



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives Division
September 2017 Report

Public Safety Committee Briefing
September 18, 2017





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

I met two very kind officers at the Cops and Kids Car show, one of whom helped me get my car out of the parking lot when I realized there were no exits. I wanted to express my appreciation for the help and kind conversations I received. Thank you for all of your help and continuous generosity.

-Ruby Falcion

Two officers responded to an incident at the dog park, involving a woman kicking another woman's dog. I did not get their names, but they were both professional and handled the incident professionally. Thank you for the work you do. Stay safe. [Officers **Alexander Baxter** and **Taylor Johnson**]

-Kathy Lynch

Chief Meidl,

On behalf of the staff at Deaconess Hospital, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to **Sergeant Jay Kernkamp** for the outstanding and informative active shooter training he provided. We were impressed with the exceptional knowledge he exhibited during the training and the staff were very appreciative of the education. Again, thank you for allowing Sergeant Kernkamp to partner with us.

-Maurine Cate, Chief Executive Officer, Deaconess Hospital

Chief Meidl,

With the successful conclusion of Skyfest 2107, I wanted to pass my thanks to the Spokane Police Department and all your personnel for their assistance with this event. Motor officers assisted with four Thunderbirds escorts over the weekend and there is no way these motorcades would have been successful without the help of your staff.

-Captain Jeffrey M. Otis, Washington State Patrol

Chief Meidl,

I have been asked by our detective to notify you of the assistance he received from **Detective Amy Woodyard** with your department in a child abuse case. Please thank Detective Woodyard on behalf of our department. We both appreciated her help.

-Scott Shepherd, Chief of Police, Cottage Grove Police Department





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through August 31, 2017 Complaints

Complaints Received:

Total: 46

Closed Out as Inquiries: 7 (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: 22
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 24
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 3
Generated by the Community	Total: 43





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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	7
Disclosure of Confidential Information	1
Excessive Force	3
False Arrest	1
Harassment	5
Improper Driving	1
Inadequate Response	11
Misuse of Department Property	1
Racial Profiling	2
Reckless Driving	2
Sexual Assault	2
Sexual Harassment	1
Unauthorized Use of Database	1
Unlawful/Improper Arrest	4

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

Seven cases were determined to be an Inquiry. Ten were Administratively Suspended. Five cases were Exonerated. One case was Sustained. Another case involved three allegations; two were Sustained and one was Unfounded. One case was Not Sustained, one case contained Exonerated and Unfounded findings, and one case was resolved through Mediation.





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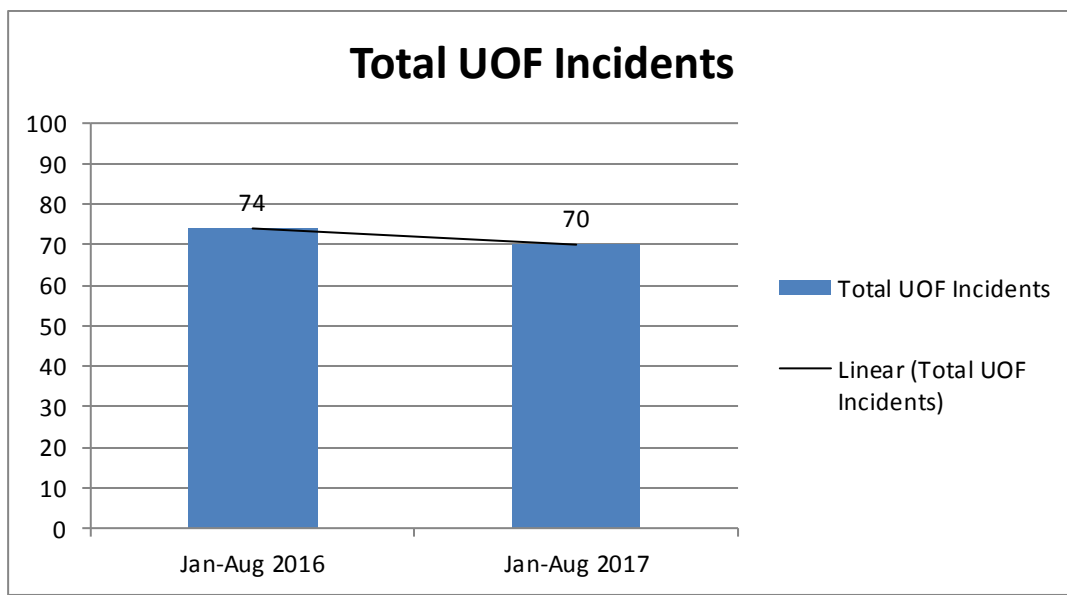
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Use of Force Update

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-August 31, 2017, there were three 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: 3 incidents as of August 31, 2017





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Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through August 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 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.

