



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

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**Strategic Initiatives**  
**September 2018 Report**

**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**September 10, 2018**

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





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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#### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

**Officer [Winston] Brooks and Officer [Scott] Lesser** were instrumental in a recent successful prosecution. A jury found the individual guilty of Attempt to Elude with the enhancement of endangering others and Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle. This was not a simple case, as the suspect was not located on the night of the incident. Both officers are a pleasure to work with, their reports are thorough and complete, they answered their phones or promptly returned calls when needed and they never hesitated to get additional information when asked to do so. The guilty conviction would not have been possible without their diligent investigation, hard work, their professional testimony and their commitment to justice.

*-Stephanie J. Olsen, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Spokane County Prosecutor's Office.*

Our Case Manager shared that **Officer [Ron] Voeller** was able persuade one of our tenants to go to the hospital effortlessly. She has been struggling and recently got out of a 3-week stay in stabilization due to her mental health symptoms/drug use. A few days ago, she began talking incoherently again and increasing in agitation, so we followed her Least Restrictive Alternative (LRA) plan and contacted Frontier Behavioral Health. They came out three times in the last 24 hours to try and meet with her. We have had the unfortunate luck to see situations like this go the opposite direction and I wanted to take a second to acknowledge how much the increased training of police officers has helped our folks. Officer Voeller treated our resident with all of the dignity and respect she deserves while making it clear her safety and ability to care for herself was a growing concern. We could not be more thankful for a tactful and respectful approach from officers when they work with our folks as we all know they have commonly not had the best of experiences. Officer Voeller was instrumental in getting the tenant the care she needs and we are incredibly thankful.

*- Fawn Schott, President & CEO, Volunteers of America*

I recently had two vehicles stolen at the same time. I would like to thank the two officers involved, **Officer Paul Mead** and **Sergeant Kurt Vigesaa**. They are two assets to the department. Very caring and professional. They left a great impression.

*-P.W.*

Thank you so much for letting me ride with **Officer [Cory] Lyons**. Fantastic officer and I learned more in 10 hours with him and his colleagues than I ever thought possible. There are a lot of similarities between law enforcement and nurses. I couldn't have asked for a better way to spend my day off.

*-D. M.*





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### Internal Affairs Unit Update

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

Commendations Received:    **Total: 75**

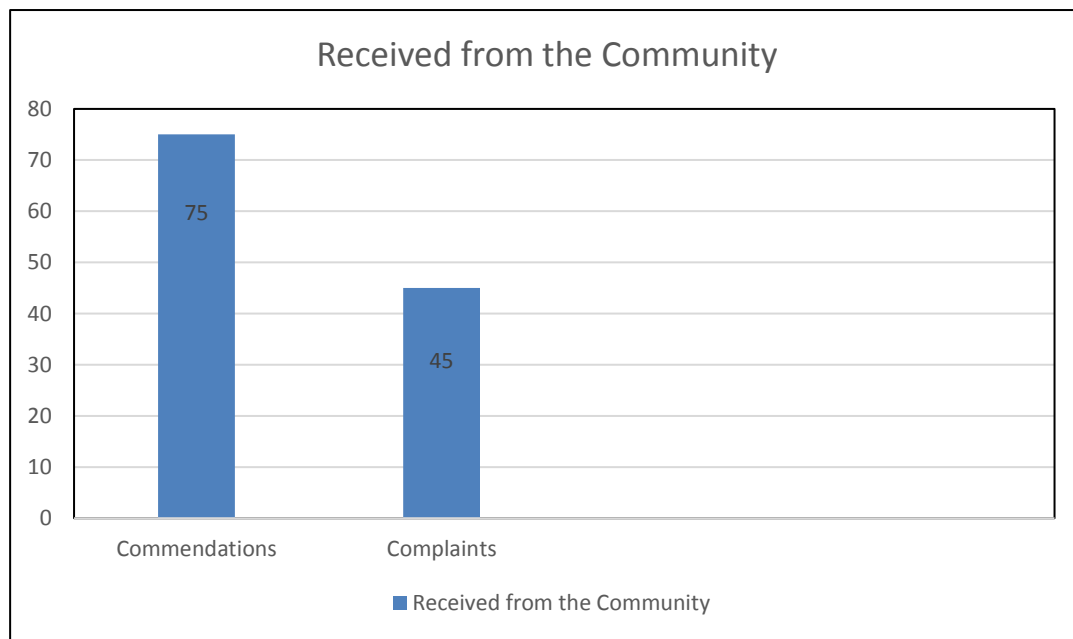
Complaints Received:        **Total: 60 (45 from community)**

