



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
November 2018 Report

Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
November 5, 2018

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





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

I would like to express my gratitude for the quick and efficient recovery of stolen property by your police department, especially **Officer Joe Dotson** and **Officer Casey Jones**. Within one hour of the report, Officer Jones spotted an individual in the park with my bicycle and with the help of Officer Dotson, I was contacted to identify and retrieve the item. I am very impressed with the quality, professionalism, kindness, and particularly the efficiency of this team that worked to help us. An unfavorable event turned into a most positive impression of the good people working to keep Spokane a safe and enjoyable city.

-C.M. and D.R.

I had a very positive experience Saturday night with one of your officers [**Officer Brian Blankenstein**.] I was so frazzled by the situation and this officer was so incredibly understanding, kind and reassuring about the situation and just did an amazing job. I really wanted to put in a good word for him. He arrived with an **Officer [Ethan] Wilkes**. Anyway, I wanted to ensure they both received some positive feedback because they were both outstanding.

-J. M.

I just wanted to send some positive feedback about the class that I attended, "Enhancing the Survival Mindset." All of the officers were very professional, but also had great senses of humor and made it really fun. It can be uncomfortable being put on the spot, and put into uncomfortable situations. I feel like I really gained a lot from the class. I am going to keep an eye out for when the level 2 class is available because I will definitely be signing up. I appreciated how hands-on it was, and how we got to learn and practice the self-defense moves. It was awesome to learn and hear from the officers who deal with criminals on a daily basis. It was obvious how much time and preparation went into the class.

- J. E.

Officer [Chris] Kirn, thank you for taking the time to come in and speak to my class; it was one of the most interesting things I've heard this year. I really liked hearing how you bring your psychology background into your work with hostage negotiation and polygraphs. It definitely helped me consider something as a future. I really appreciated the perspective you gave me about police work and how you humanized it. **Sergeant [Kevin] Huddle**, I appreciate your great insight of the job and what it took for you to get where you are now. Your story on drunk driving arrests was very shocking to hear. I think I learned a lot about what being a police officer is like and I am more comfortable with common things like traffic stops. I hope you can come back and speak again.

-J. B., Lewis and Clark High School





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through September 30, 2018 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 94**

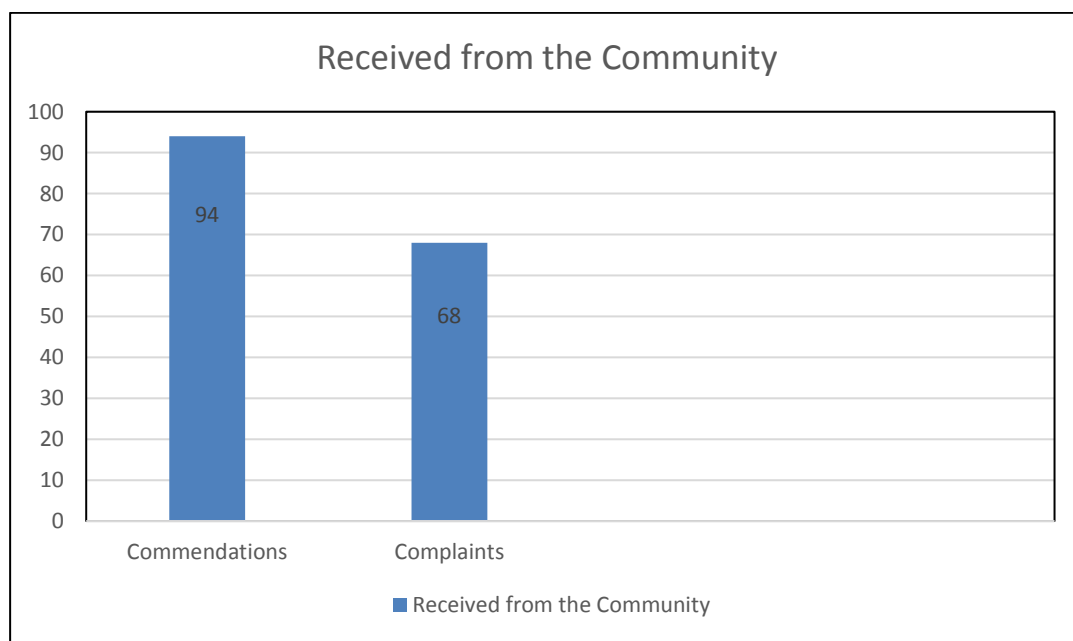
Complaints Received: **Total: 85 (68 from community)**

Closed Out as Inquiries: 10 (As of September 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: 48
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 37
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 17
Generated by the Community	Total: 68





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Use of Force Update

2018 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-September 30, 2018, there were 85 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 23 K9 contacts and 62 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint). In 2017 during this period, there were 79 non-deadly use of force incidents.

