



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
March 2018 Report

Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
March 5, 2018

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





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

I had a really great experience with **Officers Chan Erdman** and **Aaron Ames** today. They went above and beyond for a client today who was trying to move her belongings out of her abuser's house. She reached out to me and I talked with Officers Erdman and Ames about the situation. They immediately dropped everything they were doing to go help this client. They helped ensure the client's safety and helped make her life a lot easier. I spoke with her on the phone when I told her the officers were on their way and she broke down crying in relief. I just want to thank Officer Erdman and Ames for their hard work and for putting victims of domestic violence as their top priority.

-Amy Porter, Legal Advocate, YWCA Spokane

Chief Meidl,

I had the distinct privilege of doing a ride-along with **Police Officer John Yen**. I can't say how much I was impressed with Officer Yen's professionalism and demeanor. I watched him very skillfully, and with great respect, interact with several members of the public, as well as other officers. I was very interested in Officer Yen's duties in DRE, as well as his role in the current DUI grant, which involves much of his time and energy. I know Officer Yen is just one of your many outstanding commissioned and civilian employees and he, like many others, represents SPD well and continues to build that well of community confidence and awareness of law enforcement issues and needs. Thanks again for the great opportunity to interact with SPD and thanks to Officer Yen for the very full and informative time.

- Jim McDevitt

I just wanted to express our sincere appreciation to **Police Officer Kevin Reese** for the excellent presentation he gave to the men and women in Phases 3 and 4 of our recovery programs here at the Union Gospel Mission. He presented at our ENGAGE Seminar last week, which seeks to help prepare these men and women to re-enter the work force as contributing members of our community. His topic was Teamwork and he did an outstanding job of clarifying the importance of being a good team player wherever you are employed. He gave great examples of how it works within the police department and in the community at large. He used illustrations from his many experiences with team sports and athletics. He came across as articulate, sincere, and genuinely interested in the people we serve here. He also has a great ability to interject some humor into the presentation as it unfolded and he held everyone's attention right down to the last minute. Once again, I couldn't help think how significant it was to have a police officer in our context-- encouraging, motivating, and positively affirming our men and women who now must work back into our Spokane community at large. Officer Reese represented the Spokane Police Department so well and made a significant impression on all of us who were in attendance for his session.

-Sonny Westbrook, Union Gospel Mission





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through January 31, 2018 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 12**

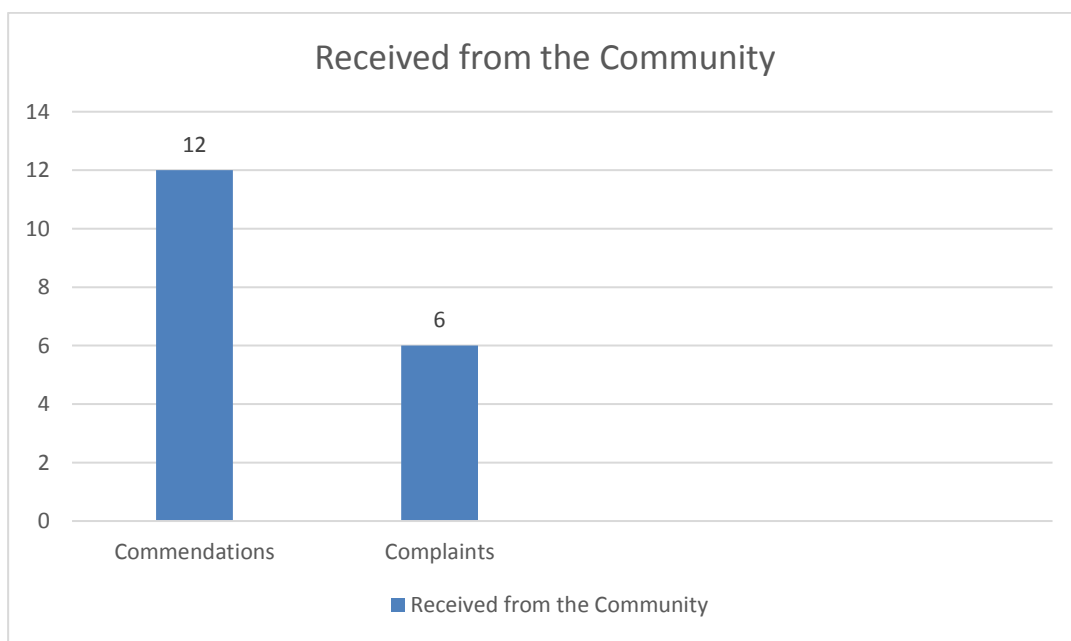
Complaints Received: **Total: 9**

Closed Out as Inquiries: 0 (As of January 31, 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: 4
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 5
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 3
Generated by the Community	Total: 6





