



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
April 2020 Report

Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
March 30, 2020

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





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Officer [Zachary] Templin's humor and straightforwardness made for an enjoyable ride-along experience. Even more, I am grateful for his willingness to listen and answer my many questions. He was very professional with everyone that we encountered, setting a good example and representing your department well.

I wanted to send a huge thank you to the SPD officers who arrested the woman who broke into our manager's car and stole a bag with her laptop and gun. We showed a couple officers her pic while they were near House of Charity. A couple hours later she was caught! **[Officers Alexis Phillips and Tiffany Austin.]**

I just wanted to say thank you to one of your police officers, **Michael Baldwin**, for the help with the hit and run on my truck. I feel like he was very professional and friendly. I am very thankful he found the car that did it and came to update us with the news! You have a great police officer just so you know. Please tell him to keep up the great work!!

My daughter was involved in a car accident last Friday. **Officer Ryan Skag** was the officer on scene. He was absolutely wonderful! I'm sure he sees a million accidents a day, but he was so patient and kind. I felt like a basket case. Everything you learn and know to do in situations like that kinda go out the door, especially when it involves your own kiddo. Officer Ryan is a perfect example of what an officer should be. He walked me through everything step by step. He was nice to both parties. I don't think our officers hear enough how much they are appreciated. I hope this compliment can make it to his superior.

I really enjoyed my time riding shotgun with **Officer [Mark] Zimmerman**. He was personable and professional and, most of all, very patience with the many questions I had. I received insight to not only the many aspects of his job as a police officer but also the ability to see our great city through the eyes of a public servant. He represents Spokane and our police force very well!





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through February 29, 2020 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 24**

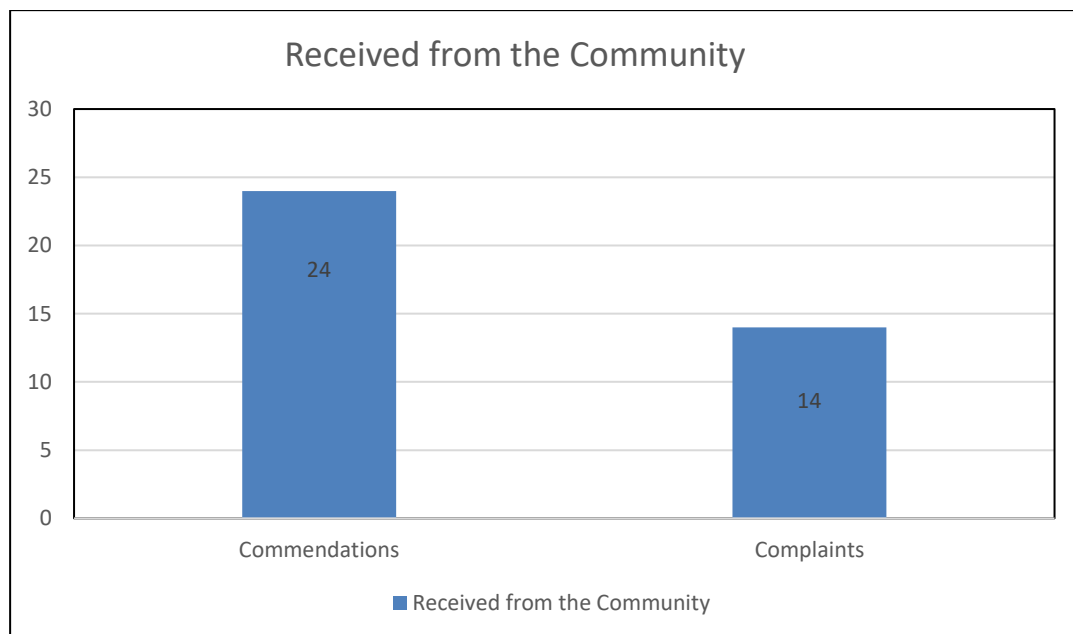
Complaints Received: **Total: 18 (14 from community)**

Closed Out as Inquiries: 1 (As of February 29, 2020)

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 February 29, 2020 Complaints

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total:6
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 12
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 4
Generated by the Community	Total: 14





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Use of Force Update

2020 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-February 29, 2020, there were 8 non-deadly use of force incidents- one K9 contact and 7 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint).

2020 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-February 29, 2020, there were no deadly force incidents. See below for active cases from 2019.

2019 Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through February 29, 2020)

These incidents took place in 2019 but are still active cases.

Incident 2019-20004372 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board)

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 County Prosecutor ruled the use of deadly force as justified. Internal Affairs completed the administrative investigation. The case will be reviewed by a Deadly Force Review Board.

