



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
January 2019 Report

Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
January 7, 2019

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





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Chief Meidl and Sheriff Knezovich,

I wanted to personally thank both of you and your organizations for the support that was shown to our employees today through the Critical Incident Support Management teams that came onsite this morning [**SPD Officers Dave Daddato and Dean Draper, Chaplain Mickey Tuter**]. **Chaplain Ed Hoffman** was able to pull together a fantastic team from the city and county to walk us through the debriefing of the onsite shooting that occurred. The feedback from the employees that participated has been positive. While this event is still raw and very difficult for some to process, we are on the path of healing because of the program conducted by your officers. Additionally, the instant response and professionalism of the officers that were on site Tuesday morning was extraordinary.

-J. M.

My daughter and wife were involved in a collision. **SPD Officers Bradley Lewis and [Corporal] Erin Blessing** responded and were on scene almost immediately. I would like to commend both officers for the courtesy and compassion they extended to my family members during this very stressful incident. My thanks again to Officers Lewis and Blessing.

-R. K.

Chief Meidl,

I wanted to send an email and tell you how much I appreciate the help we received from the Police Chaplains Department two weeks ago when my father passed away at home. **Chaplain Ed Hoffman** came to my parents' house and walked us through what our options were and how to handle the situation. This was our first time dealing with this in our family and it was very overwhelming. Ed was the most compassionate and helpful person I have ever come in contact with. I can't tell you how much help and guidance he gave us. When you have to deal with a situation like this, you are not always in the best state of mind but people like him make it so much easier. I just wanted to thank you for having this service available and tell you how great Ed was. Thank you so much.

- M. G.

[Records Shift Supervisor Mardee Ellis and Records Day Shift.]

I can barely start on putting into words how thankful I am for your supervision of my students [college student practicum experience.] You and your team are awesome! Willing to go above and beyond expectations. You and your team is just amazing. Thank you for your support.

-H. H.





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Selected Excerpts of Internal Commendations and Kudos to Employees

I wanted to send an email to recognize outstanding performance tonight of **Dispatchers Pam Pruitt, Dena Ardillo, Scott Leslie** and **Dakota Block**. Around 2000, Fire called and asked for units to respond to a suicidal male threatening to jump out the window. Officers arrived and it quickly turned into a stand-off situation where Hostage Negotiators were called out. Dakota did a great job on the initial set up of responding officers. Pam took over the call and ended up working it until they took the subject into custody at 0200. During this time we had a shooting call on the north side of town where someone had fired shots into the air; this call turned into a SWAT stand-off situation which Scott did an excellent job handling. Dena was working during this time and the PACT team came up with a stop that turned into a foot pursuit. The teamwork in the room was fantastic and attitudes throughout the night were excellent. You all definitely kept things running as smoothly as possible. I wanted to let you all know how much I appreciate your hard work.

-Police Dispatch Supervisor Marie White

Teresa [**Officer Teresa Fuller**],

Great job on showing initiative and leadership by proactively going out to track this suspect vehicle. But for your actions, this person may have never been held accountable for the damage they caused. Job well done! [Officer Fuller found the male who was arrested in connection to a hit and run collision downtown, causing life-threatening injuries. The male was booked into jail for Felony Hit and Run and Vehicular Assault.]

-Police Chief Craig Meidl

"I had a great opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Officer Cory Lyons**. We spent nearly seven hours together and I found him to be courteous, professional, and extremely competent in his work. Officer Lyons handled several situations during this shift to include a trespass case with a transient camp, an assault call near the House of Charity, a felony assault in progress involving transients, and a traffic accident. Officer Lyons impressively handled these sensitive situations while on scene and provided significant attention to investigation and follow up. His level of knowledge and dedication to proactive enforcement became evident as he spent all of his unencumbered time patrolling and pointing out different areas of concern and explaining what he was looking for. He reacted quickly and efficiently, and was polite and reasonable with everyone we encountered. Officer Lyons proved to be effective and patient as he worked to de-escalate situations quickly while he managed to extract the relevant information while still remaining considerate of emotional situations."

