



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

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**Strategic Initiatives**  
**March 2019 Report**

**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**March 3, 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 just wanted to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire group of wonderful police officers who responded to the car accident I was involved with today. Unfortunately, another car pulled out in front of me today while I was on my way to work at the hospital and caused a wreck for both of us. Luckily, we were both ok and I can now say I know what an airbag to the face feels like. The officers who responded were incredible, so calm, cool, collected and diverted traffic around our mess, checked on both of us, called for tow trucks, EMS for the other driver and even offered to let me wait in their cruisers since it was cold and snowing. They were so relaxed, professional and accommodating when I couldn't find my registration (I got new plates recently) and made me laugh and feel at ease during a very stressful time. **Officer Jake Willard** was so kind and thorough. Please thank him for me, along with the other two officers that were with him, whose names I did not catch [**Officers Seth Killian and Bob Collins**]. I know the jobs you have are not easy, and I don't know what it feels like to go to a job everyday where I try to do the right thing, protect and help people, yet could be put in an unsafe situation and expected to be heroic. I thank you so much for everything you all do for our community and especially for the three officers who helped me today, in the freezing snow with smiles on their faces. Thank you.

-M. V.

Hello Chief Meidl,

I drive a car for STARS (Spokane Treatment and Recovery Services) for the past year, working with Spokane Police every weekend. I appreciate the professionalism and compassion your officers show toward my patients.

-J. S.

Chief Meidl,

I'd like to extend a big "thank you and great work" to the two officers who responded to the crime check call for a drunk male tonight. [**Officers Kelsey Walker and Randy Burnworth.**] They were calm and polite to the man, even though it's snowy and freezing. They gave options and quickly (and quietly) handled the situation. Thank you very much, Spokane Police. I'm proud to live in a city with such wonderful officers. Thank you for all you do to keep us safe.

- K. W.

Your department had an encounter with a man I know. He's been a great father and an inspiration to me. I don't know what came over him- stress in life can drive us crazy. I saw the body cam video of the encounter and I wanted to praise your men. More departments should take note. I am sorry he hurt someone, but the men showed true restraint and professionalism [**Officers Corrigan Mohondro, Richie Plunkett and Reserve Officer Carrie Christiansen.**]

-M. O.





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#### Internal Affairs Unit Update

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

Commendations Received:    **Total: 9**

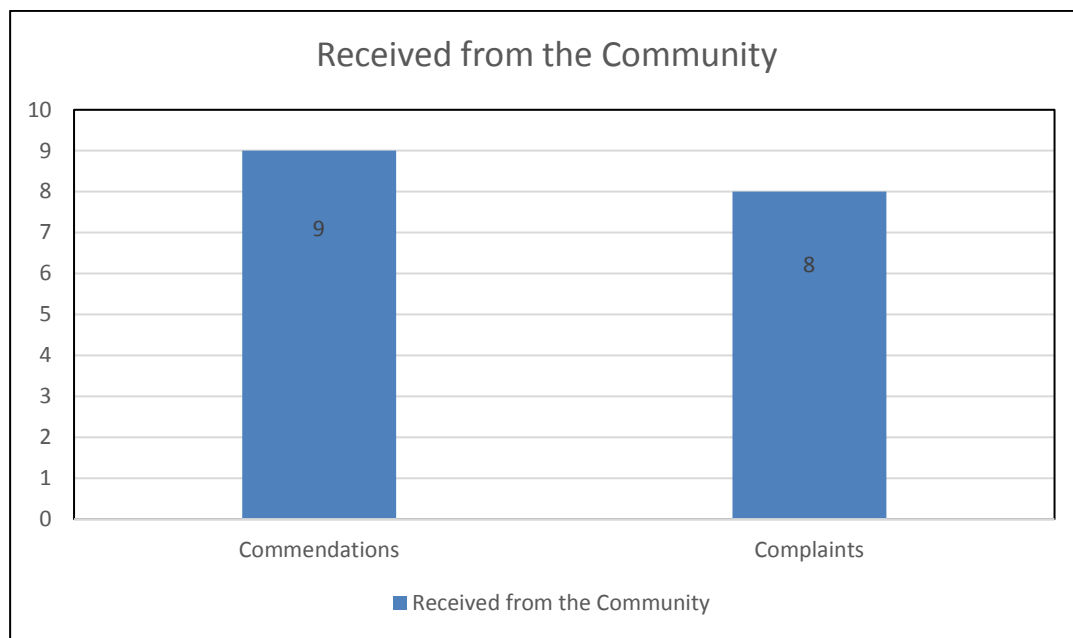
Complaints Received:        **Total: 8 (8 from community)**

**Closed Out as Inquiries: 1 (As of January 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 January 31, 2019 Complaints

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 7</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 1</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 0</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 8</b>





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#### Use of Force Update

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

From January 1-January 31, 2019, there were 18 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 6 K9 contacts and 12 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint).

##### 2019 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

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

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

##### 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 (SIRR) completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor ruled the shooting was justified. The SPD internal investigation is ongoing.