2018 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

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

Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through September 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

Collaborative Reform Progress Report

SPD released its own report detailing the highlights of the DOJ COPS Collaborative Reform Initiative process over the past few years. The report is available on SPD's website:

<https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/police/accountability/spd-collaborative-reform-progress-report-2018.pdf>

SPD Hosts DOJ-Funded Leadership Training

SPD is hosting regional leadership training on October 23, 2018. The DOJ COPS Office reached out to SPD due to the working relationship developed during Collaborative Reform and asked SPD to host the training. "Navigating the Leadership Challenge" training is provided at no cost to agencies.

Participating agencies include:

- Spokane Police Department
- Spokane County Sheriff's Office
- Spokane County Detention Services
- Post Falls Police Department
- Kootenai County Sheriff's Department
- Washington State Gambling Commission

End the Silence with Domestic Violence

SPD's Domestic Violence Unit is supporting the YWCA End the Silence Campaign. The goal is to stop victim blaming and to ask the community to stand alongside victims and survivors of domestic violence as safe allies, making it know that they are not alone. Purple is the nationwide designated color to visually represent support for domestic violence awareness during October. The YWCA Spokane's goal is to "paint the town purple" during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

At right: SPD Domestic Violence Unit at a YWCA event.





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Community Diversion Unit

A partnership between Frontier Behavioral Health (FBH) and SPD redirects people at risk to community-based services. The Community Diversion Unit pairs two FBH clinicians with police officers in ten-hour shifts. When on duty, the clinicians respond to calls with officers. They can be routed to specific incidents if there is a mental health concern. The unit is being funded primarily by a grant as a result of the Trueblood v. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services lawsuit. Funds are intended for community-based jail diversion programs like the Community Diversion Unit.

For more details, please see the article in the Frontier Behavioral Health newsletter in the “Noteworthy News” section at the end of this report.

Below: SPD Officers and FBH Clinicians





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Precinct Highlights

"Coffee with a Cop" with North, South, and Downtown Precincts



On October 3, National Coffee with a Cop Day, SPD held a "Coffee with a Cop" event in partnership with Starbucks on 172 S. Division. Coffee with a Cop is an event where police and community members come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships and drink coffee. It is a national initiative supported by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, and has been implemented in over 175 cities and towns in 36 states across the country.

The goal of the program is to increase community trust, police legitimacy and partnership building. Coffee with a Cop removes the physical barriers and crisis situations that routinely define interactions between law enforcement officials and community members. Instead, it allows for relaxed, informal one-on-one interactions in a friendly atmosphere. This informal contact increases trust in police officers as individuals which is the foundation to building partnerships and engaging in community problem solving. The program aims to advance the practice of Community Policing through improving relationships between police officers and the community, one cup at a time.





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Volunteers from the Spokane COPS Mounted Patrol Unit also came to the event. The COPS Mounted Patrol Unit engaged with community members in parks across Spokane over the summer, in hopes of bringing more families to local parks and driving out crime. The unit is made up of Spokane COPS volunteers and their horses.



North Precinct Highlights

Outreach



Sergeant Vic Carroll and Officer Doug Strosahl participated in the “Cleaning from the Corridor” event with the Audubon-Downriver Neighborhood Council.





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South Precinct Highlights

Outreach

Neighborhood Resource Officers participated in the Lower South Hill Block Party on September 15. Below, Chief Meidl speaks with a neighborhood resident.



South Precinct Officers hosted the very first BBQ cookout against Spokane County Sheriff's Office and won the contest. Above, Sheriff Knezovich concedes the barbecue victory to SPD, with South Precinct Captain Tracie Meidl.