-Police Ombudsman Bart Logue





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through November 30, 2018 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 108**

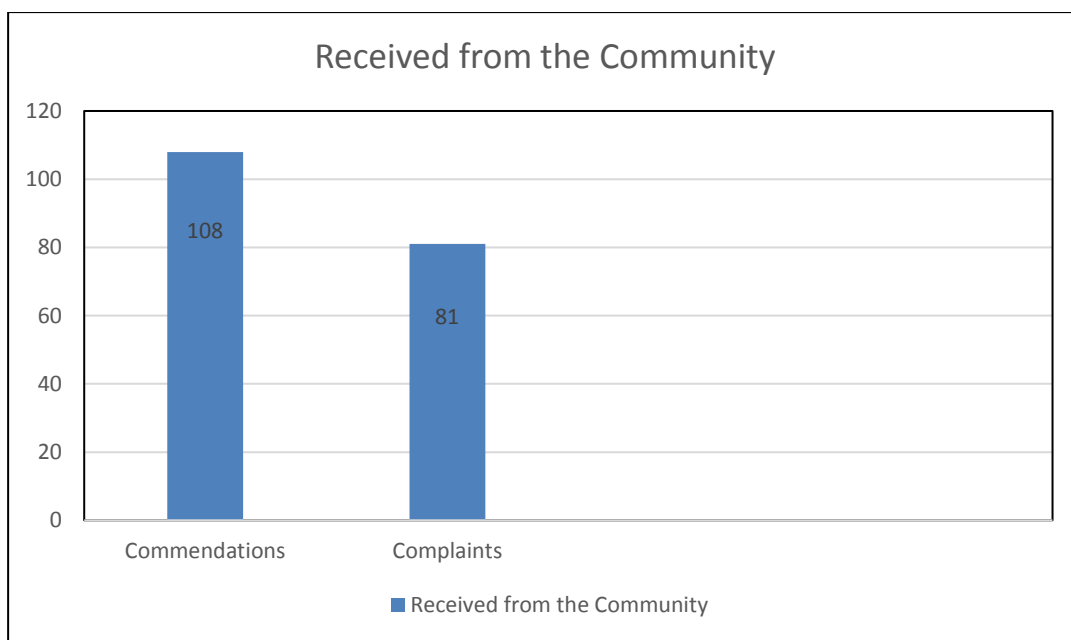
Complaints Received: **Total: 99 (81 from community)**

Closed Out as Inquiries: 16 (As of November 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: 59
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 40
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 18
Generated by the Community	Total: 81





