



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

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**Strategic Initiatives**  
**February 2018 Report**

**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**February 8, 2017**

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





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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#### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

I would like to express my sincere thanks to you, your department, and your officers. I had the great opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Officer Art Dollard**, on Sergeant Schneider's shift. I found him to be courteous, professional and extremely competent in his work. Officer Dollard handled several situations during this shift to include two separate home break-ins and a report of a toddler wandering West Central neighborhood without a parent. Officer Dollard impressively handled each situation with ease and de-escalated the situation to calm the citizens who called for service.

*Ladd Smith, Office of Police Ombudsman Commission*

#### Other Citizen Letters

Several officers [**Sergeant Isamu Yamada, Officers Dan Strassenberg and Jen Kerns**] responded to our office to deal with a person who was refusing to leave and being very belligerent. This person had a history of angry outbursts so we didn't know what to expect from him. When we called, your officers arrived quickly and handled the situation like seasoned professionals. Your guys really impressed us. They were able to make the gentleman feel heard and respected while still ushering him out of the building with a minimal amount of hubbub. I was really impressed by their ability to make everyone feel heard and validated while still taking care of the issue.

My son's car was hit in the Jefferson park and ride lot about a month ago. Police were called. **Officer Taylor Johnson #1297** responded. I am writing to complement Officer Johnson on how he handled the situation. He was thorough and kind and followed up. He did an excellent job.

I want to recognize the fine officers who responded to a recent incident. **Officers Scott Hice, Joe Matt, and Caleb Howard** all maintained a very professional demeanor on the call. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for maintaining their professionalism. I think they need recognition for their actions that night. These officers as well as all of the officers that work for SPD and Spokane County put their lives on the line every day, they work with the public in very difficult situations, and they do their best to maintain the peace.

I am sending this little note to say "THANK YOU" for all that you do every day to keep our neighborhoods safe. Please be ever diligent and safe as you go about your duties today and every day.





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#### Internal Affairs Unit Update

#### January 1 through December 31, 2017 Complaints

#### Complaints Received:

**Total: 66**

**Closed Out as Inquiries: 12 (As of December 31, 2017)**

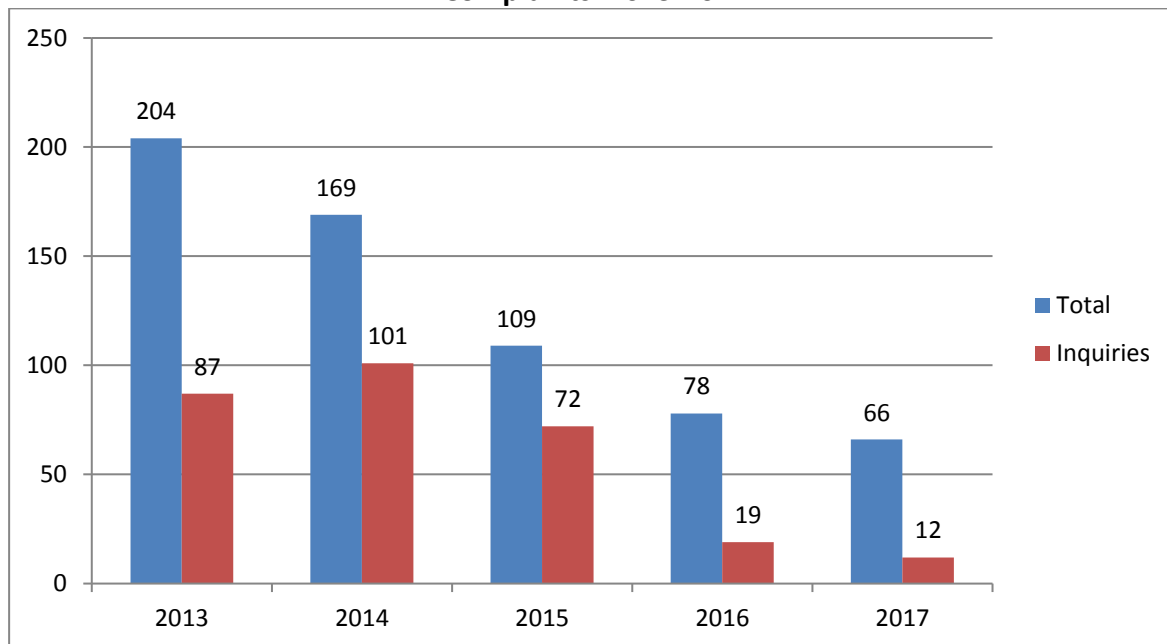
*An inquiry is an initial complaint about employee conduct which, even if true, would not qualify as a personnel complaint and may be handled informally by a department supervisor and shall not be considered complaints.*

