



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
February 2019 Report

Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
February 4, 2019

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





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

I am writing this letter to praise **Officer Caleb Martin** who came to my house in reference to a parking lot hit and run accident to my car. I called Crime Check to make a report and 30 minutes later Officer Martin was at my door. I gave him my witness statement and he followed up. Two hours later, he had all the paperwork from the lady who hit me to give to my insurance company. He was so amiable and friendly. When the officer checked my car for the damage, he noticed I had two different plates on my car. He told me to call Department of Licensing (DOL). DOL stated that the plates were very thin and I may have both plates on the back. When the officer came back, I told him about this. He said, "Let me check to see if I can help with this." He separated the plates and put one on the front. He was helpful above and beyond his duty.

-M. W.

Chief Meidl,

As someone who recently interacted with your police department while in a mental health crisis, your officers acted with extreme professionalism. I was embarrassing, and your team was stellar. Thank you Spokane Police Department.

-Name Withheld

Chief Meidl,

Yesterday, we were the victims of a rear-ender. The Spokane Police Department was called and **Officer [Shaidon] Storch** arrived at the scene. Officer Storch's presence at the scene was an excellent example of what a citizen's image of a public servant should be in representing a police department: very well dressed, very polite, immediate efforts to put the affected parties at ease, immediately took control of the situation in a non-threatening manner, provided verbal instructions and directions. I trust you are pleased to have personnel of such stature and integrity on your force.

- M. G.

Dear **Chief Meidl**,

It is obvious that you and your team at the SPD really are committed to the youth of Spokane based on how you are very involved, so thank you. We are a better place because of civil servants like you that care about protecting our city.

-K. B.





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through December 31 2018 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 115**

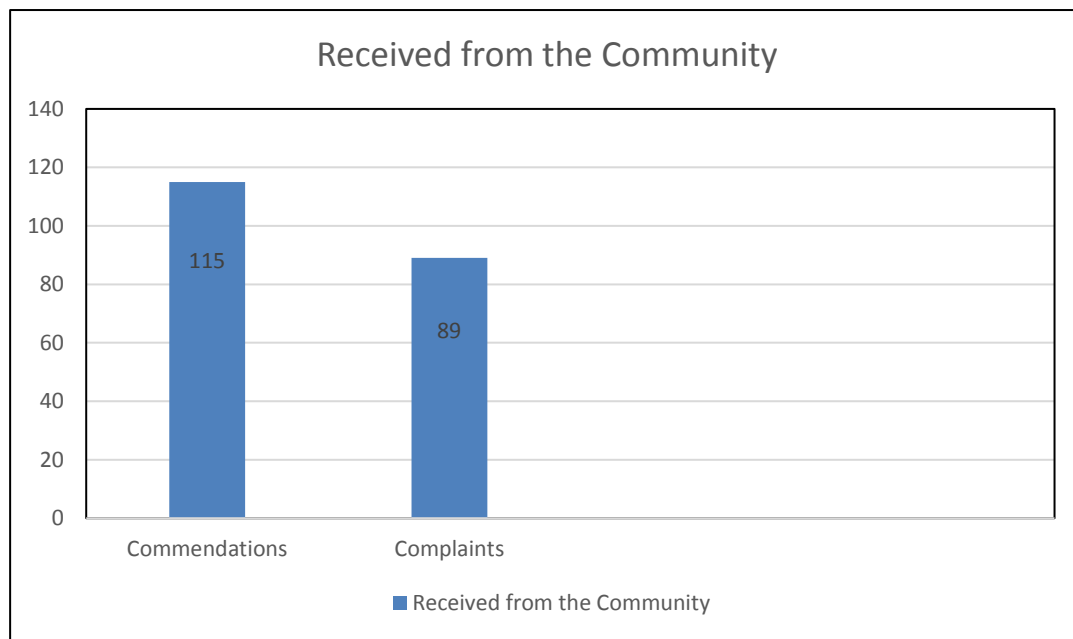
Complaints Received: **Total: 107 (89 from community)**

