



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

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**Strategic Initiatives**  
**January 2018 Report**

**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**January 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 am writing to thank and commend the work of **Officer Juan Rodriguez**, whose investigative assistance and acumen solved the crime of theft of industrial wire from a Shoshone County business and enabled a successful felony prosecution here. Officer Rodriguez went above and beyond the call of duty in this case, beyond the City's border, indeed beyond the Washington state border, to assist in obtaining justice for Hecla Mining Co. and enable Shoshone County to hold these thieves accountable. As a direct result of Officer Rodriguez's work, felony convictions were obtained in September 2017 as well as court orders to pay over \$19,000 in restitution to Hecla Mining Co. As you may be aware, Shoshone County has a rich mining history and a theft of this magnitude can really impact a business's ability to continue operations and employ members of our small, rural community. We are grateful for Officer Rodriguez.

*-Caryn McInerney, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Shoshone County Prosecutor's Office*

I had the opportunity to work with **Officers Mike Bruner, Bradley Lewis**, and **Corporal Tamie Johnson** on Monday morning at a psych call in the parking lot at 800 block of W Nora. I was on scene with an adult male that was hallucinating and believed he was being followed by SPD snipers on the top of buildings. Everywhere he went, he saw snipers and as time progressed his frustration and anxiety increased.

I had a paramedic engine with me and we just kept the male in the parking lot by talking and keeping him busy until Corporal Johnson arrived. Once she was on-scene she coordinated the other officers into a plan that included the peaceful and very respectful placement of the male into protective custody. Eventually, he was placed in an ambulance and transported for definitive care.

Years before CIT training and different leadership and philosophy in the department I could argue that the outcome would have been much different. In the past, the adult male could very well have been taken into custody using force, placing the male and the officers at risk. Corporal Johnson's leadership and the officers' competence, overall professionalism, and teamwork was extremely impressive to watch. Thanks for building a culture where outcomes like these have become the norm.

*-Brian Schaeffer, Chief, Spokane Fire Department*

**Officer Mark Brownell**, You have been a blessing. You were always polite, kind, and concerned when you communicated with us and under some circumstances you went above and beyond what I would have considered normal. You are very efficient and impressive in your job. You are a tremendous resource of information and an asset to your department. You are an excellent example for all police officers. Thank you again for everything you have done and for your continued support.

*-L. W.*





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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#### Internal Affairs Unit Update

#### January 1 through November 30, 2017 Complaints

#### Complaints Received:

**Total: 62**

**Closed Out as Inquiries: 11 (As of November 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	<b>Total: 32</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 30</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 4</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 58</b>





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#### Categories of Complaints\*\*

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1 and November 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	9
Disclosure of Confidential Information	1
Excessive Force	4
False Arrest	1
False Reporting	2
Harassment	4
Improper Driving	1
Inadequate Response	20
Insubordination	1
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	3
Unlawful Search/Seizure	1
Untruthfulness	1

#### Disposition of Allegations (as of November 30, 2017)

Many cases are still open. So far, 11 cases were determined to be an Inquiry. 12 were Administratively Suspended. 2 cases were resolved through Mediation. Some cases had multiple allegations. 8 allegations were Exonerated. 10 allegations were Unfounded. 3 allegations were Not Sustained. 3 allegations were Sustained.





