



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
May 2019 Report

Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
May 6, 2019

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





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Sergeant [Jay] Kernkamp,

Last month you pulled my husband and I over when we were rushing to the hospital for our son who had stopped breathing. I just wanted to personally say thank you for helping us to get there as fast as possible without taking the time to write a ticket.....You helped to make a very stressful night a bit easier on us and I just wanted to thank you for all you do, not just that day but every day at work.

Chief Meidl,

A few months ago I had the distinct pleasure of interacting with **Officer [David] Stone** in a very unpleasant situation. After seven years, my now ex-fiancée and I split on rather bad terms. Charges, which have since been dropped by the prosecutor's motion, resulted in a voluntary surrender of firearms. Officer Stone came to my work and we completed the firearms surrender. During the process he was very polite, did not look down at me for being in the situation I was in and remained professional at all times.... Officer Stone went out of his way to make this encounter as easy as possible... His conduct was exemplary and he was downright friendly. We both expressed appreciation for how the other had handled the transaction and went our separate ways.

Chief Meidl,

...The officers saved me...I was in a terrible place. The officer **[Officer Tim Marquez]** asked me, "Who is the most important person in the world?" and he pulled a mirror out of his vest and said, "You, you are the most important person in the world." He somehow knew I was close with my sister and made sure he talked to her. Whether he knew it or not, he saved my life and I want to thank him personally. He helped me when I was at my worst and brought me back. I just feel like I need to thank him and for him to know without him showing up that day- where would I be?

Chief Meidl,

I wanted to give a shout out to **Officer Daniel Strassenberg** and **Chaplain Ed Hoffman**. I went to the police department to get information. Both officers went above and beyond to assist me. Needless to say, this was not a high priority problem, but you would not have known that with the help, humor, and good will involved. I believe it was and is not unusual for our law enforcement personnel in Spokane. I wish we would all take a moment and thank them for their services.





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through March 31, 2019 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 45**

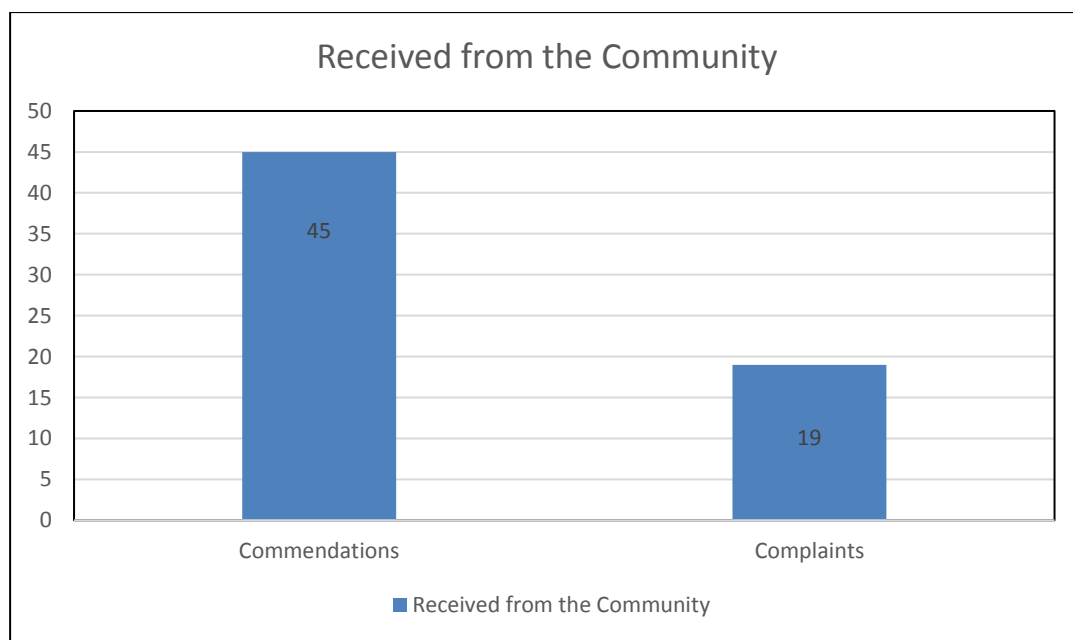
Complaints Received: **Total: 22 (19 from community)**

Closed Out as Inquiries: 4 (As of March 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 March 31, 2019 Complaints

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman | Total: 18 |
| Received by the Spokane Police Department | Total: 4 |
| Internally Generated by the SPD | Total: 3 |
| Generated by the Community | Total: 19 |





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Use of Force Update

2019 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-March 31, 2019, there were 37 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 10 K9 contacts and 27 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint).