#### Prior Year Complaint Totals, 2013-2017

- 2013: 204 Complaints (87 were inquiries)
- 2014: 169 Complaints (101 were inquiries)
- 2015: 109 Complaints (72 were inquiries)
- 2016: 78 Complaints (20 were inquiries)
- 2017: 66 Complaints (12 were inquiries as of December 31, 2017)

**The rate of complaints has reduced by 68% since 2013.**

**Complaints: 2013-2017**





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#### 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	<b>Total: 32</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 34</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 6</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 60</b>

#### Disposition of Allegations (as of December 31, 2017)

Some cases are still open. As of December 31, 2017, 12 cases were determined to be an Inquiry. 13 were Administratively Suspended. 3 cases were resolved through Mediation. Some cases had multiple allegations. 11 allegations were Exonerated. 10 allegations were Unfounded. 3 allegations were Not Sustained. 3 allegations were Sustained.

#### Use of Force Update

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

From January 1-December 31 2017, there were 109 non-deadly use of force incidents. In 2016, there were 105 non-deadly force incidents. There were 3.6% more incidents in 2017. Non-deadly use of force rates have decreased by 25% since 2013.

##### 2017 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-December 31, 2017, there were seven deadly force incidents. Prior to an increase in incidents in 2017, deadly force rates stayed constant over the last five years; deadly force was used an average of four times each year.





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#### Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through December 31, 2017)

##### **F17-034 (Pending Chief of Police review)**

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 completed and is under review.

##### **F17-053 (Pending Administrative Review Panel)**

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 complete and is under review.

##### **F17-079 (Under Administrative Investigation)**

Incident 2017-20185893 took place on 9/18/2017, in the area of Monroe/Sinto. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) completed their investigation. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.

##### **F17-086 (Sent to Prosecutor)**

Incident 2017-20197756 took place on 10/4/2017, in the 2300 block of West Wellesley. Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) completed the criminal investigation.

##### **F17-106 (Under SIRR investigation)**

Incident 2017-20235296 took place on 11/28/2017 in the 2900 block of East Rowan. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) is currently investigating.

##### **F17-115 (Under SIRR investigation)**

Incident 2017-20253538 took place on 12/26/2017 at Mission and Sharp. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) is currently investigating.





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#### Items of Interest

##### Collaborative Reform Final Report

SPD will be releasing a final progress report to the community during the first quarter of 2018.

##### Diagnostic Center Continued Engagement

The Diagnostic Center will be working with SPD over the next few months to develop survey(s) for the department.

##### Citizens Academy

The annual Citizens Academy will take place beginning April 25. The course will take place every Wednesday night through May 23, from 6-9 pm. You may register through the SPD website or call 509-742-8100 for more information.

##### Enhancing the Survival Mindset (ESM) Level I Class

We will be offering a class on Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 2-5 pm at the SPD Academy. The Enhancing the Survival Mindset Level 1 course offers female participants the opportunity to learn the basics of self-defense. The course consists of a classroom portion where participants will receive information on crime statistics, situational awareness, and survival mindset. Hands-on training introduces participants to defensive tactic techniques and places participants into realistic threat scenarios. A participant's survival mindset will determine the outcome of these scenarios. Attendees must be at least middle school aged accompanied by an adult to participate. The charge for this class is \$25.

Register for SPD training classes at this link:

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

##### Domestic Violence Unit Update

- DV Unit officers recently collaborated with the Chula Vista Police Department, attending a presentation by their Crime Analysis Unit, as Chula Vista has been successful in reducing domestic violence incidents by 25%.
- DV Unit officers and detectives recently received training on the Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview (FETI) method as a way to interview victims without making them relive the assault.
- The Domestic Violence Unit enjoys strong partnerships with the YWCA's domestic violence advocates. DV Unit officers and detectives have worked very carefully with advocates to work on cases that would have normally fallen through the cracks, but the relationships with the advocates have allowed greater access to the victims to get the information needed for those cases.
- KREM recently highlighted the DV Unit's new offender notification program; see Noteworthy News at the end of this report for details.





