



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
October 2018 Report

Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
October 1, 2018

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





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

I cannot express to you what a caring and kind officer **[Captain Dan] Torok** is. I was driving a little too fast; however, I had received a call from my 91-year-old mother and there was nothing on the line so I went into panic mode. He indeed did pull me over, and yes, I was pretty upset. He calmed me down enough to let me explain why I was speeding and that I really needed to get home due to the circumstances. He was most helpful and told me to call my neighbor. I so appreciated his kindness and caring attitude. I thank him so much for his thoughtfulness. I believe that Officer Torok is very much an asset to the department and we are very lucky to have him on the force.

-H. C.

Chief Meidl, On behalf of the Washington State Patrol, I want to express my genuine appreciation to your team for their assistance on a recent operation. With the help and hard work of several of your detectives, the WSP Missing and Exploited Children Task Force apprehended nine, and counting, suspects who intended on raping a child. I am thankful of the leadership, work ethic, and commitment to excellence your detectives displayed.

- Assistant Chief Randy F. Drake, Investigative Services Bureau, Washington State Patrol

Chief, I wanted to send you a note to tell you how much I appreciate your assistant **Angie [Napolitano]** and all of the assistance she's given me in arranging next week's Mass Shootings Work Group meeting at the Fire Training Academy. She has taken care of all of the details, and gone way above and beyond. She contacted Tom Sawyer coffee, who is going to cater the coffee for the meeting at no charge. It can sometimes be difficult to make sure all the pieces are put together when you're trying to do something from long distance, but she's been my eyes and ears on the ground and has covered every single base I could possibly think of. She's truly a treasure and I've thorough enjoyed working with her. I just wanted you to know what she's done and how helpful she's been. Thank you!

-Deb Gregory, Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs

I want to thank you for recovering our car. First, I want to thank **Officer [Yeshua] Matthew** who took the report. He gave me a ride home and went through our home to make sure no one had broken in. He was very kind and considerate. I don't know the officers who did the great detective work and spotted our car. A very gracious young lady and kind gentleman **[Officers Alisha Nguyen, Austin Toal, and Corporal Fairbanks]** called us. Thank you seems very feeble for all you do, but you have our sincere thanks.

-K. B.





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through August 31, 2018 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 87**

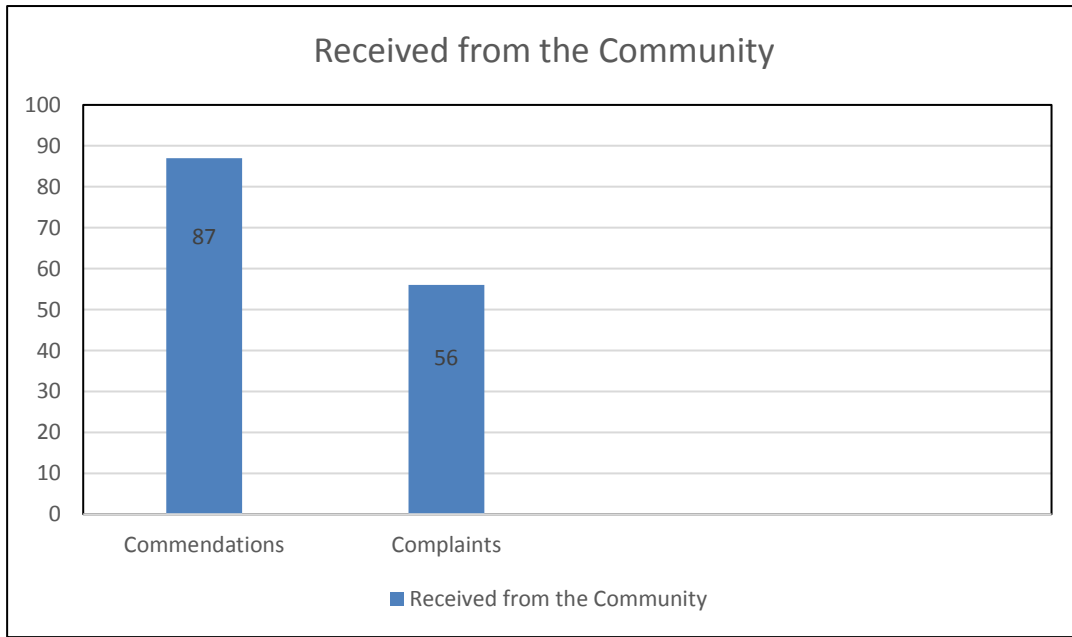
Complaints Received: **Total: 71 (56 from community)**

Closed Out as Inquiries: 10 (As of August 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: 39
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 32
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 15
Generated by the Community	Total: 56





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Use of Force Update

2018 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-July 31, 2018, there were 74 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 19 K9 contacts and 55 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint). In 2017 during this period, there were 72 non-deadly use of force incidents.

