



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

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**Strategic Initiatives**  
**July 2019 Report**

**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**July 1, 2019**

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





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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#### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to **Officer Mauricio Juarez** for his kind, sensitive and patient assistance to me when I single-handedly wrecked my classic Mercedes Benz 1965 convertible. Truly and indeed....FLIPPED and WRECKED. He saved my dogs. He saved the explosion of the vehicle. He stayed for the duration of the tow truck hauling the solid steel old girl (not me) up the 25' embankment, over boulders. He rocked and he was Batman. A female officer arrived at the scene with him, **Corporal Tamie Johnson**. She was equally kind, helpful & sensitive to the hot mess that was me. Please pass my most sincere thanks and gratitude along to Officer Juarez for his truly fabulous SPD service.

#### **[Power shift PACT team,]**

My daughter was found and returned to me!! She has been through a lot so we have a ways to go but we are just so happy to have her back!! I cannot thank you and your officers enough for all of the help you gave to my family and I in trying to find her!! You guys are absolutely amazing!! Words cannot express how much we appreciate you all and everything you have done for us... just THANK YOU SO SO MUCH!!"

#### **Officer Graig Butler,**

A huge thank you for the tour/demonstrations you arranged for SAC School students yesterday. We had overwhelmingly positive feedback from students! They really connected with the life story shared by the guest speaker who told his personal experiences with poverty and family drug addictions. It really helped humanize the role of police officers! The biggest benefit we saw was in the relationship building capacity between youth and police. Many of our students journaled about how they could see that their own behaviors in the community created potential safety issues for themselves, community members, and police officers. It was a really great debrief session particularly around gun use/safety and what to do when stopped by an officer. Please extend our gratitude to **Sergeant Mike Carr** and **Sergeant Jake Jensen!** And of course **Officer Steven Perry** for the awesome demonstration at the range. We are deeply appreciative of the support you have shown our students and we value the relationships that you are willing to build with students who are disenfranchised from positive community support systems.

#### **Chief Meidl,**

On behalf of the Pullman Police Department and the greater Pullman community, I would like to thank the Spokane Police Department for assistance provided to our City by the **Explosive Disposal Unit**. A suspicious device was located near the City of Pullman Playfields, a public space that is host to a variety of youth and adult sporting events. Officers quickly assessed the device and called for expert assistance. EDU team members responded quickly, providing invaluable expertise that helped to ensure the safety of Pullman community. Thanks to Spokane PD and the Explosives Disposal Unit for providing this exceptional public safety service.

– Chief Gary Jenkins





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### Internal Affairs Unit Update

#### January 1 through May 31, 2019 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received:    **Total: 77**

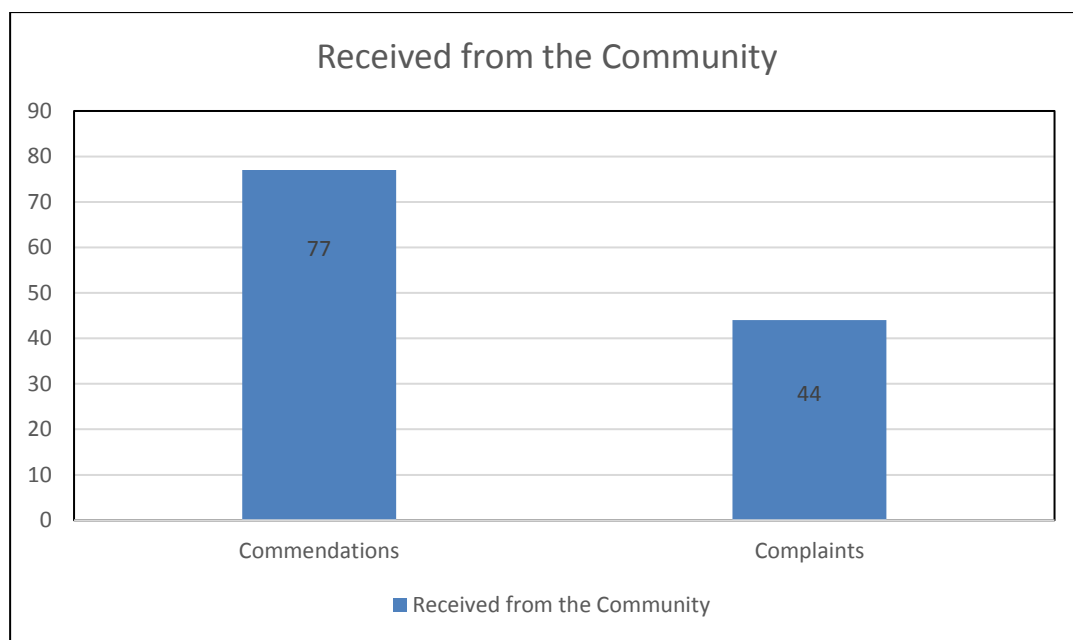
Complaints Received:        **Total: 49 (44 from community)**