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#### Precinct Highlights

##### **Downtown Precinct Highlights**

##### Outreach



Downtown Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) came to the Project ID location so that Project ID clients could give them gift bags to distribute to the homeless. NROs Alexis Kester and Tiffany Austin met with the staff and clients and collected the bags. Later that day, they responded to the House of Charity and delivered the gift bags to them for dissemination to needy individuals. The italicized comments are a description of the charity by the coordinating volunteer:

*Project ID is a Faith Based Organization dedicated to serving those in our community that have Special Needs, and are otherwise handicapped in some form or another. We also host the Wolf Pack, which is comprised of various Special Olympics teams (soccer, basketball, track, bowling, and baseball). We provide a safe environment to socialize, and in the meantime learn life skills such as gardening, cooking, crafts and tools the handle challenging social situations. Many times our clients struggle with peer pressure as well as outside pressure. We help them to navigate those rough waters. We are open Wednesday through Saturdays from 6 to 9. A very important aspect of our mission is to teach the importance of giving to others. This year our guys put together over 80 baggies of items for the homeless. They consist of hats, gloves, water, a card of encouragement signed by the person that put the bag together, hand warmers and a small bag of candy.*



A House of Charity social worker's family wanted to bake and deliver cookies for the officers at the Downtown Precinct. The children dropped them off right before Christmas. The Downtown NROs gave them a tour and introduced them to police gear. The NROs and children are pictured at left.

The Downtown Precinct is coordinating with the Crosswalk Youth Shelter to plan a Youth & Police Initiative session later this year.

##### Safety

Downtown Precinct members coordinated with Avista to replace all of the lights at the Washington/Sprague Diamond lot with LED's. All the lights had been burned out for some time and the lot is now well lit.







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#### Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Reviews

Neighborhood Resource Officer Michael McCasland has performed CPTED evaluations for eight area businesses in the Downtown area:

- House of Charity at 32 W. Pacific
- Office Building at 29 W. Pacific
- Marketplace Winery at 39 W. Pacific
- Froyo Earth, 172 S. Division St
- Cassel Promotions at 130 S. Division
- Urbanna Natural Spa Salon & Wine at 104 S. Division
- Old Urbanna at 168 S. Division
- Myrtle Woldson Institute at 19 W. Pacific
- A Economy Storage at 107 S. State
- Father Bach Haven at 108 S. State

#### **North Precinct Highlights**

##### Outreach

The North Precinct enjoyed a fantastic Coffee with a Cop event at McDonald's on January 11, 2018. See picture at right.

Northeast Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) Scott Hice was recognized for his community outreach behavior in a recent letter of commendation from Colleen Gardner, Office of Police Ombudsman Commissioner and Chief Garry Neighborhood Council Co-Chair. Excerpt below:



"I am writing this letter to express the pride I felt in SPD when I observed the Community Outreach behavior exhibited by Officer Scott Hice on December 18, 2017. While having a quick lunch at the McDonald's on Market, I observed a citizen approach Officer Hice while he was waiting for his lunch to be delivered. Officer Hice took the time to listen and engage with the citizen even after his lunch was delivered. He was taking notes on her concerns and verifying the information with her at each step to ensure he was getting all the information correctly. Officer Hice took that extra step to ensure the individual that he would look into her concerns. As Officer Hice was leaving, I asked him if he was the new NRO for the area. He seemed pleased that I recognized his role and with a big, engaging smile advised that he shared duties with the other Northeast NRO. I thanked him for taking the time with the citizen, even though he was on lunch. Please extend my thanks and appreciation to Officer Hice."







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#### South Precinct Highlights

##### Work with Chronic Nuisance Properties

Grateful neighbors thanked South Precinct Officer Seth Berrow and Mr. Matthew Folsom, Assistant City Attorney working with SPD,

Ofc. Berrow and Mr. Folsom,

On behalf of all our neighbors, I would like to extend a huge thank you for all your efforts to rid our neighborhood of the nuisance activity at [location withheld]. You not only validated our concerns but empowered us take action to remedy the problem. If it wasn't for your involvement we wouldn't be where we are today. It has been one week since the property has been boarded up and the negative activity from that property has been virtually nonexistent. The constant vehicle and foot traffic has stopped and the neighborhood feels quiet and normal again.

One could argue that you were both "just doing your job;" however you did so with such enthusiasm and commitment that felt beyond the scope of the basic expectations for your position(s). By keeping us informed and being accessible, not only by email but by phone and in person, you fostered an open environment for all of us to effectively communicate. Just saying thank you seems to fall short of conveying the gratitude we have for all your time and patience during this long process. We are hopeful this positive change will continue and are grateful for all you've done to help keep our neighborhood safe!