**Closed Out as Inquiries: 3 (As of July 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	<b>Total: 31</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 29</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 15</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 45</b>





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#### Use of Force Update

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

From January 1-July 31, 2018, there were 66 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 16 K9 contacts and 50 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint). In 2017 during this period, there were 62 non-deadly use of force incidents.

##### 2018 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-May 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 July 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 2017-20197756 (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 Administrative Review Panel)**

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.

##### **Incident 2017-20253538 (Pending Administrative Review Panel)**

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.





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#### Items of Interest

##### Partners in Justice Award

**Detective Tony Lamanna** with the Special Victims Unit won the Partners in Justice Award in the Law Enforcement category. His nomination reads, "Detective Lamanna consistently displays the utmost genuine care for survivors of sexual violence. His empathy and compassion are unwavering. Detective Lamanna is friendly, kind, and authentic when working with survivors and community partners. His approachable demeanor instantly puts those around him at ease. His patience and understanding enables survivors to feel safe in sharing details of their stories. When working with survivors, Detective Lamanna goes at their desired pace. He stresses to survivors that he believes them. In turn, survivors leave interactions with Detective Lamanna feeling heard and seen. His exceptional care and steadfast commitment to survivors truly makes a positive impact. Thank you, Detective Lamanna!"

##### Gonzaga Prep Companion Award

Gonzaga Prep President Dougherty recognized **Captain Dave Richards** with a Companion Award, given to those individuals who have helped Gonzaga Prep in unique and meaningful ways. Captain Richards' award reads, "Throughout this year he has been a great source of support for our community, always responsive, and proactive. We are grateful for the partnership and service of the Spokane Police Department."

#### Precinct Highlights

##### **North Precinct Highlights**

##### Significant Arrests

**\$10,000.00 in Damage at Northside Apartment Complex:** At the beginning of July, a group of four juveniles broken to a vehicle in the area of Morton and Westview Court. They stole spray paint cans out of this vehicle and then proceeded to vandalize the apartment complexes in the area and numerous vehicles. SPD patrol officers did a great job catching them but were unable to identify and link all of the cases together at the time of the initial arrest. **Detective Jeff Harvey** contacted numerous victims listed in multiple reports. He was able to link the reports to the four juveniles and determine that damage was upwards of \$10,000.00. He then worked with the prosecutor's office to make sure all of the damage estimates and video evidence were submitted so that the juveniles would be charged with 1st degree Malicious Mischief-- a felony rather than a misdemeanor charge.

**Mail Theft Organized Crime Case:** **Detective Crystal Jolley** started working cases involving individuals who would drive around neighborhoods and steal mail that people had put out for the mail carrier. The victims would later learn their mail had been stolen as the checks were cashed at area banks. Detective Jolley learned of many more cases of mail theft and that other agencies were working cases on those same suspects. Detective Jolley worked with the Postal Inspector and Spokane County Detective Meyer to put





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together the cases. Detective Harvey also assisted Detective Jolley with information from his case which involved one of the suspects. With the information from Detective Harvey's case, Detective Jolley was able to put together a case against the suspect for Leading Organized Crime. Detective Jolley also conducted interviews and obtained a full confession from one of the other suspects.

#### National Night Out Parties on the Northside



On National Night Out, the North Precinct attended every party listed for the north side of Spokane. At least two officers and/or supervisors went to every party. Precinct staff feel this is fun event where everyone connects with their neighbors to get to know each other and talk about watching out for each other. The idea is to know your neighbors well enough to know when something isn't right and to call in suspicious activity in the neighborhood. The National Night Out parties were very successful.

