



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
April 2019 Report

Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
April 8, 2019

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





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Chief Meidl,

I'm writing this letter to tell you what a wonderful officer you have on your police force. Her name is **Jennifer Kerns**. My son and daughter-in-law were in a traffic accident. Your Officer Kerns came on the scene and was so kind, caring, thoughtful, and very understanding. Your officer was one of the nicest people they could have encountered that evening. I thanked her for her kindness and professionalism. I can't tell you how impressed I am of her and what she shows as a member of our police force. She is a jewel.

Captain [Tracie] Meidl,

A huge thank you to the **South Precinct** staff for the great turn out at the Coffee with a Cop today at Burrito Loco. These events are a perfect opportunity for citizens to interact with SPD and get their concerns/question addressed. As a Neighborhood leader and a believer in the outreach between citizens and SPD, I appreciate SPD's willingness to attend these events and engage with folks that may not normally having dealing with officers.

Officers Ryan Smith and Jaelene Leeson,

Just want to thank you both so much for your help this morning. I sure appreciate you coming to my rescue and pushing me off the snow berm in below freezing temperatures. I wasn't thinking straight trying to park there, as I just lost my father. It is such a relief to know that you both and all your fellow officers are out there helping!!! Please stay safe and stay warm. Have a great day!!!!

Officer Dave Dunkin,

Thank you so much for attending Mental Illness Awareness Week event at Eastern State Hospital. The patients enjoyed your thoughts and information. We appreciate you taking the time to talk to them. I believe we started to break down the stigmas that bridge both populations, the mentally ill and the police. I hope your experience with our patients was helpful. Thank you for your heart of compassion and concern.

Detective [Janice] Oliver,

I want to again thank you for the assistance you provided. This matter neither occurred in your jurisdiction, nor had victims living within, yet you jumped to the occasion and quickly handled our request. The information obtained as a result of the search warrant you prepared was invaluable to our investigation. If there is ever anything we could assist you or your agency with, please call on us.





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through February 31, 2019 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 32**

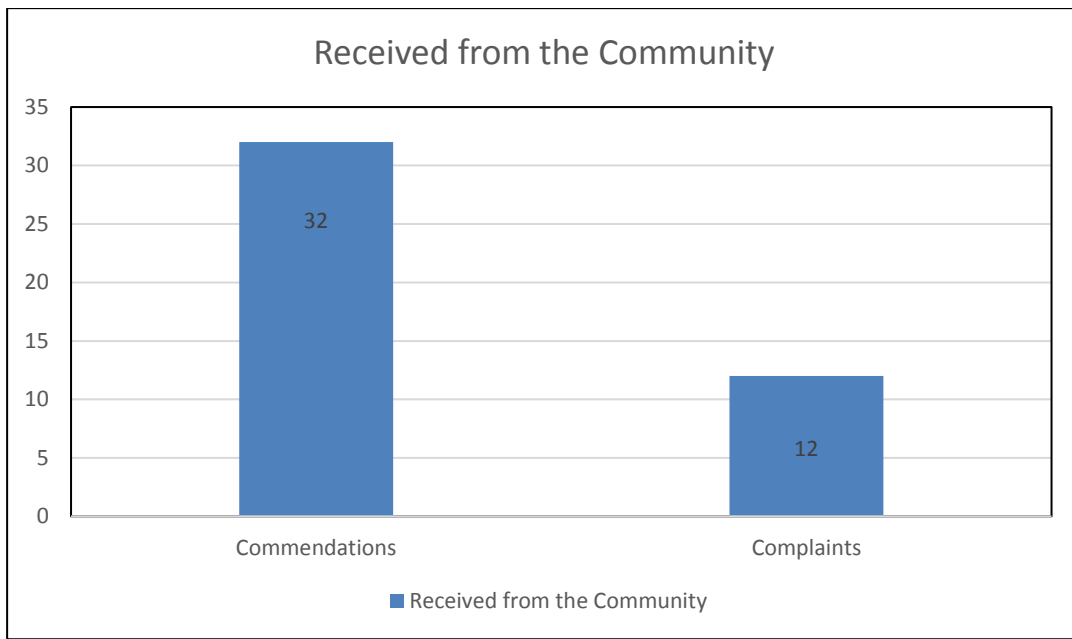
Complaints Received: **Total: 15 (12 from community)**

Closed Out as Inquiries: 2 (As of February 31, 2019)

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 January 1 through February 31, 2019 Complaints

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 11
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 4
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 3
Generated by the Community	Total: 12





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Use of Force Update

2019 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-February 31, 2019, there were 27 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 9 K9 contacts and 18 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint).

2019 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-February 31, 2019, there were two deadly force incidents.

Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through February 31, 2019)

2018

Incident 2018-20045627 (pending Deadly Force Review Board)

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 completed and pending a Deadly Force Review Board.

2019

Incident 2019-20004372 (Under SIRR investigation)

Incident 2019-20004372 occurred on January 7, 2019, in the 600 block of West Montgomery. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

Incident 2019-20014197 (Under SIRR investigation)

Incident 2019-20014197 occurred on January 23, 2019, in the 3000 block of North Monroe. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) is conducting the criminal investigation.