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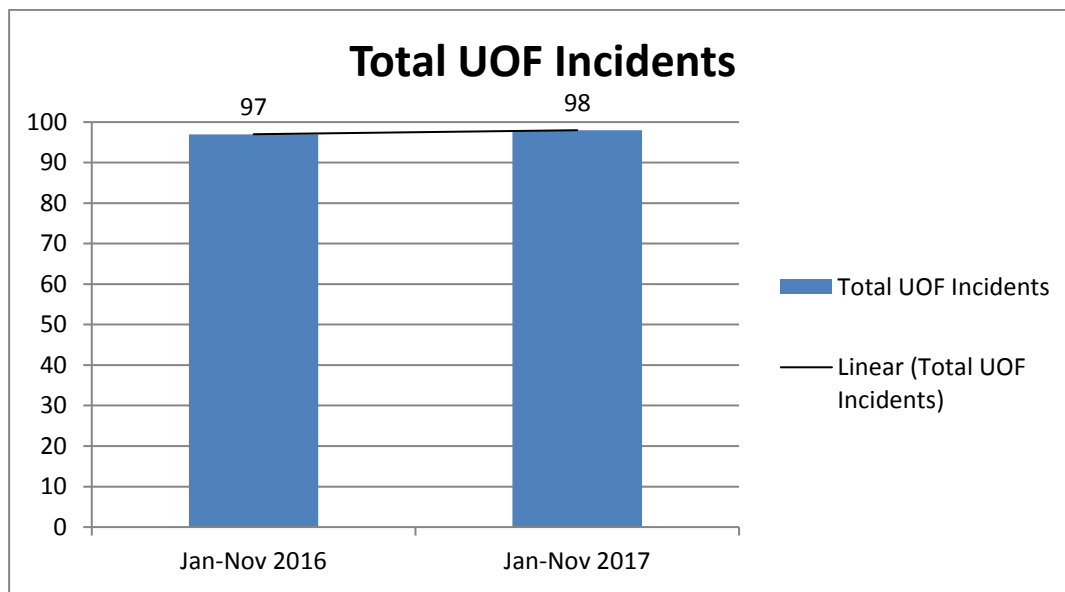
## CHIEF OF POLICE

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#### Use of Force Update

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

From January 1-November 30 2017, there were 98 non-deadly use of force incidents. During that same timeframe in 2016, there were 97 non-deadly force incidents.



#### 2017 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-November 30, 2017, there were six 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: 6 incidents as of November 30, 2017





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#### Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through November 30, 2017)

##### 2016 Case Status

###### **F16-040 (Pending Chief of Police review)**

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 complete and the case is with the Chief of Police for review.

##### 2017 Case Status

###### **F17-004 (Pending Chief of Police review)**

Incident 2017-20008511 took place January 16, 2017 in the area of 5<sup>th</sup> and Maple. Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is complete. The case is with the Chief of Police for review.

###### **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 Administrative 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 (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.





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#### Items of Interest

##### Law Enforcement-Mental Health Learning Site Designation

Spokane Police Department was recently selected as a finalist for the Law Enforcement-Mental Health Learning Sites Program (one of six finalists in the nation). The program is a partnership between the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. It recognizes agencies with successful police-mental health collaboration that are willing to serve as models for other agencies who want to start or expand similar programs like CIT. Learning sites represent a diverse cross-section of perspectives and program examples, and are dedicated to helping other jurisdictions improve their responses to people with mental illnesses. Ultimately, SPD was not selected to be a Learning Site but can still take pride in being a finalist.

##### Diagnostic Center Site Visit

During the last week of November, two subject matter experts from the DOJ Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Diagnostic Center visited SPD. Communications Specialists Laura McElroy and Allie Harokopus came to assess SPD internal and external communications and look for ways to improve. The training and technical assistance from the Diagnostic Center continues into 2018. They will be also helping us with a community survey in 2018.

#### Precinct Highlights

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

##### CPTED Pilot Program

Downtown officers are working with multiple businesses and service agencies to improve safety. They have recently conducted Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) evaluations of the House of Charity and surrounding businesses. CPTED is an innovative approach to crime prevention using a proven methodology. The goal is to change the environment in such a way that criminal activity is not conducive to the new environment, while making the area a more inviting and comfortable place for legitimate users.

These CPTED evaluations are part of a pilot program involving grants to assist businesses with CPTED improvements like extra lighting and exterior cameras. SPD officers, who are certified CPTED practitioners, conduct the reviews. Officers meet business and/or property owners to discuss their concerns, and conduct an evaluation of the premises to advise on how best to adjust their environment, following up with a written report. The reports address the CPTED principles: surveillance, access, territorial reinforcement, and maintenance.

The responding property owners complete a grant application including a work plan detailing which elements from SPD's recommendations they wish to implement, along with quotes for the desired CPTED







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measures they wish to apply. Following approval from the CPTED Spokane Project Coordinator and a CPTED qualified SPD officer, the applicant is able to purchase their desired security measures, and will receive a 10 to 1 financial match. The maximum amount awarded will be \$3,500 if the applicant invests at least \$350. Due to limited funding the maximum award amount will be \$3,500, and grants will cease to be awarded once designated funds have been depleted.