**Closed Out as Inquiries: 6 (As of May 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 May 31, 2019 Complaints

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 39</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 10</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 5</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 44</b>





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#### Use of Force Update

##### 2019 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-May 31, 2019, there were 57 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 15 K9 contacts and 42 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint).

##### 2019 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

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

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

##### 2019

##### **Incident 2019-20004372 (Under Prosecutor review)**

Incident 2019-20004372 occurred on January 7, 2019, in the 600 block of West Montgomery. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team's (SIRR) criminal investigation is complete. The case is with the County Prosecutor.

##### **Incident 2019-20014197 (Under administrative investigation)**

Incident 2019-20014197 occurred on January 23, 2019, in the 3000 block of North Monroe. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team's (SIRR) criminal investigation is complete. The County Prosecutor ruled the use of deadly force was justified. An administrative investigation is ongoing.





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#### **Items of Interest**

##### **Spokane's Fallen Officers Memorial Project**

23 officers and four K9s from Spokane County are included in the Spokane's Fallen Officers Memorial Project—officers and K9s who died in the line of duty.

The project's aim is to reconnect families of the officers who have died in the line of duty, and to honor those officers. Law enforcement employees and family members carry signs of the fallen officers from the Spokane area for events such as the Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony and the Armed Forces Torchlight Parade. The project also brings awareness to the line of duty deaths. Deputy James Slater will be the first officer to be honored with a memorial sign at the location where he died in the line of duty on August 29, 2003. Below, see volunteers holding memorial signs honoring the officers at the Armed Forces Torchlight Parade.



#### **Precinct Highlights**

##### **Downtown Precinct Update**

##### **Outreach**

- Downtown Precinct scheduled a summer Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) session at Crosswalk Youth Shelter in August.
- The Downtown Coffee with a Cop will take place on July 30, 2019 from 11am -1pm at Thomas Hammer, 122 N Wall.

##### **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)**

Downtown Precinct officers recently conducted CPTED surveys at the Armory Building, bar area on Division between Spokane Falls and Main, Riverfront Park, and several other businesses. The purpose of CPTED is to  
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reduce the likelihood of criminal behavior taking place at those locations by identifying environmental issues that may be attracting criminal behavior.

#### Crime Reduction Efforts

- Downtown Precinct officers maintain a good working relationship with juvenile probation to get geographic restrictions on repeat juvenile offenders in the Downtown area in an attempt to reduce crime. Over the past 6 weeks or so, they have been able to do this with at least two offenders, which has had a positive effect on the Downtown core.
- Downtown Precinct staff has been using foot beats, bike patrols, and surveillance in a regular Hotspot near Wall/Riverside to focus on drug usage, assault, theft, and commercial burglary.
- Precinct staff routinely work with other Downtown stakeholders, such as the Ambassadors, to share intelligence and quickly identify developing crime trends so they can be properly addressed.

#### **North Precinct Update**

##### Dutch Jake's Park Revitalization



North Precinct staff retired Captain Dan Torok and Neighborhood Resource Officer Traci Ponto have been heavily involved in improvements for Dutch Jake's park, along with Council members Candace Mumm and Karen Stratton. The park, known for drug and gang activity, will be getting a half-million dollar renovation. City of Spokane, The Trust for Public Land, and Kaiser Permanente are contributing funds for the improvements.

The revitalization project begins this summer, and construction is expected to be completed by September. Improvements include new sports court, a performance area, a hiking path almost 3/4 of a mile long, a new playground, landscaping and new fencing. Neighbors had been asking for help with the park for years. NRO Ponto says that the renovations will draw more recreation to the park and will drive out crime.

See article below:

Big hopes for small park revitalization project in West Central

<https://www.kxly.com/news/big-hopes-for-small-park-revitalization-project-in-west-central/1085388265>







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#### Nuisance Property

The North Precinct was involved in a nuisance property on Rich. See attached before and after photos.