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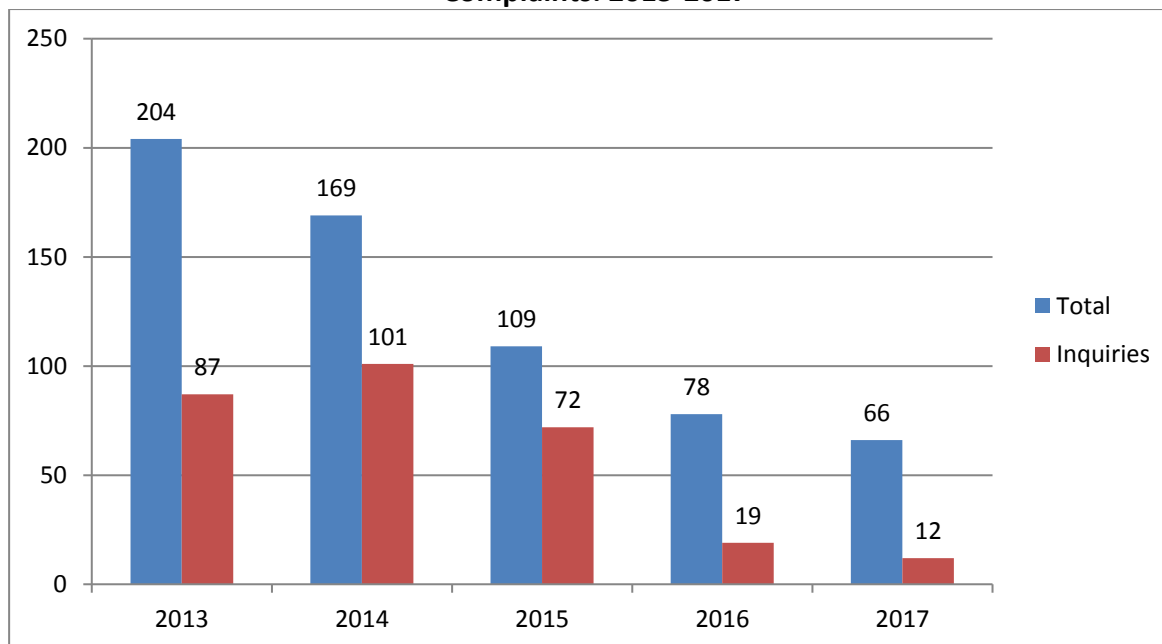
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Prior Year Complaint Totals, 2013-2017

- 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 January 31, 2017)

Complaints: 2013-2017



Use of Force Update

2018 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-January 31, 2018, there were 7 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 1 K9 contact and 6 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint).

Non-deadly use of force rates have decreased by 26% since 2013.

2018 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-January 31, 2018, there were no deadly force incidents.





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Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through January 31, 2018)

2018

No deadly force cases in 2018 as of yet.

2017

F17-034 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board)

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 complete. The next step is a Deadly Force Review Board.

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 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 the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.

F17-086 (Under Administrative investigation)

Incident 2017-20197756 took place on 10/4/2017, in the 2300 block of West Wellesley. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.

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 in the Safeway parking lot at Northwest Blvd. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) is currently investigating.