#### North Precinct Involvement in Spokane Police Activities League (PAL)

PAL is a perfect opportunity for Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) to connect with the children in their neighborhoods. Three Northwest NROs assisted with West Central PAL at AM Cannon Park on Tuesdays. Three Northeast NROs assisted with Hillyard Neighborhood PAL at Salk Middle School.

At left: **Officer Sandi McIntyre** at a National Night Out event

#### **Downtown Precinct Highlights**

#### Kudos to Downtown Precinct Employees on Community Court Collaboration:

On one particular case, Downtown Precinct officers received commendations from both the Public Defender and Prosecutor's Office for their work in helping a client in Community Court. Public Defender wrote Chief Meidl about **Officers Ben Maplethorpe, John O'Brien, Steven Perry, and Sergeant Jason Hartman.**

Mubarak Abdur Raheem, Assistant City Prosecutor with the Spokane City Prosecutor's Office, wrote: "Chief Meidl, I wanted to let you know of the amazing job **Officer [Ben] Maplethorpe** did for us. In my opinion, he went above and beyond on this case. I continually receive amazing support from everyone downtown from **Captain [Dave] Singley, Sgt. [Jason] Hartman** and all of the officers downtown. I really appreciate the hard work they all provide."







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News Coverage: Stolen bike found by Spokane Police

<https://www.kxly.com/news/stolen-bike-found-by-spokane-police/776501688>

**Officer Casey Jones** is assigned to the Downtown Patrol Unit and often responds to reports of stolen property, especially bicycles. So, it was no shock when Officer Jones received a report that 18-year-old David Stanley's bike was stolen. But David's stolen bicycle meant more to him than a loss of recreational fun. Without his bike, David had lost part of his freedom. After following up with David about his stolen property, Officer Jones learned that David has learning disabilities and that his bike is his only means of transportation in order to run household errands for his physically disabled father.

When Officer Jones learned of the circumstances surrounding this incident, he dedicated extra time and effort to locate the bike, searching various websites that sold the same kind of bicycle. But all efforts were unsuccessful. On August 1, Officer Jones observed a male riding a bike downtown that matched the description of David's bike. He stopped the male and discovered it was in fact David's. The bike was recovered and the male has been charged for the theft.

Officer Jones met with David's father to return the bike. Through tears, David Sr. told Officer Jones that his efforts "meant the world" to his son.

### Outreach Update

#### Police Activities League (PAL) Program

This summer, area youth participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> season of the Spokane Police Activities League. Spokane PAL 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 was offered at no cost to participants at West Central at AM Cannon Park, in Hillyard at Shaw Middle School, and East Central at Liberty Park. Activities included STEM, Basketball, Track, Baseball, Flag Football, Golf, and Soccer.



**Officer Jenn DeRuwe** has coordinated the PAL program since its inception. She is pictured above with Chief Meidl. The partnership with the City Library continued this year with the PAL After Park program.



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PAL Community Volunteers Phillip, Jaime, Katy, and Acecia



Chief Meidl with PAL Volunteer Bishop Shon Davis, OPO Commissioner James Wilburn, and PAL Volunteer William Davis at the end of season celebration.

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#### **PAL Survey Results**

95 youth completed surveys about their experience with PAL.

#### Positive Perception of Police

After participating in the program, youth indicated a positive perception of Spokane Police with an average score of 4.33 out of a possible 5 (87% out of 100).

#### Program Success

Participants were asked, "How much did you enjoy the PAL program?" and gave an average score of 4.51 out of 5 (90%).

#### PAL Builds Trust

Survey results show that the program is effective in building trust in law enforcement: 55% of participating youth indicated that the PAL program increased how much they trust the police. 38% of youth reported no change. Returning participants often report that they already trust the police.

