



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
December 2018 Report

Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
December 3, 2018

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





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Sergeants [Blaine] Kakuda and [Ron] Tilley, Our community is so incredibly lucky to have you protecting us. Thank you for supporting the 5th District Congressional Debate and making us feel all so safe. From the stellar communication, to the unbelievable support, to the care of the community ... GSI says thank you!

-Jamie Dedmon, Greater Spokane Incorporated

My father passed away recently. I cannot remember the officers' names that came that morning because of the emotions of death in a family causes. **[Corporal Ray Harding, Officer Larry House, and Chaplain Todd LaRoche]**. But, I say on behalf of my family, thank you. Your kindness and patience helped my sisters and I deal with an extreme sadness of our father's death, staying with us until my father's remains were picked up by the funeral home. Again, thank you. Police departments around the country are given bad press but they never see this side of things my family and I have. Thank you.

-C. D.

Sergeant [Kevin] Huddle, Thank you for risking your life for mine. Every time officers put that uniform on, they put my safety above theirs. They will do anything to make sure that no one gets hurt. Every time they leave home for another shift, they are not guaranteed to return home. But they still answer every call and do what it takes to rescue a child in danger or end a potentially deadly hostage situation. Most importantly, thank you for doing a job most of us couldn't do. It takes a strong and brave person to deal with things that officers do daily. They must make quick decisions in life or death situations. There is never a guarantee that their decision is the right one. A police officer can handle the pressure to make the best decision in the moment. Not many people can knowingly put their lives in danger like these men and women do.

- K. A.

Chief Meidl, I am writing you from the NE COPS Shop to thank you for the amazing opportunity to go on a ride along with you and **Officer Jordan Brown**. I have been a Volunteer at the NE COP Shop for six months now and this was really an eye-opening experience. It gave me the chance to see the streets of Spokane through the eyes of an officer. On my ride along, you and Officer Brown were so gracious with your time and efforts and I just wanted to thank you for that and tell you that I'm looking forward to another one in the future.

-Daryl Orvik, C.O.P.S. Northeast Volunteer





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through October 30, 2018 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 100**

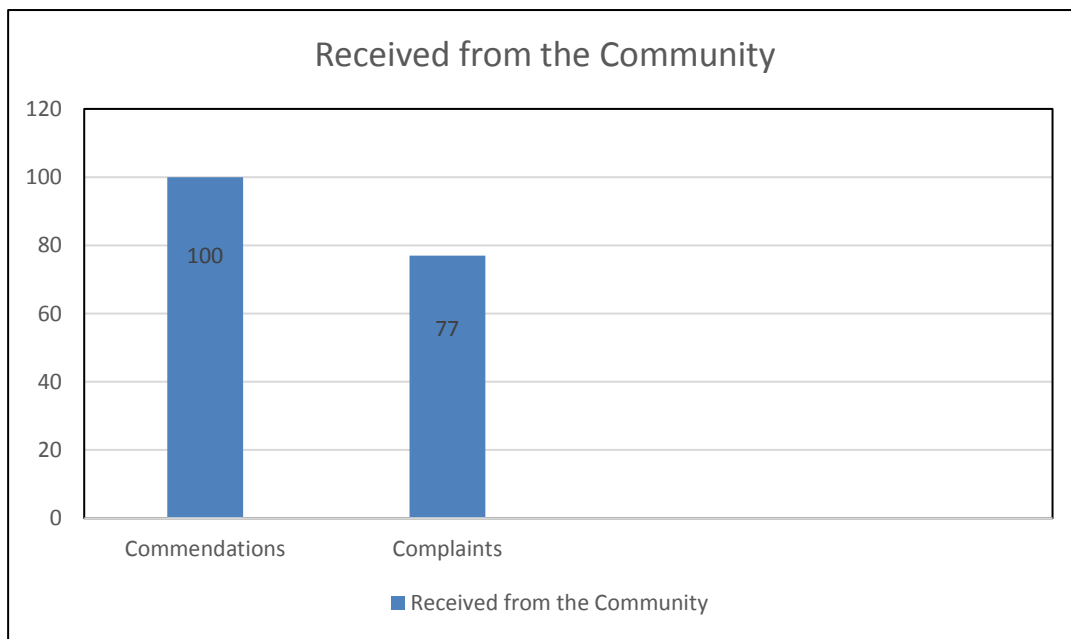
Complaints Received: **Total: 94 (77 from community)**

Closed Out as Inquiries: 14 (As of October 30, 2018)

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.