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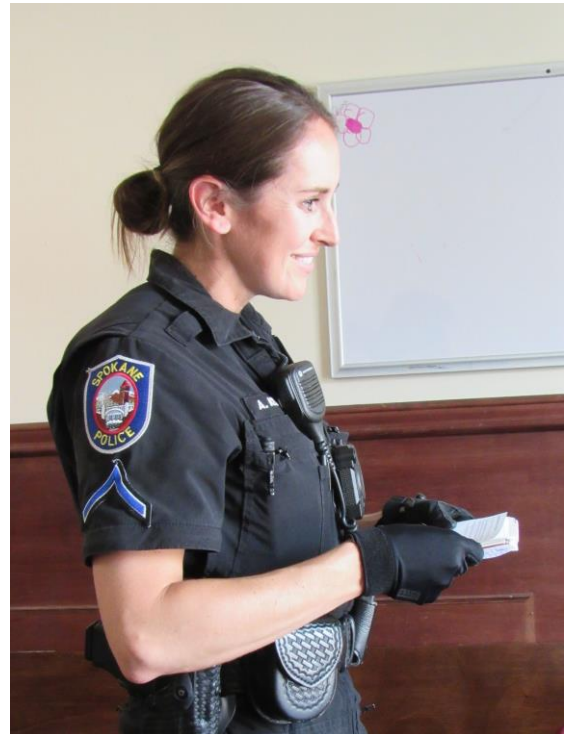
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Items of Interest

Hiring Workshops

Spokane Police Department and Civil Service are working together to hold two more Hiring Workshops for potential officers. The journey to becoming an officer is a long process, that can seem very daunting to people. We will attempt to remove the barriers by making the information more accessible to the community. Attendees will learn about the testing and hiring process and have the chance to talk to representatives from Civil Service and Spokane Police Officers in an informal setting. Hiring Workshops are scheduled for the following dates:

- Tuesday March 6th, 5:30 to 7 pm, at the Hillyard Library, 4005 N. Cook St.
- Thursday March 8th, 5:30 to 7 pm, at the Martin Luther King Family Outreach Center (formerly known as the East Central Community Center, 500 S. Stone St.).



Behavioral Health Steering Committee (BHSC)

Five years after its formation, the SPD Mental Health Steering Committee has undergone some important changes. Co-Chairpersons Captain Tracie Meidl of SPD and Jan Dobbs, COO of Frontier Behavioral Health lead the committee. Recently, the group changed its name to the Behavioral Health Steering Committee (BHSC) and created a new mission statement: "The Behavioral Health Steering Committee will continuously strengthen community partnerships to improve outcomes for those with behavioral health conditions."

The group is comprised of leaders from a myriad of agencies who provide services. The committee meets every other month in a variety of locations (e.g., Excelsior Youth Center, VA, Fire Department Training Center) to learn more about each agency. In addition to the opportunities for continuous quality improvement efforts afforded by the committee, a sub-group of the committee have planned and provided a conference for the last 3 years, highlighting the collaborative partnership and best practices of mental health professionals and first responders when intervening with the behavioral health population. The committee will continue to provide training opportunities, both formal and informal, for the involved agencies.





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Behavioral Health Steering Committee pictured above:

- Chief Craig Meidl, Spokane Police Department
- Captain John Nowels, Spokane County Sheriff's Office
- David Crump, Spokane Public Schools
- Ken Rains, Eastern State Hospital
- Joey Frost, Eastern State Hospital
- Kathy Armstrong, Spokane Police Department (support role)
- Ryan Kiely, Excelsior Youth Center
- Christen Kishel, Department of Health and Human Services (DSHS)
- Dawn Sidell, Northwest Autism Center
- Captain Tracie Meidl, Spokane Police Department
- Steve James, Washington State University
- Jan Dobbs, Frontier Behavioral Health
- Dawn Gray, Veteran's Administration
- Amy Long, Spokane County Prosecutor's Office
- Lieutenant Mark Griffith, Spokane Police Department
- Gretchen McDevitt, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- Sergeant Dan Waters, Spokane Police Department



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Precinct Highlights

Downtown Precinct Highlights

Downtown Reading Project

Officer Darrell Quarles is reading with preschool kids in the downtown precinct area. Children and staff members were very receptive and looking forward to scheduling it again for next month.

- Rainbow Connection, 15 kids
- First Presbyterian Preschool, 30 kids
- Community Building Preschool, 15 kids

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Downtown officers continue CPTED reviews. The current review is 35 W. Main where Center for Justice and others have offices; the NAACP has their regular meetings there as well.

House of Charity Security Special Assignment

On February 5, 2018, the Downtown Precinct (DTP) spent time patrolling around the House of Charity. Their presence had an immediate effect on the area. They received no calls for service during the DTP staff members' time in the area. Between 3 pm and the next morning, there were no police-related calls in or around the House of Charity.