#### Farewell to NRO Sandi McIntyre

NRO Sandi McIntyre is retiring from SPD after almost 25 years with the department, but is taking on a new role with Spokane C.O.P.S. The North Precinct staff look forward to working with her in her new role.

#### **South Precinct Update**

##### Outreach

The South Precinct is holding a Coffee with a Cop on June 25, 2019, from 10am-Noon, at Caffe Capri, 2001 W. Pacific Ave.



##### NRO Luncheon

Jake Willard, Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO), pictured at left, will be officially adopted by the Southside Community Center at the Tuesday luncheon on June 18 at 12 pm. NRO officers work with neighborhood volunteers, residents, school officials, and merchants to address problems that concern them in their neighborhood. South Precinct staff will be on hand to meet neighborhood residents at the luncheon.





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#### Outreach Update

##### Youth Outreach Participation: The Police Activities League



The Police Activities League (PAL) was created in 2013 to help build trusting relationships between at-risk youth and local law enforcement. Each summer, the program is offered for six weeks in three low-income/high-crime neighborhoods. The PAL program offers fun, structured activities for youth, with opportunities to make friends and memories at their local parks: Liberty Park, A.M. Cannon Park, and Harmon Park. PAL engages youth with positive academic and athletic programs, such as flag football, basketball, running, soccer, swimming, and baseball. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) enrichment activities and lunch are provided at every session.

PAL is a collaborative program of Spokane Police Department, Spokane Parks Department, Spokane Public Schools, and many other organizations working together to supply a myriad of resources in a central location. PAL brings youth under the supervision and mentorship of officers and community leaders, and encourages responsible use of our City of Spokane parks. The Spokane PAL program takes a holistic approach to crime prevention, focusing on reducing drug and gang involvement, as well as making positive decisions, through programming and mentorship. Throughout the season, youth participants focus on five core values: honesty, integrity, leadership, sportsmanship and respect. Interactions with patrol officers, detectives, and school resource officers develops healthy trusting relationships for youth who often have a negative, skeptical view of the police in their neighborhood. Spokane Police Department dedicates officers who are passionate about sports to lead the different activities and leadership training sessions.

Due to the demand for supervised recreation and mentoring for low-income youth, the PAL program has grown tremendously. The PAL program began in 2013 with 53 youth at Liberty Park, and later expanded to serve three different Spokane neighborhoods. In 2018, the PAL program served approximately 400 youth and their families. We expect substantial growth with the 2019 season due to adding new partners. The Zone Project in Northeast Spokane will be connecting youth to the PAL session at Harmon Park, and the YMCA will be helping youth participate in PAL.

This year, we created a special PAL session for students and their families at the Salish School of Spokane at Shadle Park, on June 14. The Salish School operates year-round, so students are still in school during the standard PAL summer session. The Salish School PAL event includes soccer, flag football, track, and activities centered on the core values.







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Photos by Heather Stokes

#### PAL Hoopfest teams

The Community Outreach Unit is running two Hoopfest teams on June 29 and 30, 2019- both middle school and high school teams.

#### Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Junior Police Academy (6/1)
- Boys and Girls Club Carnival (6/4)
- SAC school outreach (6/5)
- West Central Community Evening Out/PAL registration event (6/7)
- Spokane PRIDE Parade (6/8)
- Filipino-American Cultural Festival (6/9)
- Refugee Service Provider meeting at World Relief (6/12)
- Salish School PAL event (6/14)
- World Refugee Day (6/15)
- Coordination of Services at Juvenile Court (6/17)
- Riverview Retirement Community Outreach (6/18)
- Women's Self Defense presentation (6/20)
- Sky Fest Outreach table at Fairchild Air Force Base (6/22)
- PAL program begins (6/24-8/2)



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#### Junior Police Academy

SPD officers and volunteers held a Junior Police Academy on June 1, 2019, in partnership with the Downtown Spokane Partnership and Spokane C.O.P.S. Approximately 400 people participated in the event.

The event included demonstrations from the SWAT Team with the Bearcat vehicle, the Explosive Disposal Unit bomb robot, Neighborhood Resource Officers, bike patrol officers, SPD Traffic Unit, and Scruff MacGruff.



Photos courtesy of Downtown Spokane Partnership







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### Notable News

**Officers, volunteers welcome kids to Junior Police Academy in downtown Spokane**

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2019/jun/01/officers-volunteers-welcome-kids-to-junior-police/>