Precinct Highlights

Downtown Precinct Highlights

- Downtown NCOs McCasland and Prim are finishing Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) reviews for the area around Interstate 90 and will soon begin a CPTED review of the House of Charity.
- Downtown officers enjoyed connecting with attendees at Pig Out at the Park and handing out stickers to children.
- Lieutenant Braun has been advising nearby businesses about safety issues and recently gave a presentation to WSU Nursing students.





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South Precinct Highlights

Collaboration to Help Persons Experiencing Homelessness

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.

North Precinct Highlights

Emphasis Patrols Lead to Noteworthy Arrest

North Precinct Neighborhood Resource Officers developed rapport with citizens during their intensive emphasis patrols in the parks this summer, and the rapport paid off when investigating a robbery of a disabled citizen that took place in Dutch Jake Park in early August. During the brutal robbery, the suspect hit, kicked, and stomped on the victim. While the victim was unable to identify the suspect, witnesses who were familiar with NROs were very cooperative with NRO Wells. The suspect was later arrested for first degree Robbery.



NROs Hice and Wells worked with the Patrol Anti-Crime Team (PACT) on search warrants for suspected drug houses. Hice and PACT members were able to recover evidence related to heroin and stolen guns. NRO Wells developed probable cause to search for an illegal drug operation and that investigation is continuing.

NROs are continuing to address problems with urban camping and camping along the river, and working with City Legal to find better ways to deal with the conservation areas along the Spokane River. NROs will be improving signage along the route before next summer and will be working on a way to enforce the law while helping those in need. They hope to route the violators into services through Community Court, and improve their lives while at the same time improving the areas along the river for all of our community.





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Training and Hiring Updates

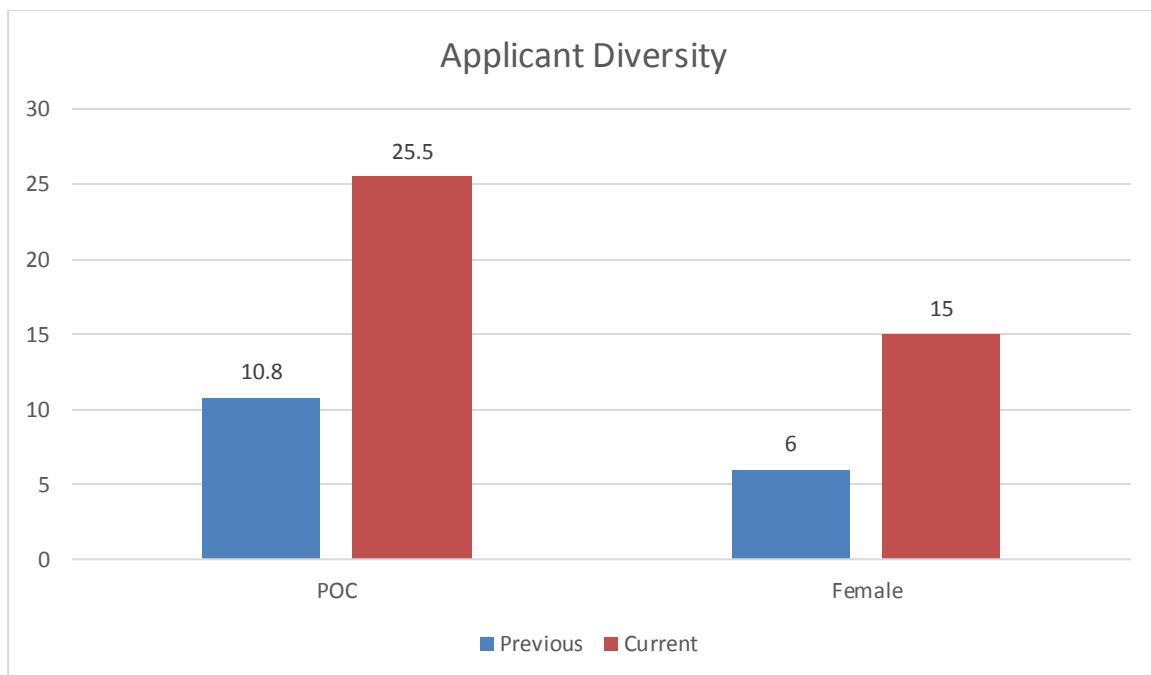
SPD will be holding additional Hiring Workshops in preparation for the October 14 Public Safety Test:

- Monday, September 25th (5:30 - 7pm) - Southside Senior Center - 3151 E 27th Ave, Spokane WA
- Wednesday, September 27th (12:30 - 2pm) - Whitworth University - HUB ABC Conference Room - 300 W Hawthorne, Spokane WA
- Saturday, September 30th (10:00 - 11:30 am) - Cheney Library - 610 1st Street, Cheney WA
- Tuesday, October 3rd, (5:30-7pm) Airway Heights Community Center, 13120 W. 13th Street, Airway Heights, WA

SPD is currently working with Gonzaga University to schedule additional workshops.