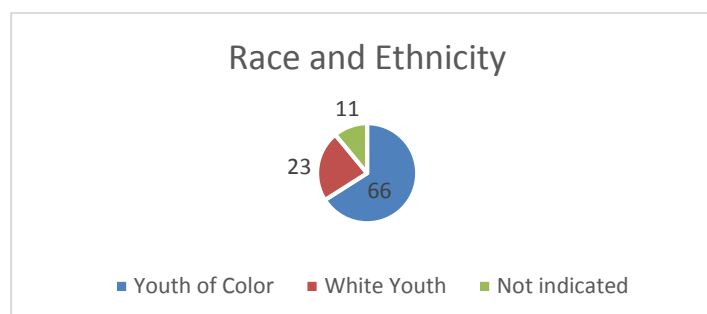
#### Survey Demographics

Average Age: 10

Gender: The majority of youth (70%) did not answer this question. This question is in the upper corner of the survey and is easily missed. Of the 28 youth who did, 11 reported female and 17 reported male.

We served a very diverse group of kids at the three parks.

- Respondents of color: 66%
- White respondents: 23%
- Not filled out: 11%





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#### NATIVE Project Summer Program Graduation

**Officer Graig Butler** represented the Community Outreach Unit at the Native Project's summer camp graduation on August 10. The youth had participated in PAL as part of their summer program experience. He presented each child with a Police Activities League (PAL) t-shirt. He thanked them for playing with the police officers who volunteered their time this summer in our city parks.



#### PAL Lunch with an Officer

One of the PAL participants won a prize of a lunch with an officer, provided by Spokane Parks Foundation. Yousef picked **Sergeant Mike Carr** and the Golden Corral for his special lunch.

#### Community Outreach Unit Summary

- World Relief Orientation for New Refugees- 7/6
- Spokane C.O.P.S. Mounted Patrol community event – 7/14
- Fighting Hate Crime in the LGBTQ Community – 7/20
- Spokane Indians Baseball game with YPI grads and PAL participants -7/30
- Public Safety Building Tour for at-risk youth – 8/6
- Parks Foundation Open House- 8/7
- NATIVE Project Summer program Graduation – 8/10
- Junior Police Academy – 8/11
- Evergreen Club (Mental Health Clubhouse) presentation – 8/15
- Refugee Tour of Public Safety Building- 8/16
- Unity in the Community – 8/18
- Cops and Kids Car Show – 8/18
- Coordination of Services Presentation at Juvenile Court – 8/20
- Shop with a Cop at Target – 8/21
- Backpack Stuffing at Sheridan Elementary – 8/22
- First Responder Appreciation Day at Avalon Care Center – 8/22
- Back to School Fair at Martin Luther King Center – 8/25





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#### Shop with a Cop at Target

Spokane Police Department and Spokane County Sheriff's Office participated in Shop with a Cop, a partnership of Salvation Army and Target, August 20, 2018. Participating youth pick out new clothes and shoes for school, with the help of a police officer or sheriff's deputy.



**SPD Employees Pictured Above: Chief Craig Meidl, Detective Stacey Carr, Lieutenant Mike McNab, Officer Deanna Storch, Captain Tom Hendren, Assistant Chief Justin Lundgren**



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#### Noteworthy News

##### **Spokane drops out of top 15 cities for vehicle thefts in the nation**

Spokane has fallen out of the top 15 for vehicle thefts in the nation. In fact, the city fell way off that list, dropping from 11th place in 2016 to 36th place in 2017.

The city credits the creation of a new auto theft task force with bringing the numbers down. Spokane Police Officer John O'Brien says driver education has also helped. He says people are locking their car doors much more regularly, which may sound obvious, but it's made a real difference.

<http://www.khq.com/story/38843162/spokane-drops-out-of-top-15-cities-for-vehicle-thefts-in-the-nation>

##### **Police officer rescues young boy in north Spokane**

The Spokesman Review wrote a heartwarming story about **Officer Brad Lewis's** rescue of five-year-old Keenan Woods.

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/aug/03/police-officer-rescues-young-boy-in-north-spokane/>

##### **"Donut Boy" delivers sweets to Spokane law enforcement**

Spokane law enforcement had a sweet start to their week, thanks to a special delivery from fifth grader Tyler Carach, known as "Donut Boy." The 10-year-old boy from Florida has made it his mission to thank every police officer in the country and has been using his school breaks and summer vacation to make that goal possible. Tyler has visited 39 states so far.

<https://www.kxly.com/news/-donut-boy-delivers-sweets-to-spokane-police/778187916>