2019 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

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

Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through March 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 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@spokanepolice.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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SPD Awards Ceremony

The SPD Annual Awards Ceremony took place on March 28, 2019. A few of the awards are pictured below:



Officer Brad Lewis received the Lifesaving Award; pictured here with the boy he saved.



Officers Chris Benesch, Jennifer Kerns, and Brandon Roy, who received the Lifesaving Award. Officer Benesch is pictured with Corporal Rogan. Chief Meidl stands with Officers Kerns and Roy.



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Officers Elijah Hayward and Tim Schwering received the Medal of Merit. **Sergeant Nate Spiering**, right of Sergeant Schwering, was awarded 2018 Employee of the Year.



Records Supervisor Marissa Butler and Officer Traci Ponto were awarded the Community Service medal for their work with the C.O.P.S. Mounted Patrol Unit.



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Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. To help raise awareness, the Spokane Police Department (SPD) partnered with Spokane Community College (SCC), Lutheran Community Services Northwest and Sweet Frostings Blissful Bakeshop (Downtown location). On April 3, 2021, members of SPD's Special Victims Unit and SCC Criminal Justice students provided information about sexual assault resources at Spokane Community College in the Lair Student Center. Later that afternoon, SPD joined Lutheran Community Services Northwest Spokane's Victim Advocates at Sweet Frostings Blissful Bakeshop (Downtown). Visitors could purchase a treat to show support for survivors of sexual violence.

Pictured at Sweet Frostings Blissful Bakeshop: **Sergeant Mike Carr, Detective Marie Rosenthal, Ligeia DeVleming, Sergeant Glenn Bartlett, Lieutenant Steve Wohl.**



Special Award

Washington State University recognized **Sergeant Jordan Ferguson** with the Distinguished Criminal Justice Innovation Award, Criminal Justice and Criminology.





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Precinct Highlights

South Precinct Highlights

Encampments

Many encampments occur in the South Precinct, especially in parks and by the river. In April, one week of cleanup from camps on City of Spokane Parks property resulted in 7,560 pounds of debris removed. Some of the cleanup areas from parks that week are pictured below.



Crews also removed 2,760 pounds of debris from encampments in the 1200 and 1400 blocks of Mission and the 500 block of Helena on April 12, 2019.

Clean-up crews removed 30,080 pounds of garbage from South Riverton along the river.



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North Precinct Highlights

Outreach – Neighborhood Council Flag Challenge



- **Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) Traci Ponto** is part of the COPS Mounted Patrol Unit (MPU). The MPU went to twelve neighborhood councils to pitch a flag challenge. Above, NRO Ponto with Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair of the Audubon Neighborhood Council and John Schram, Chair of the Comstock Neighborhood Council and their flags.
- The MPU is looking forward to several outreach opportunities in 2019. Shriners Children Hospital is working with the MPU to bring their families into a city park July 2019 for a BBQ to meet the horses. This goes right along with our mission that neighbors need to be hosting events in their city parks that draw families and kids and moves out the unwanted behavior.
- Spokane Parks Foundation recently awarded the MPU a grant in the dollar amount of \$6,080.00 to fund 40 volunteers to attend spring training. The spring training is what allows MPU volunteers to work safely in the community's parks.



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- NRO Ponto is part of the planning committee for the West Central Neighborhood Festival. The MPU will have horses at the festival.

- Brothers James and Dennis baked 57 dozen Snickerdoodle cookies and sold them as a fundraiser for the MPU. They raised \$555.55! See photo at left.

Downtown Precinct Highlights

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
- 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 April 2019 at Rogers High School.

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Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (4/5)
- Vietnamese Heritage Day (4/6)
- Community in Schools Collaboration (4/10)
- Spokane Boxing Open Gym (4/11)
- Youth Safety Talk at Woodbridge Elementary (4/11)
- Gonzaga Spring Carnival (4/16-4/17)
- West Spokane Wellness Partnership (4/16)
- Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) at Rogers High School (4/16-4/24)
- Coalition Meeting – Rogers/NE Community Coalition (4/18)
- Safety Rally for Children with Disabilities (4/18)
- Hillyard Library (4/18)
- Youth and Justice Forum at Gonzaga Law School (4/19)
- Junior League Book Fair (4/20)
- Coordination of Services at Juvenile Court (4/22)
- Outreach at Eastern State Hospital (4/26)
- Presentation at Whitworth University (4/25)
- School Community Partnership meeting, (4/24)
- Excelsior Student Outreach (4/25)

Notable News

A new program pairs mental health specialists with police officers in hopes of directing people toward help — rather than jail

https://www.inlander.com/spokane/a-new-program-pairs-mental-health-specialists-with-police-officers-in-hopes-of-directing-people-toward-help-rather-than-jail/Content?oid=17099787#.XJ1dh_VA7vc.facebook