Downtown Precinct Highlights

Outreach and Collaboration events and meetings

- WSU Violence Against Women grant team
- Community Court team process meetings
- Homeless Coalition
- Homeless Huddle
- Spokane Continuum of Care
- Downtown Spokane Partnership Business Improvement District Board
- Downtown Security Group
- Downtown Spokane Partnership and Downtown Precinct leadership meeting





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- Downtown Spokane Partnership Security Ambassadors and Downtown Precinct Neighborhood Resource Officers joint roll call
- Joint Browne street viaduct cleaning with Downtown Spokane Partnership and Geiger Work crews every Tuesday.
- Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Facility (MHCSF), Spokane EnVision Center and County Justice Reentry Efforts meeting

Community Court APEX Award of Merit from Washington State Bar Association

The Spokane Community Court received the Washington State Bar Association APEX Award of Merit, due to its commitment to reducing recidivism by properly addressing quality of life offenses in downtown Spokane by utilizing a collaborative, problem-solving approach to crime.

The Spokane Community Court was able to effectively implement this collaborative approach due to the strong support of our community, law enforcement, service providers, medical and public service agencies.

The Spokane Community court as also named a Mentor Court by the Center for Court Innovation. Its success has inspired similar programs in Eugene, OR; Boise, ID; Olympia, WA; Redmond, WA; Chico, CA. Representatives from Snohomish County, WA and Airway Heights, WA are currently working with Spokane in preparation to potentially open their own community courts.

Outreach Update

Youth Outreach Participation to Date

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. More than 500 teens have graduated from YPI, and more than 150 officers have participated in the program.

Rogers High School hosted a YPI Session from September 27-October 3, 2018.

Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Salish School Meeting (9/21)
- Meeting with members of Latinx community and Shar Lichty from PJALS to discuss community fear of reporting crimes to the police (9/21)
- Touch a Truck at Spokane Community College (9/22)
- Walk for Juvenile Diabetes (9/23)
- Coordination of Services Presentation at Juvenile Court (9/24)

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- Youth Leadership Spokane Public Safety Day (9/24)
- Patient Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (9/25)
- Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) at Rogers High School (9/25-10/3)
- HUB All-Stars Breakfast (9/27)
- Kids Meet and Greet (9/27)
- Fiesta Spokane (9/29)
- Missing and Murdered Indian Women (10/2)
- ESOL Consortium meeting- Immigrant and Refugee communities (10/2)
- Native Project Wellness Dinner at Havermale (10/2)
- Procedural Justice presentation (10/3)
- West Central Coalition (10/4)
- Lunch with PAL participant (10/9)
- Excelsior Youth Center (10/9)
- Homeless Youth Advisory Board meeting at Crosswalk (10/10)
- Patient Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (10/10)
- Lincoln Heights Elementary Read-a-thon (10/11)
- NAACP meeting (10/15)
- Presentation at Crime Prevention Conference (10/17)
- Evergreen Clubhouse Outreach (10/17)
- Patient Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (10/17)
- Spokane Schools Kindergarten presentation (10/19)
- Drug Takeback at West Central Community Center (10/20)
- Healthy Youth Symposium (10/25)
- Patient Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (10/26)
- Meals on Wheels Outreach Event (10/27)

Ongoing Outreach at Eastern State Hospital

In conjunction with the Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team, Spokane Police Department's Community Outreach Unit has begun an integration process at Eastern State Hospital to outreach to the patient population. Officers have begun to interact with patients who currently reside in the Adult Psychiatric Unit within the hospital. Patients are becoming familiar with their presence during their classroom and recreation time.

After a familiarization period, a curriculum will be instituted that will teach the patients due to be released. The curriculum will cover interactions with law enforcement upon their reintegration into society. The classes will allow for a question and answer sessions and will provide patients with scenarios where they may commonly interact with the police and how they should respond to ensure a positive outcome for all parties involved.





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This ongoing outreach will allow officers a chance to establish a relationship with these patients outside of a crisis situation in a controlled environment, before their release.

Recent outreach took place three times during the month of October.

Noteworthy News

Diversion Unit Looks for Options: FBH-SPD partnership redirects people at risk to community-based services

October 2018 issue of Frontier Behavioral Health Magazine

<https://fbhwa.org/magazines/>

DOJ report on Spokane Police reform shows improvement

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/oct/17/doj-report-on-spokane-police-reform-shows-improvement/>

