



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives Division
November 2017 Report

Public Safety Committee Briefing
November 6, 2017





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

I'm contacting you in regard to a recent ride along with **SPD Officer John Yen**. Officer Yen has been a mentor to the students of the Criminal Justice Club at Eastern Washington University since 2016. As a club, we would like to thank both Officer Yen, and the Spokane Police Department, for allowing us the opportunity to participate in such training experiences. Officer Yen provided me with an opportunity to ride along in his traffic patrol unit. The experience in itself is beneficial to anyone interested in a law enforcement career. Officer Yen is knowledgeable and provides practical use of protocols and practices, in a real life situation. He demonstrates vast understanding of the laws and rights of citizens, both traffic and personal, that allows an observer to gain proper insight of police functions. On the night of the ride along, Officer Yen showed both integrity and empathy for the general public. Many stops were made, but of those encounters one arrest occurred. Once apprehended, the suspect, arrested for suspicion of DUI, was experiencing emotional turmoil. Instead of alienating this individual, Officer Yen took the time to investigate what was going on in his life that caused his behavior that evening. Upon that investigation, Officer Yen uncovered the man was going through a divorce, had been drinking often, and had never been arrested prior. Yen used the opportunity to tell him this was just a "speed bump" and that there was opportunity to recover and learn from his mistakes. The individual seemed relieved and remained cooperative when handed over to jail staff. His continuation of calm demeanor and candor seemed to permeate itself into every situation and citizen that Officer Yen was in contact with that evening. I'd like to thank the Spokane Police Department for allowing me the opportunity to see the justices in which the department lends itself to the city of Spokane.

-Katherine Kelly, Eastern Washington University, Criminal Justice Club President

The EHM department in Municipal Probation would like to say "Thank You!" to **Officers Chan Erdman and Aaron Ames** who helped facilitate the arrest of an individual who was in warrant on an Assault 4 DV and a Malicious Mischief DV. Using the GPS unit in conjunction with Officer Erdman's quick response worked out fabulously. Again, thank you so much and we look forward to working with you more in the future.

-Greg Lewis, Spokane Municipal Court Probation

A Spokane City Police officer met with me today to purchase a walker I had posted on Craigslist. He has seen a man struggling to walk with two canes and was purchasing the walker for him. I told him, please do not pay me, just take the walker, and he refused. Told me I was doing my part by charging half of what everyone else was. I am so thankful for our police department that each and every day continue to serve our communities day in and day out with constant crime and illegal activity. To this officer and every officer doing their part to make a positive difference, my family appreciates you.

-Heather Stokes Photography





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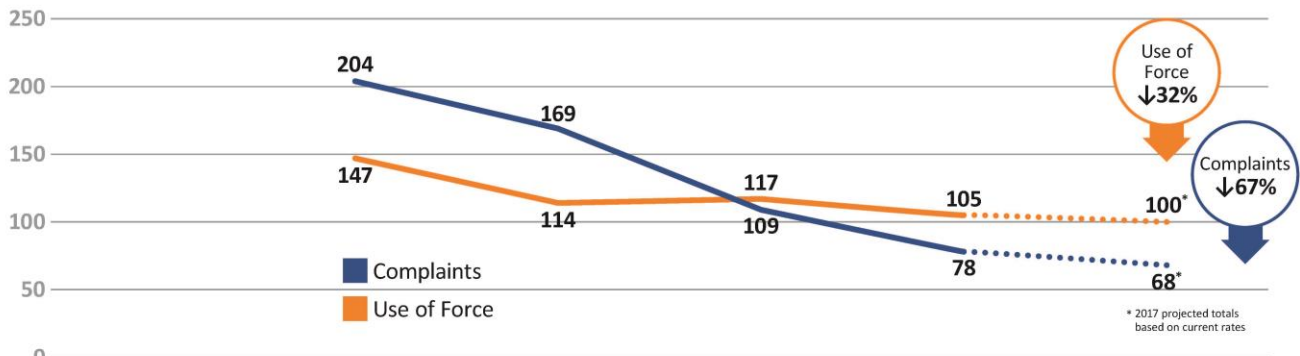
Spokane Police Department has demonstrated progress with a continual decline in complaints and use of force over the past few years. Please note the chart below and the timing of the various initiatives.