*-S. H. and all the neighbors affected by this nuisance property*

D. G., another Southside area resident, wrote on a citizen commendation form at the Ombudsman Office, "I know East Altamont is a bad area. I just wanted to say it's nice to see more of you in the area. My family really appreciates you all."

#### Community Outreach Update

Community Outreach officers were involved in the following:

- Attended Vietnamese-American Association event-- 1/06
- Helped ECCC prepare for re-opening-- 1/13
- Martin Luther King Parade-- 1/15
- Attended opening of re-opening of East Central Community Center-- 1/15
- School Community Partnership-- meeting 1/16
- Attended NATIVE Project's wellness night-- 1/16





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- YPI session at Garry Middle School-- 1/16-1/24
- Met with NATIVE Project Staff several times to plan a community meeting
- YPI graduate sustainability event (Chief's Hockey Game)--1/17

#### Community Conversation with the NATIVE Project

The NATIVE Project is hosting a Community Conversation on February 1, 2018, from 6-8 pm, with the intent to encourage dialogue with Native community members and Spokane Police Department.

#### Youth & Police Initiative (YPI)

Sessions took place at Rogers High School in December and Garry Middle School during the month of January. The February session will take place at Lewis and Clark High School.

#### Ribbon Cutting and Open House at East Central Community Center

Several SPD officers attended the celebration at ECCC on January 15. Community Outreach Officer Jenn DeRuwe will have an office at ECCC. She looks forward to new community engagement opportunities at the community center setting.

#### Martin Luther King Jr. Parade

Spokane Police Department was proud to participate in the 2018 event.



Caption: The Spokane Police Department's Tracie Meidl holds hands with Milli Dubbs, 5, as Milli holds hands with her mother Shattrell, second from right in green, during the annual Unity March in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 15, 2018, in Spokane, Wash. (Tyler Tjomsland / The Spokesman-Review)





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#### Noteworthy News

**“A local organization helps train law enforcement on how to interact with citizens who have autism”**

<http://www.krem.com/news/local/2-on-your-side/local-organization-trains-first-responders-how-to-interact-with-citizens-who-have-autism/508431996>

KREM 2 featured SPD’s partnership with the ISAAC Foundation in the link above. Executive Director Holly Lytle explains the purpose of the Special Needs Station Visits training for first responders and families.

The premise of the ISAAC Foundation’s training is to teach law enforcement and first responders to understand what is going on in the mind and body of a person with autism, according to Lytle.

Lytle said she gives a lot of credit to both the Spokane Fire Department and the Spokane Police Department for seeking her out and wanting the training so they could better serve their community.