The current pilot is restricted to a two-block radius near House of Charity, at 32 W Pacific Ave, due to SPD crime statistics showing the area to be a crime hot spot, and the high cost to tax payers of responding to public service calls in that area. Pending the outcome of this pilot, the City will consider a possible expansion of this program.

#### Collaboration with Area Businesses and Service Agencies

Downtown officers regularly meet with Homeless Huddle, Homeless Coalition, Downtown Spokane Partnership Business Improvement District board, Continuum of Care Board, Ambassadors, Juvenile probation, Downtown security team, District Management Team and various other City staff like members of the Neighborhood Services office. During the holiday season, Downtown officers will conduct daily walk-throughs of the River Park Square for to ensure a visible police presence with the large increase in visitors to the mall.

#### **North Precinct Highlights**

Community Court has expanded into the Northside. Now on Tuesdays Community Court will be held at the Northeast Community Center. The court will handle all appropriate crimes charged in Northeast Spokane. Several members of the community and several city departments attended the Grand Opening on December 12th. Officer Sandi McIntyre will be the Liaison for the North Precinct to assist with Community Court needs each week.



#### **“Coffee with a Cop”**

The North Precinct will be hosting the next “Coffee with a Cop” event on January 11th from 10am to noon at the McDonald’s at 6321 N. Monroe.

Pictured left: NRO Scott Hice (Northside) at the Spokane C.O.P.S. holiday party for families







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#### Outreach Update

##### Community Outreach Cadre

We are excited to announce the formation of a new cadre at Spokane Police Department. The Community Outreach Cadre is a group of officers selected to be part of a specialty team with the mission of connecting with the community. Based on their experience and interest in community engagement, these officers represent a wide range of roles throughout the department (e.g., Neighborhood Resource Officers, Investigations, K9, SWAT, Patrol).

##### Youth & Police Initiative (YPI)

SPD held another YPI session at Rogers High School during the month of December and a session at Glover Middle School during November. YPI will be at Garry Middle School in January. KREM recently highlighted SPD's efforts at reaching middle school youth:

<http://www.krem.com/news/local/spokane-county/spokane-police-programs-aims-to-reach-kids-at-a-younger-age/492555261>

##### SPD Giving Tree

Community Outreach and Volunteer Services Units created an SPD Giving Tree. The tree contains cards with information for children and/or families in need of assistance this holiday season. For the past several years, the Community Outreach Unit coordinated families in need with Christmas gifts, through various organizations (e.g., Salvation Army, Spokane Community College). They will continue to support the other organizations, but will expand the Spokane Police Department's presence during this holiday season.

The project asks members of the department to provide names of families in need that would be eligible to receive Christmas gifts. As police officers, they often encounter those living in our communities that for whatever reason do not access other resources, but are truly "in need." Through the course of their work, officers often meet families that could benefit from a little extra charity during the holiday season.

After the units have identified their needs, they will place gift tags on the tree. SPD employees will have an opportunity to select tags from the tree, and then return the gift (wrapped or unwrapped). Once the gifts for families are compiled, police officers will deliver the gifts to families.

##### Target Heroes and Helpers

SPD Officers and volunteers enjoyed participating the Target Heroes and Helpers event. Target provides 20 \$50 Target gift cards for youth to shop with an SPD officer to purchase Christmas gifts for their families. Target also provides a gift-wrapping table so the kids do not have to worry about wrapping the presents. We partnered with Holmes elementary again this year for the 20 kids, and received a few extra donations that allowed us to invite a few other kids to join us.





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#### Salvation Army Clothe-a-Child at J.C. Penney

SPD leadership, officers, civilians, and volunteers participated in the Salvation Army event. J.C. Penney donates funds for children to buy the clothes they need and a little extra to buy a present for someone else. The children shop with an officer.

Members of Command staff at the event:



Major Eric Olsen, Investigations



Captain Dan Torok, North Precinct



Command staff





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#### Anti-Bullying Presentation with Mary Walker School District

SPD's Academy recently hosted over 100 second and third graders for an Open House and Anti-Bullying Talk.



#### Noteworthy News

The International Association of Chiefs of Police 2017 Annual Conference highlighted SPD's Police Activities League, Youth & Police Initiative, and Neighborhood Resource Officers. See video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=27&v=aENQmVTrL0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=27&v=aENQmVTrL0s)