Resolving Conflict



Measuring Our Progress



2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOJ Collaborative Reform Begins with US DOJ and C.O.P.S. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Force Commission 6-month Progress Report CIT Department-wide Crisis Intervention Training Begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Force Commission 12-month Progress Report Bodyworn Cameras – First Deployment Verbal Defense & Influence CIT Department-wide Crisis Intervention Training Ends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Force Commission 24-month Progress Report Bodyworn Cameras – All Patrol Broadened Use of Force Definition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Force Review Board Established Procedural Justice Training for Supervisors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedural Justice Training for Full Department





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through September 30, 2017 Complaints

Complaints Received:

Total: 52

Closed Out as Inquiries: 9 (As of September 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: 25
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 27
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 4
Generated by the Community	Total: 49





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Categories of Complaints**

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1 and September 30, 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	6
Disclosure of Confidential Information	1
Excessive Force	4
False Arrest	1
False Reporting	1
Harassment	4
Improper Driving	1
Inadequate Response	14
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	2
Unlawful Search/Seizure	1
Untruthfulness	1

Disposition of Allegations (as of September 30, 2017)

Nine cases were determined to be an Inquiry. Eleven were Administratively Suspended. Two cases were Exonerated, three were Unfounded, one was Not Sustained, two cases contained Exonerated and Unfounded findings, and one case was resolved through Mediation.





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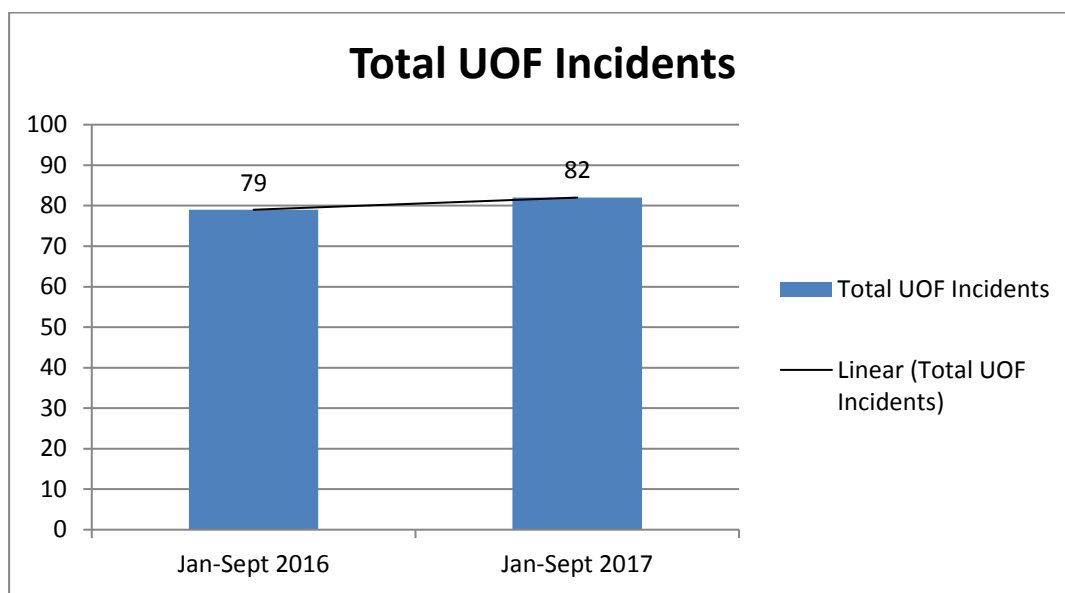
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Use of Force Update

2017 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-September 30 2017, there were 82 non-deadly use of force incidents. During that same timeframe in 2016, there were 79 non-deadly force incidents.



2017 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-October 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 October 15, 2017





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Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through October 15, 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. Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.

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 SIRR 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

Procedural Justice Training

SPD recently provided “Procedural Justice for Law Enforcement” training to all officers. The Center for Public Safety and Justice created the class in 2016 for the DOJ COPS Office. SPD also held a class for community members on Saturday, October 14 at the SPD Academy to share the class and ask for community input.

Representatives attended from the following organizations:

- Lutheran Community Services Northwest
- Police Ombudsman Commission
- Police Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Spokane County Disability Resource Team
- I Did the Time
- Spokane Fire Department
- Spokane Police Accountability Reform Coalition (SPARC)
- Spokane Police Faith Alliance
- Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS)
- Salish School of Spokane
- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
- NAACP Spokane
- Spokane City Human Rights Commission
- Spokane Police Mental Health Steering Committee
- Smart Justice Spokane
- Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council
- Fuse
- Hispanic Business and Professional Association
- World Relief
- Eastern State Hospital
- Worksource
- Eastern Washington University
- Spokane County Juvenile Court

Survey results were very positive, with a large majority agreeing that the training was effective, instructors answered their questions, and that the training furthered the goal of building trust and legitimacy between police and community. Ombudsman Gardner commented, “The training was a real eye opener and wish every citizen would go through this. The information received will come in handy with my new role as a member of the OPOC.”





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SPD also hosted a class for officers from other law enforcement agencies on Saturday, October 21, from 8 am to 5 pm, at the SPD Academy. SPD invited area law enforcement agencies, and the following agencies participated: Spokane County Sheriff's Office, Kalispel Tribal Police, and Spokane Public Schools (Resource Officers).