Closed Out as Inquiries: 18 (As of December 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: 64
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 43
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 18
Generated by the Community	Total: 89





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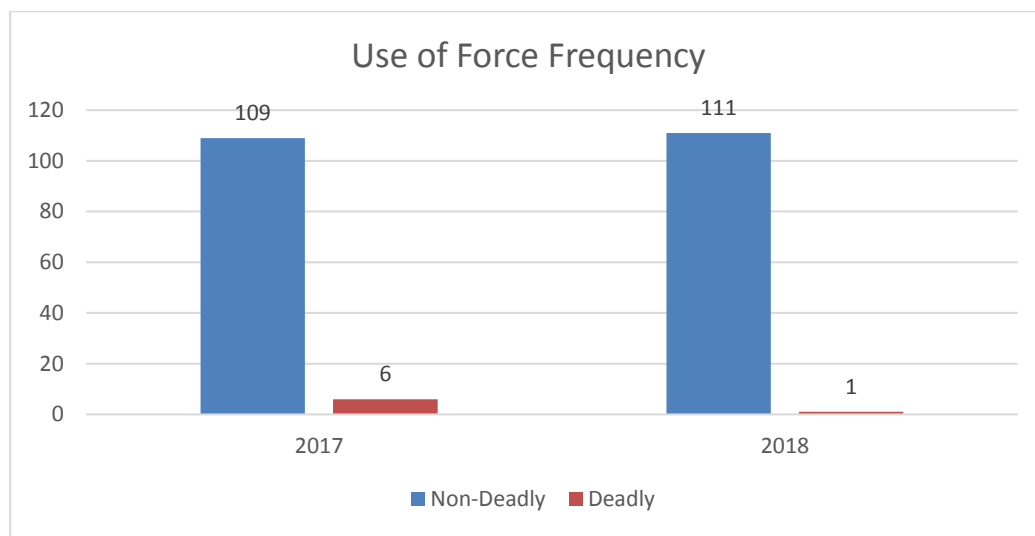
Use of Force Update

2018 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-December 31, 2018, there were 113 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 29 K9 contacts and 84 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint). In 2017 during this period, there were 109 non-deadly use of force incidents. The total of non-deadly use of force incidents appears to be similar to last year, with a slight increase of 1.8%. Commissioned personnel increased 5% from 2017 to 2018. Another factor to consider is that SPD officers were involved in 17,347 (10%) more calls in 2018. Officers responded to 170,170 incidents. In 2017, officers responded to 152,823 incidents. The 2018 ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is very low (00.06%), and slightly lower than the 2017 ratio of 00.07%.

2018 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

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



Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through December 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 (SIIR) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.





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Precinct Highlights

North Precinct Highlights

New Faces at the North Precinct

Captain Mark Griffiths has taken over as the North Precinct Commander as Captain Torok heads towards retirement later this year. **Officer Jeremy Howe** is the newest Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) at the North Precinct. He replaced NRO Scott Hice who decided to go back to regular patrol. Officer Howe will be covering the Whitman, Hillyard, and Northern Bemis neighborhoods, working with COPS Northeast at the North Precinct.



Captain Mark Griffiths

NRO Jeremy Howe

Outreach Event: Coffee with a Cop

McDonalds at 3416 N Market hosted Coffee with a Cop on January 10, 2019. The event was busy with lots of community members and officers discussing various issues for a couple of hours. The new location replaces the old building, which was in the path of the new North/South Freeway.

South Precinct Highlights

Notable Arrest

Detective Bob Mosman shared a recent arrest and prosecution that shows the importance of reporting crimes. He arrested a male for a residential burglary incident. The suspect was currently in the DOC work





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release program, and was working for a lawn care service. He committed the burglary while working. He stole "a ton of jewelry" from the victim and then pawned the items the next day.