The hiring workshops, advertising in The Black Lens, and booths at powwows made an impact on recruiting a more diverse applicant pool.

According to Civil Service, the August public safety test demographics showed that 25.5% of the applicants were persons of color as opposed to the 10.8% rate at the previous test. In August, 12.7% of applicants were female in contrast to 6% from the previous test.





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Outreach Update

School Field Trip Program

The Spokane Police Academy is inviting teachers to schedule field trips at the Academy so that students can participate in the "Academy Experience." From April to June 2018, students will be able to interact with department trainers in an educational, fun, and interactive environment.

Citizens Academy

SPD will be holding another Level I Citizens Academy this fall beginning September 20, 2017.

Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Contacted World Relief reference anti-immigration flyers left on their vehicles. (08/07)
- Police Activities League Barbeque/Graduation (08/10)
- Coffee with a Cop at Cassano's (8/15)
- Unity in the Community- Parade (8/19)
- Cops and Kids car show (5/19)
- Coordinated SPD Domestic Violence Unit with OutSpokane in reference to DV information for the LGBTQ community members (08/18)
- Youth and The Force (Juvenile Court program)- (08/18)
- Special Needs Station visit organized by the Isaac Foundation (08/20)
- Met with Native American community reference Gathering at the Falls Pow Wow (08/21)
- Coordination of Services (Juvenile Diversion Program) at Juvenile Court (08/21)
- Gathering at the Falls Pow Wow (08/26)
- Frontier Behavioral Health First Annual Client Wellness Fair (08/26)
- Back to School Shop with a Cop (08/30)
- Refugee Connections Spokane Luncheon (08/31)

Police Activities League (PAL)

The PAL season, involving 470+ youth from three parks, wrapped up August 10, 2017 with a barbecue.



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Photos from the PAL BBQ





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2017 Police Activities League (PAL) Program Surveys Results (Combined 3 Sessions of PAL: West, North, and East parks)

Positive Perception of Police and Community Leaders

After participating in the program, youth indicated a positive perception of Spokane Police with an average score of **4.34 out of a possible 5 (87% out of 100)**. Before PAL, the rating was 4.28. Surveys did not show a significant increase but the existing opinion was already high, due so many returning participants. In Cannon Park, the West Central location, surveys showed a significant increase in youth opinion of Spokane Police with a 9% increase.

They indicated a positive perception of the community leaders (non-police mentors) as well with an average score of **4.19 out of 5 (84%)**.

PAL Builds Trust

Survey results show that the program is effective in building trust in law enforcement: **58%** of participating youth indicated that the PAL program increased how much they trust the police. **38%** of youth reported no change. Many of those youth who reported that their trust in police did not change while participating in PAL often said that they already trusted the police and participating in PAL maintained their trust.

Program Success

Participants were asked, *"How much did you enjoy the PAL program?"* and gave an average score of **4.66 out of 5 (93%)**.

Change in Perception of Law Enforcement as a Career

African-American participants reported a **32%** increase in their interest in becoming a police officer after participating in the program. Overall, participants' interest increased slightly (2%) but the African-American population's interest increased significantly. This season involved a lot of small-group discussion where kids were able to ask officers questions about their jobs. African-American participants' answers were not significantly different from the overall population in any other response.

Demographics

148 surveys were completed during the final week of the program.

Average Age: 9.78

Gender:

Male: 48.65%

Female: 37.16%

Unidentified: 14.19% (many times, this question was inadvertently missed)

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We served a very diverse group of kids at the three parks. 1 out of 4 kids could not identify their race, but the group included many young kids.

Race:

Native American/American Indian: 15.54%

Black/African American: 18.24%

Hispanic/Latino: 3.38%

Asian/Pacific Islander: 8.11%

White/Caucasian: 14.86%

Multi-Racial: 7.43%

Unidentified/I Don't know: 28.38%

Other: 4.05%

Officers at Carter's Birthday Party

Carter's fifth birthday was coming up and he told his great aunt that all he wanted was for a police officer to come to his party. Upon hearing this request, Corporal Blessing put together a card and gift for Carter, and two patrol teams wished him a Happy Birthday. Officer Beasley is pictured with Carter below.





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Noteworthy News

KXLY covered SPD's involvement in Unity in the Community

<http://www.kxly.com/news/unity-in-the-community-brings-spokane-together-to-celebrate-diversity-1/606778624>

Chief Meidl was also interviewed in the Spokesman Review's Unity in the Community story.

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/aug/19/crowd-celebrates-diversity-at-23rd-annual-unity-in/#/0>

