

Audio Video Technician Dean Percy put together a great video of photos and news stories. Here is the link to that video: <https://vimeo.com/spokanefire/review/210807728/75ed84422d>

Pictured here are some of the recipients of the Lifesaving Medal: Volunteer Maisie Bauer, Volunteer Ann Wriker, and Officer Sue Mann. Ms. Bauer and Officer Mann saved Ann's life, on her first day on the job as a volunteer for SPD.





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#### K9 Update

K9 “Ryker” and Sergeant Wheeler are now a WSPCA certified team. Ryker is trained on seven explosive foundational odors to include black powder and smokeless powder. A lot of their work will be locating spent shell casings, ammunition, firearms, etc.





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#### Noteworthy News

KXLY did a nice feature on the collaboration that led to the arrest of the hit and run driver responsible for the crash that severed another person's leg. The **Community helps SPD find hit and run suspect** feature can be found at the following link:

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

Several news outlets covered the abatement of a “problematic drug house.” The **Problematic drug house in Spokane boarded up** feature is at the following link:

<http://www.kxly.com/news/local-news/problematic-drug-house-in-spokane-boarded-up-1/462848987>

