



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives Division
October 2017 Report

Public Safety Committee Briefing
October 02, 2017





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

It wanted to take a moment to say thank you to the Spokane Police Department for your presence this morning at both schools in Spokane where I was dropping off my children. The Spokane Police Department's presence was not only noticed but appreciated by myself and I'm sure all other parents/guardians/family members/friends and child care centers who were trying to get their students to school safely. My children are students in the Spokane School District and I truly appreciate SPD staff being present following an event such as yesterday in Freeman High School. Please continue to be present during school hours to keep our children safe and again thank you very much. Your hard work is noticed and respected by our community.

-Anna O'Connor

I would like to highlight the superb service and treatment supplied by one of your officers, **David Eckersley**. Both my husband and I are disabled and were involved in an accident in the parking lot of the Shadle Center. To sum it up, we were hit hard by an elderly gentleman and my husband required extrication by the fire department. The event was traumatic and left us sore, hurt, and stunned. The officer was pleasant, kind, patient, and supportive. He arranged for the towing of the car and later came to the hospital to return our IDs and check up on our status. He took the time to inform us on his findings and to ease our concerns. Later my husband called him because he had some additional questions. He promptly returned his call and made us feel as if our issues were foremost on his mind. Officer Eckersley made what could have been a more unpleasant experience much easier to handle.

-F. W.

[In response to SPD going to the area schools the day after the school shooting]

This gentleman [unknown officer] explained what the Chief was doing and why. And I think he saw the sorrow in me. I'm a graduate of Freeman. He was so kind and his smile was unhurried. He wasn't just there as a precaution, he was there for the community.

-T. E.

I had the distinct pleasure of a citizen ride-along with the Spokane Police Department. Officers **Caleb Martin** and **Kelsey Scott** are wonderful representatives of the department and the city. They handled themselves with professionalism, discretion, and demonstrated true care of the individuals that needed their assistance that evening. As Chairperson of the City of Spokane Civil Service Commission, my involvement with Officer Martin and the entire South Spokane Patrol on this night has provided me an insight to police operations that will only enhance my understanding and application of Civil Service Rules.

- Craig Hult, Chief Financial Officer

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





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through August 31, 2017 Complaints

Complaints Received:

Total: 41

Closed Out as Inquiries: 6 (As of August 31, 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: 23
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 3
Generated by the Community	Total: 38





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Categories of Complaints**

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1 and August 31, 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	3
False Arrest	1
Harassment	4
Improper Driving	1
Inadequate Response	11
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 (as of August 31, 2017)

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





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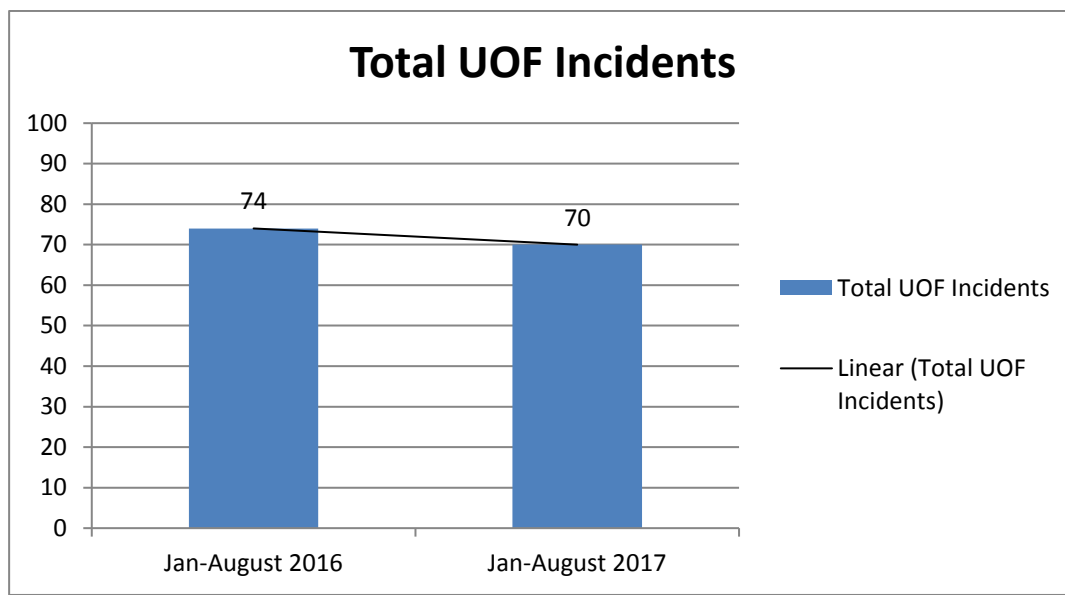
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Use of Force Update

2017 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-August 31, 2017, there were 70 non-deadly use of force incidents. During that same timeframe in 2016, there were 74 non-deadly force incidents. At this point, there are 5% fewer incidents than the previous year.



2017 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-September 27, 2017, there were four 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, 2013-2017

- 2013: 3 incidents
- 2014: 4 incidents
- 2015: 5 incidents
- 2016: 3 incidents
- 2017: 4 incidents as of September 27, 2017





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Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through September 27, 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. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) is currently investigating.

