

## CHIEF OF POLICE CRAIG N. MEIDL

# **Strategic Initiatives**May 2018 Report

# Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing May 7, 2018





## CHIEF OF POLICE

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#### **Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters**

It has been on my heart to say thank you. I see a great deal of negative press and I felt that the many positive things you do on a daily basis are lost on our society as a whole. I can't change the negative view of others but I can express my gratitude, as an individual, for a job well done. Words cannot express my appreciation. But as a citizen, whom you helped, I want to say that I appreciate all that you do each and every day. Those who answered my call treated my son and myself with respect and dignity. My soon made a poor choice and was not in his right mind. You established safety while being professional and I feel going above and beyond to maintain a calm environment. [We were not able to determine the call and identify which officers responded due to the anonymous nature of this note.]

-An Appreciative Mom

I would like to reach out to the SPD and say kudos for having officers on the force like **Officer David Betts.** We had an incident with my family yesterday that thankfully didn't turn out to negatively. He was polite, professional and very informative. Sadly, in today's new we read too often about the bad things that happen and not enough good things. Officer Betts is among the countless other officers representing Spokane who just don't get proper recognition for their service. Take care and keep up the excellent work!

- M. V.

I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge **Officer Tim Marquez**. Last month I was a victim in a hit and run, where I was able to get a picture of the car and license number of the person who hit me. Upon contacting the police, Officer Marquez met me at the senior center to go over the details and then went beyond what I was expecting. Not only was Officer Marquez polite and helpful but he was also very professional and he took the time to find the other driver and get the needed information in order for me to get my car fixed through insurance. I cannot begin to thank Officer Marquez enough for his kindness and professionalism. He is a true example of what an exemplary officer is and I am proud to know he is serving and protecting the community of Spokane.

-Hillary Schaefer

I just wanted to tell you that **Officer [Bradley] Lewis** and **Officer [Tim] Marquez** who are the two who responded to an incident at my house, are awesome. Very nice, very helpful, and I tell you... they really made my day.

-C. M.





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## **Internal Affairs Unit Update**

## January 1 through March 31, 2018 Commendations and Complaints

<u>Commendations Received:</u> Total: 30

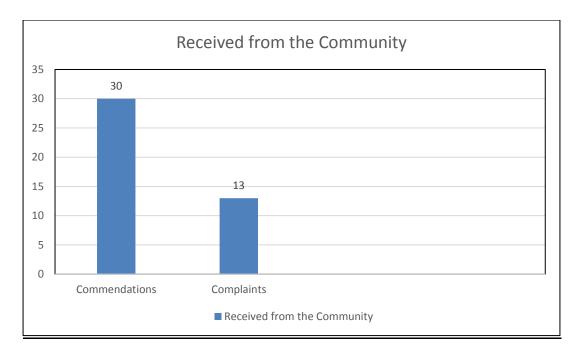
<u>Complaints Received:</u> Total: 23

Closed Out as Inquiries: 0 (As of March 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
Received by the Spokane Police Department
Internally Generated by the SPD
Total: 10
Generated by the Community
Total: 13







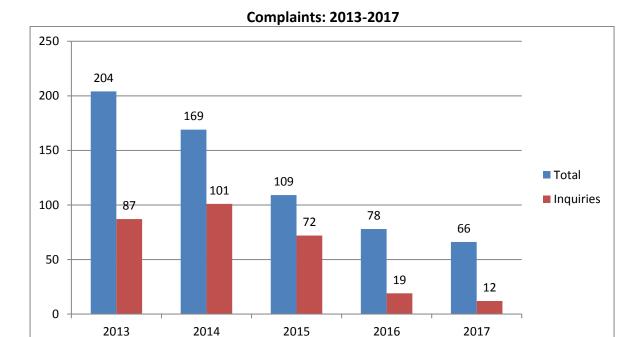
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## Prior Year Complaint Totals, 2013-2017

- 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)

#### Complaints have reduced by 68% since 2013.



## **Use of Force Update**

#### 2018 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-March 31, 2018, there were 28 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 5 K9 contacts and 23 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint).

## 2018 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-March 31, 2018, there was one deadly force incident.





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

#### 2018

#### Incident 2018-20045627 (Under SIRR investigation)

Incident 2018-20045627 occurred on March 12, 2018, in the 5300 block of North Regal. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) is currently investigating.

#### 2017

#### Incident 2017-10085419 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board -DFRB)

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 completed. The case will now undergo a Deadly Force Review Board.

### **Incident 2017-20185893 (pending Administrative Review Panel)**

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 complete. The case is with the Administrative Review Panel.

#### **Incident 2017-20197756 (Under SPD 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.

#### **Incident 2017-20235296 (Under SPD Administrative investigation)**

Incident 2017-20235296 took place on 11/28/2017 in the 2900 block of East Rowan. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.

#### **Incident 2017-20253538 (Under SPD Administrative 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) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.





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#### **Precinct Highlights**

#### **Downtown Precinct Highlights**

#### Coffee with a Cop

The Downtown Precinct hosted a Coffee with a Cop event in the River Park Square on March 22, 2018. Below, Downtown Precinct Officer Mike McCasland meets with a potential officer at the event. She came prepared with five questions for him about becoming an officer.



#### **North Precinct Highlights**

## Arrests in the Chronic Vehicle Prowling Issue at North Pointe Shopping Center

For over six months, the North Pointe Shopping Center has been a persistent "Hot Spot" with chronic vehicle prowling north of Magnesium Road from Division to Nevada to the city limits. The majority of the cases came from the parking lots of the large box stores and MUV Fitness.