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Items of Interest

Training Opportunities for Community Members

If you have any questions about any of the training or presentations listed below, please contact the Spokane Police Academy at 509.742.8100 or spdregistration@spokane police.org.

Enhancing the Survival Mindset—Level 1

The Enhancing the Survival Mindset Level 1 course offers women participants the opportunity to learn the basics of self-defense. The course consists of a classroom portion where participants will 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. A participant's survival mindset will determine the outcome of these scenarios. Attendees must be at least middle school aged accompanied by an adult to participate. The charge for this class is \$25.

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 15, 6-10 pm

Location: SPD Academy

Register online: <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/police/training/civilian-course-application-level1-fillable-2016-02-10.pdf>

Enhancing the Survival Mindset—Level 2

This is the next step in the reinforcement and development of the survival mindset. Women participants are exposed to approximately six new threat scenarios that will enhance your schemas for real life survival. Attendees must be at least middle school aged accompanied by an adult and must have completed Level 1 of Enhancing the Survival Mindset to participate. The charge for this class is \$25.

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 29, 6-10 pm

Location: SPD Academy

Registration form not available yet.

Weekend Citizens Academy

Students are introduced to police training (hands-on and virtual), operations and investigative procedures, special police units, etc. The Citizen's Academy will culminate with a graduation ceremony where students will be awarded certificates of completion. There is no fee for this course.

Dates and Time: Saturday, June 1, 9 am-4:30 pm and Sunday, June 2, 9 am-5 pm

Location: SPD Academy

Register online: <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/police/training/civilian-course-application-level1-fillable-2016-02-10.pdf>





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Precinct Highlights

South Precinct Highlights

Outreach

The South Precinct staff (except NRO Seth Berrow, who was away at training) all participated in the Youth & Police Initiative session at Ferris High School. See photo below:





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North Precinct Highlights

Outreach

- NRO Traci Ponto, who is part of the COPS Mounted Patrol Unit, will be working with Holmes Elementary in the West Central neighborhood. Holmes students will create the artwork for the COPS Mounted Patrol Unit Flag.
- Officer Sandi McIntyre went to the Spokane International Academy in Hillyard and read to the children there. It was a great opportunity to reach out to a school that has less contact with the police department than most of the Spokane Public Schools.

Downtown Precinct Highlights

Notable Arrests

The Downtown Precinct received a variety of complaints regarding drug dealing in the bathrooms at STA. As a result, NROs focused their efforts there and made numerous arrests for drug delivery and drug possession.

Quality of Life Issues

Officers continue to monitor the Browne viaduct. Issues with camping, sit and lie, and pedestrian interference continue to be almost non-existent. Geiger garbage clean ups in the viaduct have been reduced significantly and the Downtown Spokane Partnership weekly cleaning/sanitizing has not been needed in weeks.

Outreach

- Downtown Precinct's Coffee with a Cop event is March 21 at the River Park Square Atrium
- SNAP provides winter coats and other accessories like socks to the Downtown Precinct each winter. NROs hand those out to individuals in need during the course of their shifts.

Ongoing Collaboration

- Downtown NROs and embedded FBH counselor attend the weekly Community Court staffing meetings on Mondays before court starts.
- Community Court team process meetings
- Downtown Security Group meetings
- Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP) Ambassadors/Downtown Precinct NRO monthly joint roll call.
- DSP/DTP leadership meeting monthly meeting
- WSU Violence Against Women grant team meeting





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- Spokane Continuum of Care board meeting
- Downtown Spokane Partnership Business Improvement District board meeting
- Homeless Huddle meetings and service provider meetings

Outreach Update

Youth Outreach Participation

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 over 50 sessions throughout the Spokane area. The sessions take place in different settings including high schools, community centers, and teen homeless shelters. As of March 2019, over 600 teens have graduated from YPI, and more than 150 officers have participated in the program. The most recent YPI sessions took place in March 2019 at North Central High School.

Community Outreach Unit Summary

- "No Fear in Love" Race Outreach event, Gonzaga Law School (3/2)
- Preschool Safety Talk (3/4)
- Youth Safety Talk (3/4)
- Junior League Literacy Fair (3/9)
- Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (3/12)
- Youth & Police Initiative Session at North Central High School (beginning 3/12)
- Refugee Service Provider meeting, World Relief (3/13)
- Read Across America, International Academy (3/12 and 3/14)
- Reading Night at Holmes Elementary (3/14)
- Shadle Park Library (3/14)
- South Hill Library Event (3/15)
- St. Patrick's Day Parade (3/16)
- Coordination of Services at Juvenile Court (3/18 and 3/25)
- Spokane Public Schools meeting (3/19)
- Racial Reconciliation and Diversity Group (3/20)
- SAC School Outreach (3/21)
- Public Safety Building Tour for schools (3/21)
- Career Panel "Real World Conference" for kids in foster care (3/23)
- School Community Partnership meeting (3/27)
- Evergreen Club board meeting (3/27)





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Recognizing SPD Women

In honor of International Women's Day in March, SPD shared various photos of female employees on the department's Facebook page. Below, see a sampling of female commissioned and civilian employees at SPD.