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.





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Items of Interest

Procedural Justice Training

SPD recently provided "Procedural Justice for Law Enforcement" training to officers. The Center for Public Safety and Justice created the class in 2016 for the DOJ COPS Office. SPD will be holding a class for community members on Saturday, October 14, from 1-5 pm, at the SPD Academy. SPD is also hosting a class for officers from other law enforcement agencies, including school resource officers, on Saturday, October 21, from 8 am to 5 pm, at the SPD Academy. Individuals can register with Kathy Armstrong at karmstrong@spokanepolice.org.

Precinct Highlights

South Precinct Highlights

South Precinct NCOs have been conducting outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness, and have been working with other agencies such as Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs (SNAP), City of Spokane Neighborhood Services, and the City Parks Department to help connect people with services. Officer Tim Ottmar has been working on cleaning up the area between the Sunset Bridge hillside and I-90 and diverting urban campers to resources. Officer Ottmar also arrested an arson subject accused of setting fire to apartments on West Pacific Avenue.





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Downtown Precinct Highlights

Success Stories

The Downtown Precinct continues to see excellent results at the Downtowner Motel after the Chronic Nuisance process in April. Initially, they saw a 78% decrease in calls for service and a 90% decrease in Part I crimes. There were still some calls for service over the summer. However, not a single Part I crime was reported at the Downtowner for the entire summer.

North Precinct Highlights

Super Kid Award

On September 20th, 2017 at COPS NE/North Precinct, the COPS Volunteers along with Officer Hice and Officer McIntyre presented a Super Kid Award to **Truly Vasicek**. COPS NE Volunteers Lucky, Ruth, and Bernadine nominated Truly. The award is given to a neighborhood kid that has done something above and beyond what a normal kid in their neighborhood and at their age would do. Most previous winners have been middle school and high school kids. At just 4 years old, Truly is the youngest Super Kid to date.

The nomination read as follows: *“The Super Kid’s special deeds are as follows: Truly really is a super kid. She has called 911 and got help for her mom not once but twice when her mom was having a severe asthma attack and couldn’t talk. On top of being a hero she also has a rare form of Cystic Fibrosis that is terminal. She has to take 12 different medications daily and has a feeding tube and is in and out of the hospital but none of that ever brings her down. She is always happy friendly full of life always ready to put a smile on your face and never complains and is why Truly is Truly a Super Kid!”* Along with a presentation of the award, Truly received \$100 and some toys.





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North Precinct "Coffee with a Cop"—Sonderen Packaging, 2906 N Crestline

On September 21, 2017 from 10 am to Noon, SPD held a Coffee with a Cop at Sonderen Packaging. The Sonderen Packaging team was eager to host the event, which included a demo from our EDU Team (aka Bomb Squad). Sergeant Wheeler and K9 Ryker greeted employees and citizens. K9 Ryker's expertise is detecting explosives to include ammunition and firearms. Sergeant Dashiell and Officer Eriksen brought out one of the equipment trucks and demonstrated with one of the robots. All of the on-duty personnel from the North Precinct also participated in the event. Although it rained prior to the event and was cool outside, the weather held out during the event.

The next Northside Coffee with a Cop Event will be at Northtown Mall on November 9 from 11 am to 1 pm in conjunction with Fourth Memorial Church Outreach Program.





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Crime Prevention Project of the Month for September- Division and Wellesley

Neighborhood Resource Officer Wells responded to complaints of several issues on the NW and SW corners of Division and Wellesley. The owners of both properties contacted the precinct regarding multiple issues voiced by several of their businesses. Officer Wells contacted each individual business on the properties and gathered what each of their individual problems were. He then formulated a multifaceted response to the problem. Problems included aggressive panhandling, urban campers in doors and alleyways, theft, malicious mischief, and large groups of disorderly car groups at night. One of the businesses hired off-duty officers to work periodically through the Spokane Police Departments Extra-duty Program to enhance the safety for their customers and employees. They also installed signs to give a trespass warning that the parking lots were off limits after business hours. Each business and property owners signed a trespass notice. SPD entered a prowler check to request assistance from regular patrol units make checks of the parking lots at night with the intent to warn and if necessary cite people violating the trespassing signs after hours. The prowler check also requested officers contact businesses during the day to see how things were going and make a police presence known. Officer Wells worked to identify specific individual problem makers and communicated the rules and consequences of breaking the rules. SPD officers are already applying some of the lessons learned from this situation in new spots along the Division corridor and other Northside business locations.





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Outreach Update

Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Refugee provider meeting (09/06)
- Ribbon cutting for Teen Closet and Excelsior Youth Center (09/06)
- Spokane County Interstate Fair --157,000 visitors (09/08-09/17)
- School and Community Partnership meeting (09/19)
- YPI at Rogers (09/19-09/27)
- Community Building Day at Holmes Elementary w/ Whitworth University (09/20)
- OJJDP Anti-Gang Grant Steering Committee (09/21)
- Touch A Truck Event at Spokane Community College --interacting with hundreds of kids and parents (09/23)

Back to School Shop with a Cop Event

SPD teamed up with the Salvation Army and the Northside Target store to help children in the Salvation Army programs go back to school shopping.