SPD Hiring Workshops

In addition to the Hiring Workshops held in various community centers and libraries over the past few months, SPD held more workshops during September and October, at the Cheney Library, Airway Heights Community Center, Southside Senior Center, Whitworth University, and Gonzaga University. The purpose of the hiring workshops is to go into the Spokane community and reach people who were not already committed to a career in law enforcement. This includes people with various interest levels in the profession, those that have never considered it and have questions, and those that do not understand the process. SPD chooses welcoming community specific locations that are easily accessible to the public. Candidates who attend the workshops will learn about the extensive hiring process, the public safety test and the minimum requirements to be a police officer, along with the benefits and compensation package that the City of Spokane provides. Representatives from the Spokane Police Department, Human Resources and Civil service are all at the workshops and are available to answer questions, provide information, and follow up with the candidates as needed.

The workshops put all of the decision makers in the hiring process in the same room so that the candidate can get an immediate answer to any questions or concerns that they may have. With several officers in attendance as well, candidates get to interact with officers from a variety of backgrounds and experience levels. We have found that almost all of the candidates want that interaction before and after the presentation and the interaction helps solidify their interest and desire to work for the Spokane Police Department. Each candidate who attends a hiring workshop is given a folder containing all of the necessary paperwork and information about the hiring process, how to sign up for the test and the compensation packages. The candidates can take this folder with them to review at their convenience. Candidates can sign up for ride alongs with SPD to get a firsthand look at the job.

SPD Internal Promotions Workshops

In partnership with Civil Service, we held three Promotions Workshops prior to the Sergeant test. The workshops included information about what to expect with the testing instruments, explaining how things are weighted, and how positions are decided (e.g., rule of the list, rule of three). While SPD posts the information, it is especially helpful to employees to be able to get the information directly from Civil Service and SPD leadership and to be able to ask questions. The Promotions Workshops are another way SPD is addressing concerns from the Culture Audit, that SPD should look at promotion processes and communicate the process to employees.





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#End the Silence Campaign

Chief Meidl wrote SPD employees, "As we all know domestic violence calls are one of the most dangerous calls for service we respond to. From our patrol officers to our DV Unit, each day our officers are doing an exceptional job protecting victims from dangerous abusers and helping victims get the resources they need to heal and move out of the cycle of violence. This month we are encouraging our officers to wear a purple wrist band (see attached photos) to help engage in the national domestic violence prevention and awareness campaign. You will notice the purple wrist bands have #SpokanePoliceDepartment and #EndTheSilence. The End The Silence campaign's goal is to encourage the community to stand alongside victims and survivors of domestic violence as safe allies and remind them that they are not alone. We are encouraging everyone within SPD to help join in this effort and wear a band. A donation is suggested for the bands. All funds received will be donated to the YWCA. This is one more effort our agency is initiating to connect with the community and show that behind our badges are staff that live in the community and care for the community."

Precinct Highlights

South Precinct Team Photo





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Downtown Precinct Highlights

The Downtown Precinct and WSU Spokane recently teamed up to hold a Coffee with a Cop event. Pictured below are Officer Ken Applewhaite and Sergeant Glenn Bartlett. The next Coffee with a Cop event will be November 9 from 11 am to 1 pm, at Northtown Mall, in partnership with Fourth Memorial Church Outreach Program and the North Precinct.



North Precinct Highlights

Spokane C.O.P.S. 25th Anniversary Volunteer Awards

Lieutenant J.D. Anderson, NRO Ponto, NRO Strosahl, NRO Wells, NRO Hice, NRO Redmon and North Precinct Desk Officer McIntyre attended the C.O.P.S. Annual Awards and Dinner. The event celebrated the 25th year for Spokane Community Oriented Policing Services, which started in 1992 with just one COPS Substation in West Central. The program has expanded and contracted over the years and is a large part of policing in Spokane. The volunteers are what make community oriented policing work because without the community, SPD would not be what it is today.





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The event's theme was Roaring Twenties and several attendees, including Chief Meidl and Captain Meidl, enjoyed dressing up in 1920s apparel. Master of Ceremonies NRO Traci Ponto led the event. NRO Hice displayed his terrific acting skills while impersonating NRO Ponto and Captain Torok responding to a call, giving everyone a chance to laugh and have a great time.



North Precinct Parking Lot Expansion and Repairs

The City Council recently authorized a contract to fix several City-owned parking lots to include the North Precinct. The precinct parking lots suffered from large cracks in the front, gravel, and improper grading to keep water out of the building. The recent repairs and expansion not only made the parking lot look much better but also made the parking lot much safer for all users.





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Outreach Update

Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Mayor's Advisory Committee on Multi-Cultural Affairs (October 3)
- Homeless Coalition meeting (October 5)
- Women's Luncheon (October 7)
- Vietnamese Association (October 8)
- Enhanced CIT training (October 10)
- Procedural Justice for Community class (October 14)
- Coordination of Services (October 16)
- School Community Partnership Committee meeting (October 17)
- TEAM Conference for First Responders and Mental Health Professionals (October 24-25)