Detective Mosman knew the arrestee had a significant criminal history, and he had committed the crime while on work release, so he would be more likely to serve a longer sentence. DOC sent him back to prison on his original charges. Detective Mosman went out to Airway Heights to interview him and complete the new charges. Detective Mosman charged him with First Degree Possession of Stolen Property (PSP) and First Degree Trafficking in Stolen Property.

The suspect pleaded guilty to both charges, which increased his offender score for sentencing. He will have to finish his unrelated charged time before serving time for the new charges—four years on the PSP charges and over five years for the Trafficking, served consecutively. He will be in for a minimum of 88 months and it could possibly extend to 2030.

Detective Mosman says, "This case is significant because it put a repeat offender back into prison and out of circulation for a substantial amount of time. This will automatically decrease the number of future victims in the city and will put a huge dent in property crimes statistics. He was a one man wrecking crew."

Detective Mosman contacted the victim to let her know about the sentencing. Luckily, Detective Mosman was able to recover all of her jewelry except for one piece. It is important for victims to know that reporting crimes and pressing charges does matter. He will also be talking about this case at a neighborhood meeting. He says, "People need to know that they have to report crimes because it can make a difference."

South Precinct Outreach

The South Precinct adopted a family in the East Central neighborhood at Christmas. Below, South Precinct **Captain Tracie Meidl**, **NRO Dion Mason**, and **Detective Bob Mosman** celebrate with the children.





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South Precinct staff also joined the Community Outreach Unit at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Rally and March on January 21, 2019. Below, **Neighborhood Resource Officer Tim Ottmar** with Jada Richardson, a teen who has participated in several youth outreach programs, daughter of **Reserve Officer Ed Richardson**.



Downtown Precinct Highlights

Ongoing Collaboration

- Community Court team process meetings
- Downtown Security Group meetings
- Planning group meetings for Spokane's planned Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Facility (MHCSF)
- Planning group meetings for Spokane's EnVision Center
- 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
- Spokane Continuum of Care board meeting
- Downtown Spokane Partnership Business Improvement District board meeting
- Joint Browne street viaduct cleaning with Geiger work crews and Downtown Spokane Partnership every Tuesday.
- Homeless Huddle meetings and service provider meetings

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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 almost 50 sessions throughout the Spokane area. The sessions take place in different settings including high schools, community centers, and teen homeless shelters. As of December 2018, over 550 teens have graduated from YPI, and more than 150 officers have participated in the program.

The most recent YPI session took place in January 2019 at Rogers High School. Another YPI session takes place at the end of January and first week of February at Excelsior Youth Center.

Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Evergreen Club member meeting (12/26)
- Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (12/28)
- Passages Youth & Parent meeting (1/2)
- Lewis and Clark High School (1/8)
- ARC of Spokane (1/9)
- Outreach at Excelsior Youth Center (1/9)
- Youth Advisory Board at Crosswalk Youth Shelter (1/9)
- SAC School Student Outreach (1/10)
- Coffee with a Cop (1/10)
- Spokane Public Schools meeting with African community leaders (1/10)
- Spokane Fatherhood Initiative (1/15)
- Youth & Police Initiative (1/15-1/23)
- SAC School Outreach (1/16)
- Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (1/17)
- Indigenous People's March (1/18)
- Youth and the Force- Juvenile Court (1/18)
- Women's March (1/19)
- Community Day of Impact, Martin Luther King Center (1/19)
- Commemorative Celebration of Martin Luther King Day, (1/20)
- Unity Rally and Resource Fair (1/21)
- Martin Luther King Jr. March (1/21)
- NAACP Meeting (1/21)
- Racial Reconciliation and Diversity Group meeting (1/23)
- Outreach at Excelsior Youth Center (1/24)





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- SAC School Outreach (1/24)
- Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (1/25)
- World Relief Workshop (1/25)
- Coordination of Services at Juvenile Court (1/28)
- Frontier Behavioral Health Clinician Informational (1/30)
- SAC School Outreach (1/31)

Parent Advisory Board of Central Africa and Spokane Police Department

SPD Community Outreach leadership (Director MacConnell, Lieutenant McNab, and Sergeant Carr) met with parents and community leaders from Central Africa in a meeting sponsored by Spokane Public Schools. The purpose of the initial meeting is to connect community leaders with the Community Outreach officers so they could have a discussion and ask questions. Community leaders will encourage parents to come to future meetings and meet officers.