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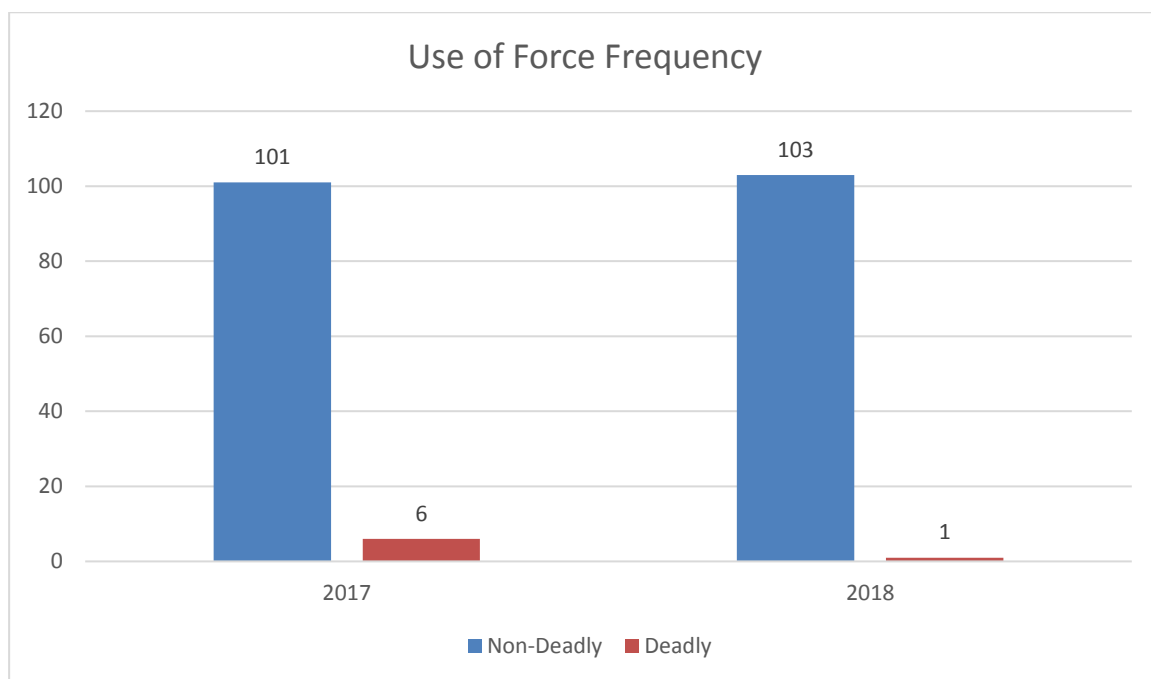
Use of Force Update

2018 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-November 30, 2018, there were 103 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 29 K9 contacts and 74 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint). In 2017 during this period, there were 101 non-deadly use of force incidents.

2018 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

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



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





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Items of Interest

SPD Recruiting Video

Thanks to Dean Percy from Spokane Fire Department, the SPD recruiting video is now complete and available at this link (displays best on Chrome):

<https://vimeo.com/spokanefire/review/295921784/ea562e769>

Precinct Highlights

North Precinct Highlights

Outreach Event: Sleigh Bells in Corbin Park with Santa and Mrs. Claus



The Spokane C.O.P.S. Mounted Patrol (including Neighborhood Resource Officer Traci Ponto) offered wagon rides at Historical Corbin Park on December 2, 2018. Over 1000 people attended the event, which offered pictures with the horses and Santa.

31 volunteers and over 220 volunteer hours went into the event. Mounted Patrol Unit Volunteers made the event a huge success! New Mounted Patrol volunteers Richard and Venesa Cameron are the owners of Triple C Shires. Venesa had a dream to have Santa handing out toys to kids from their wagon. They consulted with Emerson Garfield Neighborhood Council and made some minor adjustments to the plan.

Thirteen MPU Volunteers handling traffic control were stationed at every entry point in to the park. Wagon rides started half way in the park and completed a .4 mile ride before disembarking and loading more folks for the last .4 mile. Retired SPD Officer and C.O.P.S. volunteer Brenda Yates ran the traffic controllers while





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Officer Ponto ran the park itself. Triple C Shires came with two draft teams. The second team were available for people to visit the horses, with the help of two volunteers.

Although the event was originally scheduled for 12:00-2:00 pm, volunteers soon realized they would not be able to accommodate everyone waiting in line if they ended the event at 2:00 pm. Instead, they changed out the teams at 2:00 pm and ran for another 2.5 hours until they finished the lines.



A Mounted Patrol Volunteer operated a free refreshment station with coffee, cocoa and cider donated by Spokane C.O.P.S.

SPD Records Supervisor Marissa Butler and her husband staffed a booth to share information about the Mounted Patrol Unit.

COPS Horse Trainer Nate sang carols with the kids.

Volunteer Mary Charbonneau and her husband have experience serving as the Official Santa for Gonzaga, Children's Miracle Network, and Sacred Heart Children's Hospital. The Charbonneaus lent their expertise and served as Santa and Mrs. Claus at the event. They came with their own 10x10 tent and throne and Jill the Elf, who did a phenomenal job interacting with the kids. Officer Traci Ponto provided the photographer (Thank you Sean Ponto). Sean took over 360 pictures, displayed on our FRIENDS of COPS Mounted Patrol Facebook site. Mike Busby and retired Corporal John Moore also took many pictures.