2018 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-August 31, 2018, there was one deadly force incident. In 2017 during this period, there were three deadly use of force incidents.

Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through August 31, 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.

2017

Incident 2017-20197756 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board-DFRB)

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 completed. A DFRB is the next step.

Incident 2017-20235296 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board-DFRB)

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 completed. A DFRB is the next step.

Incident 2017-20253538 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board-DFRB)

Incident 2017-20253538 took place on 12/26/2017 in the area of Monroe/Sharp. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is completed. A DFRB is the next step.





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Items of Interest

Citizens Academy

The Fall Citizens Academy began September 5, 2018 and takes place on Wednesday night through October 3 at SPD's training facility. The Citizens Academy introduces students to police training (hands-on and virtual), use of force, operations and investigative procedures, special police units such as SWAT and K9. Internal Affairs, the Police Ombudsman Office, and body cameras as also included. The Citizens Academy gives community members a chance to learn about police operations and to ask questions to the many department representatives who teach the class.

At right: Chief Meidl, Dirk Vastrick, and Captain Meidl at a Citizens Academy graduation



Enhancing the Survival Mindset (ESM) Class

On September 27, SPD held another "Enhancing the Survival Mindset" class for the community. The class is designed to provide a safe place for women and teen girls to learn the basics of self-defense and situational awareness. The course consists of a classroom portion where participants 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. Afterward, participants de-brief the situations with officers and process potential options and different ways of responding to similar threats. Attendees must be at least middle school aged accompanied by an adult to participate.

Precinct Highlights

North Precinct Highlights

Outreach

- **Officer Traci Ponto** participated in the Salvation Army's "Shop with a Cop" event at Target, helping kids shop for new clothes donated by Target.

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- **Detective Janice Oliver and Sergeant Vic Carroll** participated in a school supply giveaway at the West Central Community Center helping to give out school supplies and interacting with kids at the event.

Abatement Property

Officer Dale Wells worked for several months on a case involving a nuisance house on Knox. On August 30, Judge Plese signed a Warrant of Abatement and Order on the Motion for a Preliminary Injunction and Warrant of Abatement in Superior Court. The house has been cleared out and boarded up with “No Trespassing” signs. The neighborhood should be much quieter and pleasant for residents to enjoy.

South Precinct Highlights

Outreach

Neighborhood Resource Officers **Dion Mason, Tim Ottmar, and Seth Berrow** participated in a “Know your NRO” event at the Southside Senior and Event Center. Community members came to engage their Neighborhood Resource Officers on various topics in their neighborhoods.

Downtown Precinct Highlights

Outreach

- Downtown Officers were present and visible at Lewis and Clark High School for the first day of school in August.
- **Lieutenant Steve Braun** organized a Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) session at Volunteers of America’s Crosswalk Youth Shelter during August. Crosswalk is the only licensed emergency shelter serving runaway and homeless youth in Eastern Washington. An array of professional case managers, teachers, health care workers, and chemical dependency counselors work with Crosswalk youth with the primary goal of ending their homelessness and connecting them to stabilizing and supportive services. Lieutenant Braun planned and organized the session with Downtown Precinct officers so that the youth would have an opportunity to engage with officers who work downtown.

Crime Reduction

- The Downtown Precinct worked with House of Charity, Geiger and Code Enforcement as the House of Charity closed their 24/7 operations to address and dispel crowds in that area in order to reduce a variety of crimes.
- Downtown Precinct staff worked with the Civil Enforcement Unit to address problems around Howard/Sprague, which has been a regular Hotspot. Additionally, NROs have engaged in regular foot/bike patrols in this area to address crimes committed by crowds forming in the area. As a result, problems in this area have decreased significantly.





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- Downtown Precinct officers investigated a chronic downtown indecent exposure suspect for repeated new incidents. After sharing information with the Downtown Spokane Partnership Ambassadors, they located the suspect and contacted Downtown Precinct officers who successfully arrested him and charged him with four new felony indecent exposure charges.

Mental Health Collaboration

Due to the "Trueblood" grant obtained by Frontier Behavioral Health, the Downtown Precinct now has a mental health counselor embedded with officers full-time, specifically working with NROs to prevent/divert Emergency Room visits and jail stays for appropriate clientele.

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 we have since held 45 sessions throughout the Spokane area. The sessions take place in different settings including high schools, community centers, and teen homeless shelters. 525 teens have graduated from YPI, and more than 150 officers have participated in the program.

School counselors, school resource officers, and community leaders collaborate to select youth for participation in the program. Many of these teens have not had positive interactions with law enforcement, as their interactions may have involved arrests of friends and family members, or the teens themselves. The YPI curriculum involves role-play and discussion about police interactions, including an ability for attendees and officers to explain their perspectives in these situations. It also involves an honest discussion about peer pressure and positive decision-making relating to school, drugs, and preparing for their future.