Discussion topics included:

- Concerns from parents
- Why parents may be afraid to deal with the police, due to police behavior in Central Africa
- American laws about parenting
- Having a point of contact or translator if needed
- Who parents can contact if they are scared
- Importance of calling 911 in an emergency

Eastern State Hospital Outreach

The SPD/Eastern State Hospital patient outreach program is going very well. Officers first began visiting ESH in plainclothes and have since introduced themselves as officers as they engage with patients. The program is designed to bridge the gap with ESH patients, who may have had law enforcement contacts prior to hospitalization, and to help with future encounters.

Officers recently led the first class with a focus on law enforcement responses, asking, "How do you want us to respond to you?" and explaining, "This is how we respond for these types of circumstances." The class also included a question and answer session. The Community Outreach Unit (specifically, Officer Graig Butler) is leading the class along with a patrol officer that is part of the Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team program. This program is a terrific partnership between the two agencies. ESH staff reported that the program has been very successful.





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Excelsior Youth Center Outreach

Officer Graig Butler has been regularly visiting the Excelsior campus to do outreach to their students. Generally, the students reside there for 30-45 days at a time for court ordered treatment. This means that the turnover is significant, so he is visiting with and engaging with a new set of kids every other week or so. Some of the teens have lengthy criminal histories for their ages and have had negative interactions with law enforcement.

The purpose of his visits are to engage with the youth on a personal level, by listening to them and giving them a positive experience with law enforcement. He has assisted with employment/interview skills, played basketball with them, sat in on their substance abuse classes, and has driven a couple of youth to their court cases. Outreach efforts are especially timely with the upcoming Youth & Police Initiative class at Excelsior, taking place in late January/early February.

Teddy Bear Toss

Mt. Spokane High School offered to do a Teddy Bear Toss as part of their winter assembly to benefit kids in our community. The students at Mt. Spokane tossed 259 stuffed animals! SPD is using those stuffed animals to bring smiles to the faces of kids in our community through our Adopt-a-Family program, hospital visits, and traumatic calls. Sergeant Mike Carr spoke to the youth at Mt. Spokane to thank them for their generosity and explain how their donations make a difference.

Below: Mt. Spokane students toss stuffed animals. Sgt. Mike Carr addressing students at the assembly.





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Below: Community Outreach team Sgt. Carr and Ofc. Jenn DeRuwe with Captain Tracie Meidl at the MLK Center at East Central Community Center, preparing to meet children to distribute toys.



Below, SPD giving out stuffed animals from the Teddy Bear Toss.





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Below, Officer Jenn DeRuwe with a child at an Adopt-a-Family event in December.



Below, Captain Mark Griffiths speaking at the Indigenous People's March.





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Noteworthy News

Spokane boy gets special Seahawks surprise, courtesy of Russell Wilson's mom

Officer Stephanie Kennedy connected with a boy at Clothe-a-Child and put him in touch with Russell Wilson's mom.

https://www.khq.com/news/spokane-boy-gets-special-seahawks-surprise-courtesy-of-russell-wilson/article_f56f1118-03fb-11e9-8cb1-bbcc78aec803.html

Spokane sees three peaceful marches over MLK Day weekend. Three big protests in four days went off without a hitch, say organizers, police.

<https://www.krem.com/article/news/local/spokane-sees-three-peaceful-marches-over-mlk-day-weekend/293-b6932a92-99db-4dc1-b455-19b4e90f0da4>