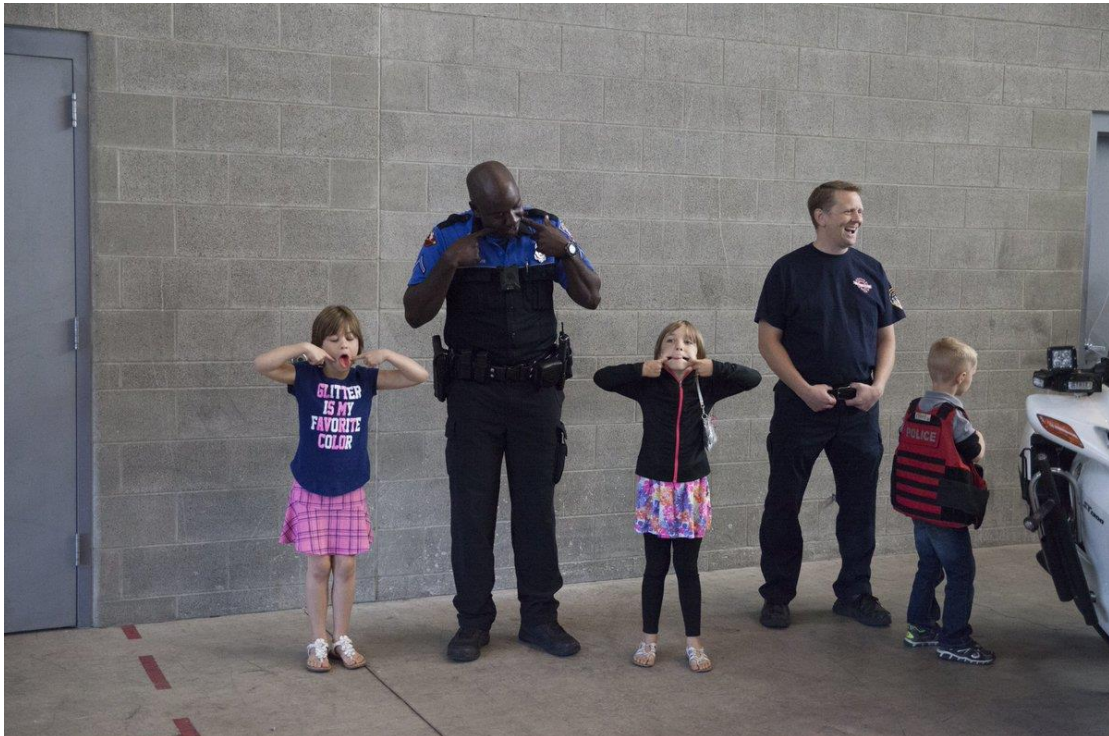


Photo displayed with story: Officer Ken Applewhaite at a Special Needs Station visit



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**“WATCH: Spokane Police use special equipment to stop man trying to commit suicide by cop”**

<http://www.khq.com/story/37257080/watch-spokane-police-use-special-equipment-to-stop-man-trying-to-commit-suicide-by-cop>

KHQ featured a recently released body camera video that demonstrates how Spokane Police were able to use their training and special equipment to avoid shooting a man trying to commit "suicide by cop."

The story shows footage from an incident on December 8, 2017 that occurred at a downtown apartment building when a man by the name of Robert allegedly began breaking windows while brandishing a knife. Officers and neighbors tried talking to Robert on the phone to calm him, but he demanded that the officers kill him. Robert refused the officers' demands to disarm himself and cursed at them.

Body cam video of the incident shows Robert coming around the corner of the door to his apartment, naked, screaming at the officers to shoot him. He charged at the group of officers with knife in hand.

A single shot rang out as an officer pulled the trigger on a 40 millimeter launcher. The launcher fires a hard piece of blue foam at the target; a less-lethal option for officers attempting to modify behavior without putting an individual or the public at greater risk. The 40 millimeter is a single shot weapon and has to be reloaded before firing another round. That's why the officer was armed with an AR-15 in the event the less-lethal projectile failed to stop Robert's advance.

The "blue-nose" foam round hit Robert in his pelvis, taking him to the ground. The officer who fired the launcher, Officer Kyle Yrigollen, says he was just a little more than a second away from firing his rifle that shoots very real bullets. While the Taser was ineffective, the less-lethal foam round found its mark. Officers say Robert wasn't seriously injured and has the opportunity to get help for his problems.







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#### **“SPD works to stop domestic violence by visiting offenders in jail”**

<http://www.krem.com/news/local/spokane-county/spd-works-to-stop-domestic-violence-by-visiting-offenders-in-jail/508973022>

KREM 2 highlighted SPD’s Domestic Violence Unit’s efforts to stop domestic violence in our community with the offender notification program that has been in place for almost a year. Spokane Police Department is focused on identifying and stopping would-be abusers.

“The goal of our unit is not to put people in jail, not to separate families; it's to get this type of behavior to stop,” Spokane Police Sgt. Jordan Ferguson said.

Sgt. Ferguson said domestic violence victims are evaluated under the lethality assessment program. It helps officers identify victims who are at the greatest risk of being hurt or killed. In March 2017, officers took it a step further and put offenders on notice.

"What we do is the officers in the domestic violence unit will actually talk to offenders while they're in custody before they have their first appearance and explain to them the ramifications of domestic violence," he said.

Officers pay a visit to each offender's jail cell to tell them they are watching. They also give them a letter to show they will not tolerate future acts of domestic violence and the offender will be tracked by the domestic violence unit.

“We will keep coming after them and we will charge them with every violation we can come up with in regards to domestic violence,” Sgt. Ferguson said.

The offender notification program is not new. It first started in North Carolina. In the first three years there, re-offense rates dropped from roughly 40 percent down to 14 percent. Spokane police believe it is working here as well.

"We feel it's making a difference. We hear other inmates talking about it. All the inmates in the jail know who the domestic violence officers are when they walk into the jail," Sgt. Ferguson said.

Each year, the number of intimate partner homicides has gone down. Those are different than domestic violence homicides involving family members. In 2014, there were four intimate partner homicides in the city of Spokane. In 2015, there was one. In 2016 and 2017, there were zero. So far in 2018, there has been one.