Source of 2018 Complaints*

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman | Total: 56 |
| Received by the Spokane Police Department | Total: 38 |
| Internally Generated by the SPD | Total: 17 |
| Generated by the Community | Total: 77 |





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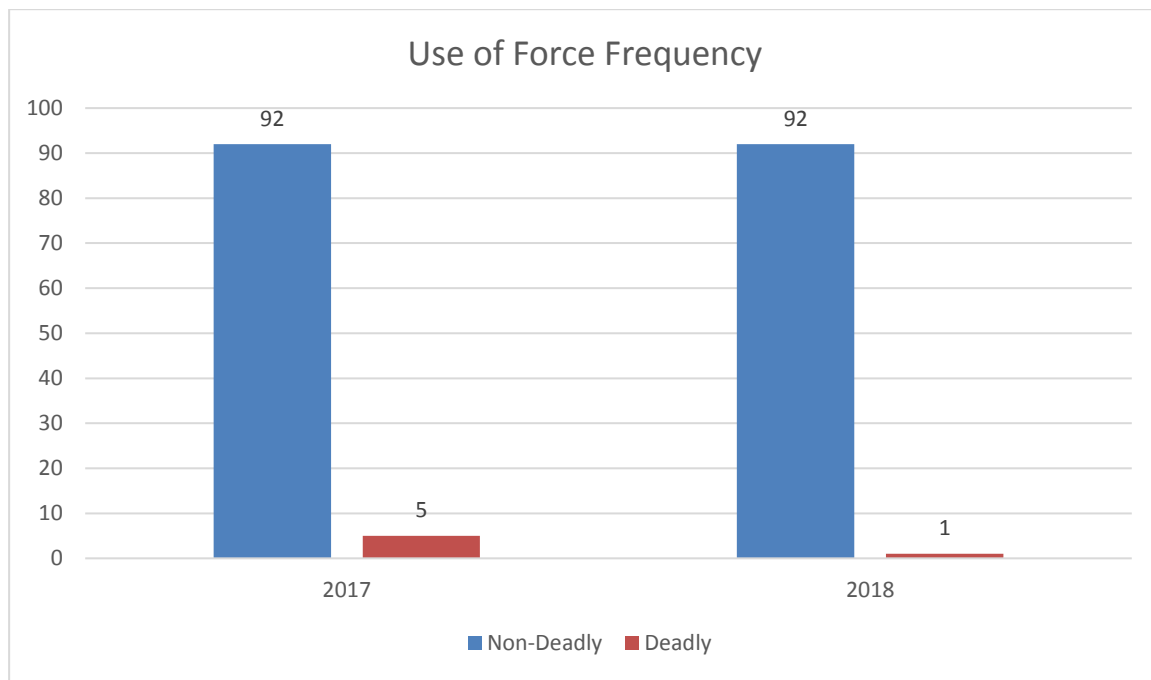
Use of Force Update

2018 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-October 30, 2018, there were 92 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 24 K9 contacts and 68 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint). In 2017 during this period, there were 92 non-deadly use of force incidents.

2018 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-October 30, 2018, there was one deadly force incident. In 2017 during this period, there were five deadly use of force incidents.



Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through October 30, 2018)

2018

Incident 2018-20045627 (Under SPD Administrative investigation)

Incident 2018-20045627 occurred on March 12, 2018, in the 5300 block of North Regal. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.





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Items of Interest

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund Officer Award



The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund has named Captain Tracie Meidl as the recipient of its Officer of the Month Award for October 2018.

Captain Meidl, along with the other Officer of the Month Award recipients for 2018, will be honored at a special awards ceremony in Washington, DC in 2019. Carol Dellinger of Spokane submitted the nomination for Captain Meidl.

"To be a good law enforcement officer, you need a dedication to service and your community," said Memorial Fund Chief Executive Craig Floyd in a release. "Captain Meidl isn't just a good officer, her many commitments show she's a great one. These efforts don't go unnoticed, and it's my honor to present her with the Memorial Fund's Officer of the Month Award for October 2018."

Meidl has served the Spokane Police Department for more than 25 years, becoming a full-time law enforcement officer in 1993. She has served as a K-9 officer, a member of the Peer Assistance Team, and the department's Public Information Officer. Meidl also helped expand the Spokane Police Activities League and was instrumental in the formation of the Spokane Faith Alliance.

Spokane C.O.P.S. Mounted Patrol to hold "Sleigh Bells in Corbin Park with Santa and Mrs. Claus" event

The all-volunteer Mounted Patrol Unit will provide wagon rides around Corbin Park on December 2, 2018, from 12-2 pm. C.O.P.S. will provide refreshments and donations are accepted. The Emerson Garfield Neighborhood Council is very excited about this event highlighting their beautiful and historical Corbin Park.

Precinct Highlights

North Precinct Highlights

Outreach

North Precinct Neighborhood Resource Officer **(NRO) Traci Ponto** enjoyed helping provide a fun and safe Halloween experience at the Spokane C.O.P.S. West Cop shop. With the help of C.O.P.S. volunteers,





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Mounted Patrol Unit volunteers and a Department of Corrections officer, the Cop Shop was transformed, with the Batman signal shining on the building and several decked-out police vehicles. 150 families and trick-or-treaters celebrated at the Halloween party, with candy for all the trick-or-treaters and a photo contest. **NRO Scott Hice** dressed as Batman and went to several churches and schools to engage with youth.



Above: Neighborhood families visit C.O.P.S. West and visit with Batman (NRO Hice).