Mounted Patrol Volunteers handed out free stuffed animals for the kids getting their pictures taken. One of the volunteers was dressed as Elsa from the movie "Frozen" and was a big hit with the kids!

The City of Spokane, Spokane Police Department, Spokane C.O.P.S., Spokane Parks and Recreation, Spokane Parks Foundation, and the Monroe Street business district advertised the event, along with multiple flyers, word of mouth advertising, and C.O.P.S. MPU Facebook page.



What a fantastic event and excellent partnership between so many organizations! The Mounted Patrol Unit credits the success with the 25 new volunteers that joined the organization since September and the dedication of its members.



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Photo credit: Mike Busby, photographer for the Mounted Patrol Unit

Joint Effort to Help West Central Family—"It Takes a Village"

When Neighborhood Resource Officer Traci Ponto responded to a call in the West Central neighborhood, she ran into a man she knew from previous contacts. The man was now in a rough situation, raising his two young children alone after the death of his wife. He was currently homeless and living in a van with the kids. Officer Ponto helped him secure housing, assisting him with the application process and donating her personal funds to help with the application. C.O.P.S. Mounted Patrol Unit volunteers are covering three months of rent and another anonymous donor is covering two months of the security deposit. Several SPD units collaborated to help the family. The Criminal Intelligence Unit acquired the apartment furnishings (beds, crib, dining room table, couch, chairs, TV, kitchen appliances) as well as a Christmas tree. When the family got into the apartment, everyone jumped into action and Officer Ponto brought in her truck and trailer to make the move. The Targeted Crimes Unit provided muscle to move everything. The Community Outreach Unit donated toys and Christmas presents for the family. The Mounted Patrol Unit is providing the family a Christmas dinner as well.

Proactive Work

Officer Dale Wells worked for several months on a nuisance house at the 2400 block of N Calispel along with the PACT Team and Patrol. Judge Plese signed a Warrant of Abatement and Order on the Motion for a Preliminary Injunction and Warrant of Abatement in Superior Court on November 20. The house has since been cleared out and boarded up with "No Trespassing" signs stating the City of Spokane will arrest anyone trespassing on the property. The neighborhood should be much quieter and pleasant for everyone to enjoy with the nuisance removed.



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South Precinct Highlights

Proactive Work

South Precinct staff collaborated with Neighbors on Patrol (NOPS) to check parking lots and shopping centers to thwart vehicle prowling and provide crime prevention tips. Precinct Staff also submitted a holiday safety tip sheet to area businesses.

KREM 2 recently focused on Detective Mosman's proactive work with local businesses.

Teen stole alcohol from South Hill stores that don't use theft prevention, police say

Detective Mosman thought locking up liquor might deter sales. But he found that wasn't the case.

<https://www.krem.com/article/news/local/spokane-county/teen-stole-alcohol-from-south-hill-stores-that-dont-use-theft-prevention-police-say/293-620952979>

Outreach

The South Precinct adopted a family in the East Central neighborhood to provide Christmas gifts.

Downtown Precinct Highlights

Addressing Issues

- The Downtown Precinct began daily NRO walk-throughs of River Park Square Mall on Black Friday and will continue through the end of the year.
- Downtown Precinct staff met with a downtown business owner regarding Chronic Nuisance agreement compliance.

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 session took place in late November/early December at Lewis and Clark High School.

Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Arlington Elementary (11/19)
- SCPC Meeting at ECCC (11/20)
- Coordination of Services at Juvenile Court (11/26)
- Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (11/27)
- YPI Session (11/27-12/5)
- Excelsior Student Outreach (11/28)
- SAC School Outreach (11/30)
- Outreach at Holmes Elementary School (11/30)
- Outreach at Crosswalk Youth Shelter (11/30)
- Presentation with Special Needs class at Ferris High school (12/4)
- World Relief Dinner (12/5)
- Presentation at media seminar (12/6)
- Meeting at Gonzaga Prep High School (12/6)
- Meet with students at Grant Elementary (12/6)
- Crosswalk Youth Shelter outreach (12/7)
- Youth and the Force presentation at Juvenile Detention (12/7)
- Meeting at Ferris High School (12/10)
- Meeting at Rogers High School (12/11)
- Peer Support Training (12/11)
- Outreach at PRIDE Prep School (12/11 and 12/12)





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- YPI Hockey Night (12/12)
- Police Activities League discussion at Northeast Community Center (12/17)
- NAACP Meeting (12/17)
- West Spokane Wellness Partnership meeting (12/18)
- Spiderman movie with kids from Martin Luther King Center (12/19)
- Evergreen Club member meeting (12/19)
- Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (12/20)
- Youth and the Force presentation at Juvenile Detention (12/20)
- Outreach at Excelsior (12/21)
- Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (12/28)

Holiday Outreach

SPD enjoyed participating in several holiday charity events:

- Salvation Army's Clothe-a-Child at JC Penney, November 28 and 29
- Helpers and Heroes event at Target, December 9



Above: Chief Meidl, Graveyard Shift Patrol Officer Plunkett, and Day Shift Patrol Officer Fisher with youth at Helpers and Heroes.



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Below, South Precinct Captain Tracie Meidl, Graveyard Patrol Officer Rich Meyer, and North Precinct Neighborhood Resource Officer Scott Hice at Clothe-a-Child.



Below, Admin Specialist Angie Napolitano, Captain Tracie Meidl, Emma Meidl, Chief Meidl, Director Jacqui MacConnell, and Assistant Chief Justin Lundgren volunteer at the Union Gospel Mission.



Community Member Training

Community Safety Presentations

Sergeant Preuninger and Detective Brasch delivered several presentations on personal safety:

- Active Threat training to Delta Kappa Gamma Teachers group on November 17, 2018.
- Site assessments and Active Threat Training presentations to teachers and staff at several schools (4th Memorial, Three Crosses, and Trinity Baptist) on November 26, 2018.



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Enhancing the Survival Mindset (ESM) Road Show classes

Throughout the year, SPD has provided dozens of ESM Road Show presentations in the community, teaching over 1000 individuals in various organizations such as:

- Disability support groups
- Medical providers
- Worksite training providers
- Convenience store workers
- Churches and temples
- Schools and universities
- Businesses
- International student programs
- Service organizations (i.e., Rotary)
- News stations
- Social service agencies
- Homeless shelters
- Mental health agencies
- Youth development programs (i.e., Youth Leadership Spokane, Girl Scouts)
- Yoga studios

The ESM Road Show presentation is very interactive and covers topics of situational awareness, pre-planning, work place safety and self-defense. It is designed to enhance our safety in all arenas of our lives. The class lasts one to two hours and is free of charge. PowerPoint presentation capability is needed at presentation sites.

Noteworthy News

Officers play guitar with citizens outside Starbucks on Division [This was Downtown Neighborhood Resource Officer Casey Jones.]

<https://www.krem.com/article/news/officers-play-guitar-with-citizens-outside-starbucks-on-division/293-619125357>

Mounted Patrol brings wagon rides, Santa to Corbin Park

The Spokane C.O.P.S. Mounted Patrol event was a hit.

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/dec/02/mounted-patrol-brings-wagon-rides-santa-to-corbin/>

45-year-old Spokane officer proves it's never too late to change careers

KXLY highlights Officer Tim Schwering's decision to leave police administration to become an officer.

<https://www.kxly.com/news/45-year-old-spokane-officer-proves-it-s-never-too-late-to-change-careers/912102263>