##### 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.

#### Items of Interest

##### Recognition of Reforms

The DOJ COPS Office *Community Policing Dispatch* highlighted SPD's work with the Collaborative Reform Initiative from 2013-2018. "Spokane Police Department: Reform at its Best" is available at the following link: [https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/02-2019/spokane\\_pd.html](https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/02-2019/spokane_pd.html)





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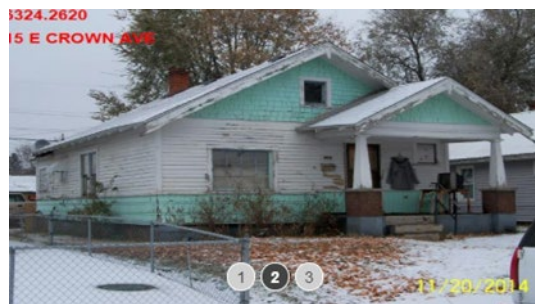
#### Precinct Highlights

##### North Precinct Highlights

###### Neighborhood Win- Neighbor Buys Drug/Nuisance House

In 2017, 915 E Crown came to the attention of **Neighborhood Resource Officer Keith Cler** because it was a vacant house with squatters and rampant drug activity. He attempted to locate an owner, but found out the house had been foreclosed on and now was owned by the bank. He did further research, finding the house had gone to auction but the bank had lost the paperwork, so they could not prove it was foreclosed properly. The buyer sued and got his money back and walked away. This house continued to be a problem because nobody could do anything with it. The house still technically showed to be in the original owner's name per the title companies. The original owner was very cooperative but did not have the money to evict the squatters. The owner had given up on the house five years earlier, after believing the bank had legally taken the house. He tried many times to get the squatters out without success. NRO Cler was continuing to work with the owner and the neighbors to stop the nuisance activities. One of the neighbors heard the story of why it was so difficult to evict the squatters. She took an interest in buying the house. NRO Cler connected her with the original owner. Two months later, paperwork was completed and she purchased the house. She started renovations, including tearing down and completely rebuilding the garage. The renovations completely transformed the house.

Before:



After:





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#### South Precinct Highlights

##### National Recognition



In October 2018, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund in Washington D.C. selected **Captain Tracie Meidl** as the National Officer of the Month.

Captain Meidl began her law enforcement career as a Spokane Police Explorer in 1989, a program that gives young adults the opportunity to explore a career in law enforcement by working with local agencies. She became a full-time law enforcement officer in 1993. Since then, she has held almost every position within the department and currently serves as a captain in Spokane's South Precinct.

Spokane resident Carol Dellinger nominated Captain Meidl, and she was the first civilian nominator in the history of the award. Carol joined the South Precinct's Team Meeting at My Fresh Basket to present Captain Meidl with her award on February 14, 2019.

Below, Carol and Captain Meidl, and the South Precinct Team.







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#### **Downtown Precinct Highlights**

##### Crime Prevention

A group of about five juveniles was committing a great deal of crime Downtown in a short period to include robberies and felony assaults. Downtown NROs and Detective Robertson were able to successfully identify each of them and charge them with a variety of crimes resulting in the end of their crime spree.

Downtown Precinct staff conducted enforcement details in the Brown Street Viaduct. As a result, camping/sit and lie/pedestrian interference violations have almost completely stopped in this area. Geiger garbage clean ups in the viaduct have been reduced significantly and the DSP weekly cleaning/sanitizing has not been needed in several weeks.

##### Ongoing Collaboration

- 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
- 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

#### **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 February 2019, over 550 teens have graduated from YPI, and more than 150 officers have participated in the program. The most recent YPI sessions took place in February 2019 at Excelsior Wellness Center and at Ferris High School.





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Below, photos from the YPI session at Excelsior. We did not take pictures of the youth, but did take pictures of SPD and Excelsior leadership.



Above, Officer Stephanie Kennedy with Director Jacqui MacConnell and Carol from Excelsior; North Precinct Captain with Excelsior CEO Andrew Hill.

#### Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (2/1)
- Donuts with Dads at Stevens Elementary (2/1)
- Racial Reconciliation and Diversity group meeting (2/6)
- SAC School Outreach (2/7)
- Coffee with a Cop (2/12)
- NAACP Meeting (2/18)
- World Relief Workshop (2/22)
- Meeting with David Brown Eagle (2/23)
- Black History Program (2/23)
- Coordination of Services at Juvenile Court (2/25)
- NATIVE Project Youth Wellness Night (2/26)
- United Way School Partnership (2/27)
- Evergreen Club (2/27)
- Meeting with Frontier Behavioral Health (2/28)
- Various planning meetings for Police Activities League throughout February







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#### Community Outreach Unit Staff



Outreach Officers Jenn DeRuwe and Graig Butler    Sergeant Mike Carr with K9 Sergeant Sean Wheeler

#### Noteworthy News

**Spokane police received more praise than complaints in 2018, report says.**

<https://www.krem.com/article/news/local/spokane-county/spokane-police-received-more-praise-than-complaints-in-2018-report-says/293-c3eead07-d051-4653-a24c-bfda71262db5>