Above: DOC Officer and NRO Traci Ponto; SPD police car decked out for the Halloween party



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Above: Pictures at the Halloween party, and the Batmobile



Above: Batman visiting schools, NRO Ponto with NRO Hice as Batman



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South Precinct Highlights

Notable Arrest/Crime Prevention Efforts

Detective Bob Mosman has been working with multiple agencies over the past few months to identify a juvenile suspect who stole liquor from multiple stores in the city limits and greater Spokane County. During one of the thefts, the suspect assaulted a loss prevention officer. Detective Mosman collaborated with **SPD Crime Analyst Manny Rojas, Spokane County Probation Officer Chris Chittum,** and **District 81 School Resource Officer Gary Cooper** to identify the suspect. With the assistance of **Neighborhood Resource Officer Seth Berrow,** Detective Mosman arrested the suspect for Assault and Organized Retail Theft due to the multitude of incidents.

Detective Mosman thought it was interesting that the suspect targeted particular store brands, so he contacted multiple stores to understand their loss prevention strategies. He spoke with one store manager who explained that they locked up their liquor, requiring a store employee to retrieve it for customers. The manager found that this strategy did not decrease liquor sales and brought liquor thefts down to zero. A second store confirmed success with placing liquor behind the counter. Detective Mosman met with several other store managers in Spokane to discuss proactive ways of preventing liquor theft.

Downtown Precinct Highlights

Notable Arrests

Downtown Precinct staff located and arrested a suspect wanted for a shooting Downtown. They also identified and assisted in the arrest of a Downtown stabbing homicide suspect, and located and arrested a second suspect on the same stabbing homicide.

Addressing Issues

- The Downtown Precinct sent another Neighborhood Resource Officer to Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) training. Now three NROs can conduct CPTED evaluations. Downtown NROs recently conducted multiple CPTED evaluations at various locations Downtown.
- Three more Downtown NROs are part of the Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (ECIT) and recently attended training on dealing with people in crisis.

Outreach

- Downtown NROs gave presentations at Lewis and Clark High School about safety.
- **Lieutenant Shawn Kendall** is providing a safety training to Crosswalk Youth Shelter following a recent incident where a male forced his way inside and used a knife to slash an employee's face. Graveyard patrol officers responded quickly and arrested the male.





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Outreach Update

Youth Outreach Participation

SPD's Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) is an early intervention and prevention program that works to build trust in law enforcement while reducing stereotypes. The program began in 2014, and SPD has since held almost 50 sessions throughout the Spokane area. The sessions take place in different settings including high schools, community centers, and teen homeless shelters. As of November 2018, 556 teens have graduated from YPI, and more than 150 officers have participated in the program.

Garry Middle School hosted a Youth & Police Initiative Session in November 2018. Another session takes place in late November and early December at Lewis and Clark High School.

Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Homeless Youth Advisory Board at Crosswalk Shelter (10/10)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Center Service Day (10/18)
- Kids Meet and Greet at Lidgerwood Elementary (10/19)
- West Central Community Center Drug Take Back (10/20)
- Police Use of Force Discussion at Innovation High School (10/23)
- Building a Healthy Youth Symposium, Eastern Washington University (10/25)
- Spokane Philanthropy Awards (10/25)
- Coordination of Services, Juvenile Court (10/26 and 11/26)
- Meals on Wheels Community Event (10/27)
- Speak at Logan Elementary (10/30)
- Trunk or Treat at Catholic Charities (10/30)
- Halloween Party at NATIVE Project (10/30)
- Trunk or Treat, Martin Luther King Family Outreach Center (10/31)
- Antigang Program Graduation (10/31)
- Youth & Police Initiative (11-6 through 11-14)
- Excelerate Success Relaunch, Gonzaga University (11/9)
- Salish School of Spokane visit (11/9)
- Police and Youth Night, Martin Luther King Family Outreach Center (11/16)
- NAACP meeting (11/20)

Ongoing Outreach

Youth Outreach at Excelsior Day School:

Visits took place on October 9, October 16, October 31, and November 15.





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Evergreen Clubhouse Board Member meetings:
October 17, November 14, and Day of Service on November 22.

Below: Photo of the monthly meeting of the youth advisory board held at the Mocking Bird Society, above Crosswalk Youth Homeless Shelter. The Mocking Bird Society holds a monthly meeting with formally homeless or currently homeless youth to get input on solutions to the problem. This photo was shared on their Facebook page.





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Above: SPD at Trunk or Treat Event, MLK Center at East Central Community Center



Above: SPD Volunteers on Halloween



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Personal Safety Presentations

Sergeant Preuninger delivered several presentations on personal safety:

- Sonderen Packaging employees on November 6, 2018.
- Active Shooter Response to Coffman Engineering on November 14, 2018.
- Eastern Washington University, November 14, 2018.

Noteworthy News

Spokane police officer earns national award

<https://www.kxly.com/news/spokane-police-officer-earns-national-award/835993866>

SPD fights cancer with beards and bows

<https://www.kxly.com/news/spd-fights-cancer-with-beards-and-bows/850507839>