YPI Sessions

2014:

1. East Central: 15 youth
2. Hillyard: 11 youth
3. West Central: 12 youth
4. South Perry: 11 youth
5. North Central High School: 13 youth
6. Crosswalk Youth Shelter: 9 youth
7. West Central Community Center: 14 youth
8. Excelsior Youth Center: 14 youth

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9. Rogers High School: 9 youth Yearly total: 108

2015:

- 10. North Central High School: 8 youth
- 11. Shadle Park High School: 14 youth
- 12. Ferris High School: 15 youth
- 13. Martin Luther King Jr. Family Center: 12 youth
- 14. Rogers High School Gay Straight Alliance: 13 youth
- 15. Ferris High School: 15 youth
- 16. Lewis and Clark High School: 14 youth
- 17. Shadle Park High School: 14 youth Yearly total: 105

2016:

- 18. Eagle Peak High School: 8 youth
- 19. Ferris High School: 11 youth
- 20. North Central High School: 14 youth
- 21. Rogers High School: 13 youth
- 22. Lewis and Clark High School: 15 youth
- 23. Excelsior High School: 8 youth
- 24. Shaw Middle School: 11 youth
- 25. Rogers High School: 15 youth
- 26. Lewis and Clark High School: 8 youth
- 27. Glover Middle School: 12 youth Yearly total: 115

2017:

- 28. Shadle Park High School: 10 youth
- 29. Eagle Peak High School: 6 youth
- 30. North Central High School: 13 youth
- 31. Salvation Army: 15 youth
- 32. Rogers High School: 9 youth
- 33. Excelsior Youth Center: 8 youth
- 34. Rogers High School: 11 youth
- 35. Garry Middle School: 11 youth
- 36. Rogers High School: 11
- 37. Glover Middle School: 14 youth
- 38. Rogers High School: 9 youth Yearly total: 117





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2018 to date:

- 39. 2018 Garry Middle School: 15 youth
- 40. Lewis and Clark High School: 13 youth
- 41. Ferris High School: 12 youth
- 42. Rogers High School: 9 youth
- 43. North Central High School: 12 youth
- 44. Rogers High School: 13 youth
- 45. Crosswalk Youth Shelter: 6 youth

Yearly total: 80

Police Activities League (PAL) Sessions

The Spokane Police Activities League (PAL) program engages participating youth in positive athletic and academic programs, including gang and drug intervention and prevention. PAL also bridges the gap between Spokane Police Officers and potential at-risk youth. PAL takes place in West Central at AM Cannon Park, in Hillyard at Shaw Middle School, and East Central at Liberty Park. Activities include STEM, Basketball, Track, Baseball, Flag Football, Golf, and Soccer.

PAL began in 2013 at Liberty Park in the East Central Neighborhood. In 2015, the PAL program expanded to the Northside/Hillyard and West Central neighborhoods. In 2018, the Northside location was Shaw Middle School, which had fewer participants than past Northside locations (Harmon Park, Friendship Park).

- 2013: 53
- 2014: 58
- 2015: 163
- 2016: 390
- 2017: 570
- 2018: 400

Total: 1634 participants



Sergeant Sean Wheeler and K9 at PAL
Photo credit: Heather Stokes





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PAL Photos

Photographer Heather Stokes volunteered her time and services to capture moments at PAL.
www.heatherstokesphotography.com



Sergeant Mike Carr with PAL participant



Officer Mike Russo coaching baseball



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Volunteer Coach Phillip, Chief Meidl, and PAL participant

Photo Credit: Heather Stokes Photography

Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Russian Refugee Tour of the PSB (8/23)
- Finish up YPI at Crosswalk (8-23/8-24)
- Stuffing Backpacks at Sheridan Elementary (8-22)
- Gathering at the Falls Powwow (8-26)
- Shaw Middle School BBQ (8-27)
- Patient Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (8-29)
- Pig out in the Park (8-30)
- Spokane County Interstate Fair (9-7 to 9-16)
- Evergreen Clubhouse (9-5)
- Excelsior Youth Center (9-6)
- Lincoln Heights Elementary Read-a-thon (9-10)
- NAACP meeting (9-17)
- Community Building Day, Holmes Elementary (9-19)
- Touch a Truck, Spokane Community College (9-22)
- Diabetes Walk for Kids (9-23)



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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.

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.

Spokane County Interstate Fair

Every September, the Community Outreach Unit has a presence at the Fair to connect with community members. Officers enjoy answering questions and meeting people who live and work in Spokane.





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Noteworthy News

Spokane drops in the national car theft rankings

After spending too long near the top-ten, the Spokane area is now ranked at 36 for its rate of car theft.

<https://www.kxly.com/news/spokane-drops-in-the-national-car-theft-rankings/785940560>