#### To combat this issue:

• North Precinct NROs reached out to the many businesses in the area, asking them to remind people not to leave valuables in their vehicles.

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- Officer McIntyre completed several Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments; however most of the suggestions have not yet been implemented by the businesses.
- Patrol officers have been making frequent prowl checks of the area and have made several contacts. However, the problem persisted.

North Precinct's Detective Jolley worked on several fraud cases stemming from North Pointe vehicle prowling cases. She obtained video of suspects using stolen credit cards. After viewing many videos, she Crime Analyst Lamanna and were able to put some suspect vehicles and possible names together. Detective Jolley developed probable cause for the arrest of some of the unknown suspects, but needed to be able to confirm the identities of the suspects.

The Swing Patrol Anti-Crime Team assisted Detective Jolley with these cases. PACT Officer Rodriguez spotted a suspect vehicle and contacted the driver, who was known to the PACT Team as she has been involved in fraud for some time. During the stop, they confirmed she was one of the main female vehicle prowling suspects. Detective Jolley booked the suspect on numerous felonies.

PACT Officer Stephanie Kennedy obtained a search warrant for the suspect vehicle, which was full of purses and bags. Officer Kennedy spent a couple days trying to figure out the many victims and wrote a second warrant on the vehicle to recover more property, meth, heroin and pills. The suspect had at least seven victims' property at the time. Additional criminal charges for this suspect, including Leading Organized Crime, are forthcoming.

The suspect had a handwritten itinerary in her vehicle labeled "Gettin' Money" with restaurants, gyms, trailheads and churches to prowl. The North Precinct reminds community members not to leave valuables in vehicles at these types of locations.

Detective Jolley made more arrests related to the North Pointe vehicle prowling. On March 29, Fred Meyer Security at called Detective Jolley and said one of the other female suspects was in their store. PACT responded along with Detective Jolley, NRO Hice, and Sergeant Carroll. They blocked in the suspect vehicle, detained the suspect, and booked her on several charges. Detective Jolley is now requesting a search warrant on the second vehicle. This investigation continues.



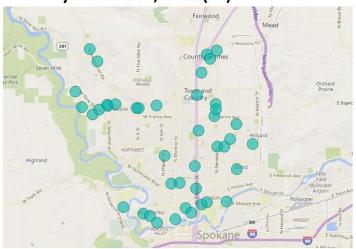


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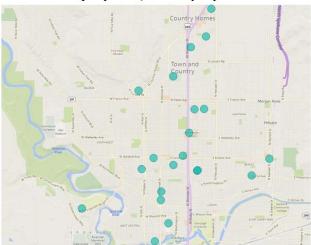
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## North Vehicle Prowling Before & After

Vehicle prowls weekend before arrest of suspects from Thursday March 22, 2018 to Monday March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (44)



Vehicle prowls weekend after arrest of suspects from Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to Monday April 2, 2018 (22)



There were no reported vehicle prowling incidents north of Magnesium after March 29 through April 10. This was longest the area has been free of vehicle prowling in a long time.

## **South Precinct Highlights**

Taco with a Cop at Freedom Burrito on April 14, 2018







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## **Outreach Update**

## **Community Outreach Unit Summary**

- Faith Alliance Community Leaders meeting (3/28)
- Start by Believing Event with Special Victims Unit and Lutheran Community Services (4/4)
- Meeting with Refugee Connections (4/5)
- Homeless Coalition meeting (4/5)
- Bethel AME Youth event for elementary students (4/11)
- Junior League Treasure Hunt Book Fair at West Central Community Center (4/14)
- Juvenile Court Coordination of Services presentation (4/16)
- Youth & Police Initiative at North Central High School (4/17-4/25)
- Our Kids Our Business event (4/18)
- Spokane Gives activities (4/21)
- African-American Graduation (4/21)
- Vietnamese Heritage Day (4/21)



Above: YPI Session at Garry Middle School





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#### Special Victims Unit: Start by Believing Day Event

On April 4, 2018, the SVU held an event in partnership with Lutheran Community Services Northwest at Sweet Frostings Bakery. April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, and the messaging behind the "Start by Believing" public awareness campaign to is to better support survivors of sexual assault. The first response to victims needs to be "I believe you."

"Sexual assault victims are coming forwards and they are being met with doubt, skepticism and blame," said Lieutenant Mike McNab, with Spokane Police. "Victims often blame themselves or often they are afraid they won't be believed," he said, "so they don't come forward."

"I want everybody, not just police, not just advocates or victims, I want everybody to consider for a second if one of their loved ones came forward and said I've been sexually assaulted," he said. "How would you respond?"

Advocates from Lutheran Community Services Northwest are pictured with SVU detectives in the photos below.



Above, EWU Police Therapy Dog

Erin Williams Heuter with incoming SVU Sergeant Glenn Bartlett





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Office of Police Ombudsman Commissioner with outgoing SVU Lieutenant Mike McNab and SVU Detectives Sean Pegram and Marie Rosenthal.

## **Noteworthy News**

Several news stations highlighted the "Start by Believing" campaign.

#### KHQ 6:

Stop the stigma: Spokane Police supports sexual assault victims

http://www.khq.com/story/37883443/stop-the-stigma-spokane-police-supports-sexual-assault-victims

#### KREM 2:

SPD joins 'Start By Believing' campaign with cupcake social event

http://www.krem.com/article/news/local/spokane-county/spd-joins-start-by-believing-campaign-with-cupcake-social-event/293-535289359

#### KXLY:

"Start by Believing" campaign kicks off in Spokane for sexual assault victims

https://www.kxly.com/news/spokane-police-lutheran-community-services-kick-off-campaign-for-sexual-assault-victims-1/725300292