Participation in Community Court

- Spokane's Community Court received an expansion grant from the Center for Courtroom Innovation and the new Community Court had their grand opening at the Northeast Community Center in December. In anticipation of the opening, Downtown Precinct Sergeant Jason Hartman trained the entire Patrol Division on the process for referring defendants to community court.
- As part of the opening, the Community Court had a training summit. DTP members took part in the included panel discussion regarding therapeutic courts in Spokane.
- Downtown Precinct members recently provided a presentation to the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council meeting regarding the Community Court's impact in the Downtown Precinct.





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Pictured above: Some of the Downtown Precinct Officers.

North Precinct Highlights

Training of Code Enforcement Personnel to Tow Abandoned Vehicles

Officer Sandi McIntyre from the North Precinct and Officer Roberge from the Civil Enforcement Unit (CEU) recently trained Code Enforcement Personnel on the proper process for towing abandoned vehicles.

Future North Spokane Highway 395/Children of the Sun Trail Project

Officer Sandi McIntyre will be part of the upcoming community meetings on the project as a subject matter expert for CPTED.



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North Precinct Collection of Donations

Beginning in 2018, the precinct has displayed a collection bin in the front of the precinct, as part of the larger citywide donation drive to assist our vulnerable populations. Community members brought in several donations.

Below, North Precinct officers are pictured with Department of Corrections colleagues and Crime Analyst colleagues in front of the North Precinct facility on the corner of Diamond and Market streets in Hillyard.





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South Precinct Highlights

Recovery Café Spokane

Captain Tracie Meidl and Officer Tim Ottmar were recently featured in the Recovery Café Spokane's brochure. See photo on at right.

Coffee with a Cop

The South Precinct hosted a Coffee with a Cop on February 21, 2018 at Twenty-Seventh Heaven Scratch Bakery.

YPI at Lewis and Clark High School

South Precinct employees all attended the Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) session at Lewis and Clark High School, along with officers from Patrol, Investigations, and school resource officers. See photo below.





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Outreach Update

Youth & Police Initiative (YPI)

The Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) increases communication and improves the relationship between youth and police. The program brings enormous benefits to the community, reduces crime, and helps youth develop positive attitudes towards police and their communities.

The goal of YPI is to break the cycle of mutual distrust that commonly exists between youth and police in our community by helping youth to be authentic, honest and open in presenting their "stories," as they inspire the police to respond in a mutual way. The reciprocal sharing of life experiences, as well as goals and dreams, humanizes their relationships and shows them how much they have in common. The shared parts of their lives become the foundation of a new trust.

SPD has held YPI sessions in each Spokane Public Schools high school, as well as a few middle schools, Excelsior Youth Center, community centers, and Crosswalk Youth Shelter. Over 475 teens have graduated from the YPI program, and over 200 officers have participated.



Above, Lieutenant Overhoff (standing) presents at a recent YPI session at Lewis and Clark High School.



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Robot Demonstrations

The Explosive Disposal Unit (EDU), commonly known as the “Bomb Squad,” held bomb robot demonstrations for children at Prairie View Elementary on January 25th and Shadle Park on February 3rd.

Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Meeting with NATIVE Project (1/2)
- Homeless Coalition meeting (1/4)
- Vietnam Association (1/6, 1/9, 1/10)
- East Central Community Center (ECCC) Clean Up (1/13)
- Ribbon-cutting ceremony at ECCC (1/15)
- Martin Luther King Jr. March (1/15)
- Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) at Garry Middle School (1-16-1/24)
- School & Community Partnership meeting (1/16)
- West Central Community Center meeting (1/23)
- Spokane Community College Criminal Justice class (1/25)
- Juvenile Court Coordination of Services presentation (1/29)
- Northeast Regional Family, Youth, System Partner Roundtable (2/1)
- YPI at Lewis and Clark High School (2/6 – 2/14)
- NATIVE Project Community Conversation (2/6)
- Indian Community and SPD meeting (2/15)
- LGBTQ Pre-Pride Summit meeting (2/17)
- “It Shouldn’t Hurt to be a Child in Spokane” Community Forum (2/20)

Noteworthy News

The Inlander published an article about Spokane’s vehicle theft rate, and featured an interview with Sergeant Kurt Vigessaa from the Patrol Anti-Crime Team:

<https://www.inlander.com/spokane/why-is-spokanes-vehicle-theft-rate-so-high-and-what-are-we-doing-about-it/Content?oid=7997483>