Incident 2019-20124831 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board)

Incident 2019-20124831 occurred on July 6, 2019, in the 1400 block of West 9th. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) criminal investigation is complete. The County Prosecutor ruled the use of deadly force as justified. Internal Affairs completed the administrative investigation. The case will be reviewed by a Deadly Force Review Board.

Incident 2019-20201879 (Under investigation by SPD Internal Affairs)

Incident 2019-20201879 occurred on October 23, 2019, in the 3400 block of East Garnet. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) criminal investigation is complete. The County Prosecutor ruled the use of deadly force as justified. Internal Affairs is conducting an administrative investigation.





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Items of Interest

Special Needs Station Visit with the ISAAC Foundation

The ISAAC Foundation believes that safer encounters between first responders and individuals touched by autism and other special needs begins with positive experiences and plenty of practice. ISAAC Foundation works with local agencies to provide monthly station visits that include participation by fire, law enforcement and EMS transport units. Special needs station visits help desensitize and prepare special needs individuals to appropriately interact with first responders in a fun and stress free environment. These visits also give first responders an opportunity to gain experience interacting with individuals with disabilities.

Lieutenant Matt Cowles has been participating in the Special Needs Station Visits for some time. The most recent visit took place on March 1, 2020.

Photos from the ISAAC Foundation's Facebook post:

<https://www.facebook.com/theISAACFound/posts/10158317179405799>



Above, children interact with public safety employees and learn about masks and uniforms. They also get to experience equipment like vehicles, sirens, and stretchers in a safe environment.



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Pedal for a Purpose

Off-duty SPD employees, commissioned and civilian alike, participated in the YMCA's Pedal for a Purpose event on February 29, 2020.





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Pop with a Cop

Social workers do some of the hardest, heart-wrenching work and that's why the month of March is designated National Social Work Appreciation Month. Chief Meidl and other officers showed their appreciation for social workers at the Department of Children, Youth, and Families - serving them Italian sodas! Our friends at DCYF are invaluable for their work alongside us. Thank you.





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Precinct Highlights

South Precinct

Crime Prevention and Notable Arrests

- The South Precinct instituted a two-week "mission" for Vehicle Prowling in the lower Cannon Hill neighborhood. South Graveyard Patrol arrested the primary suspect on the 3rd day of the mission. The area has since seen a 60% reduction in vehicle prowling.

Community Outreach and Events

- The South Precinct participated in a Lewis & Clark High School lunch for Youth & Police Initiative graduates and officers.
- Precinct staff also participated in the Dr. Seuss Read Across America-Reading for elementary schools.

Outreach Update

Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Lunch for YPI graduates at Lewis and Clark High School (3/3)
- World Relief Community Outreach and Education meeting (3/4)
- Dr. Seuss Read Across America Week/Career Day at the Spokane International Academy (3/4)
- Excelsior Wellness Center Student Outreach (3/4, 3/19)
- Pizza with a Policeman at Passages (3/4)
- Read Across America Week at Longfellow Elementary (3/6)
- PAL Boxing (3/5, 3/12)
- Junior League Book Fair at West Central Community Center (3/11)
- Lunch for YPI graduates at North Central High School (3/11)
- Youth & Police Initiative at Ferris High School (3/10-3/12)- cancelled early due to COVID-19
- Unity in the Community planning meeting (3/10)
- COP TALK patient outreach at Eastern State Hospital (3/10)
- Les Schwab Downtown Grand Opening (3/14)

Several activities were planned but canceled due to COVID-19:

- Coffee with a Cop at Safeway on Northwest Boulevard (3/18)
- Partners in Prevention training at Spokane Regional Health District (3/23)
- Youth for Christ student outreach (3/24)
- Evergreen Clubhouse meeting (3/25)





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- Eastern State Hospital patient outreach (3/27)
- Coordination of Services at Juvenile Court (3/30)
- World Relief Regional Providers (3/31)

Police Activities League (PAL) Boxing Program

The PAL Boxing Program got its start in November 2019. Rick Welliver's Spokane Boxing Gym hosts PAL Boxing on Thursdays. SPD officers join Rick and participating youth to focus on boxing skills and personal growth. PAL Boxing was temporarily canceled due to COVID-19.

Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) Sustainability Event

SPD coordinates outings for YPI graduates to keep the connection between participants and police mentors. The most recent event was a Spokane Chiefs hockey game. Our partners at Les Schwab donated eight tickets and the Spokane Chiefs donated the rest! We are grateful to our outreach partners.



Above, Officer Jenn DeRuwe with YPI graduates.



Community Outreach officers attended the pirate themed Junior League Book Fair at the West Central Community Center to promote YPI and PAL. At left, Community Outreach Sergeant Michael Schneider and a pirate friend.



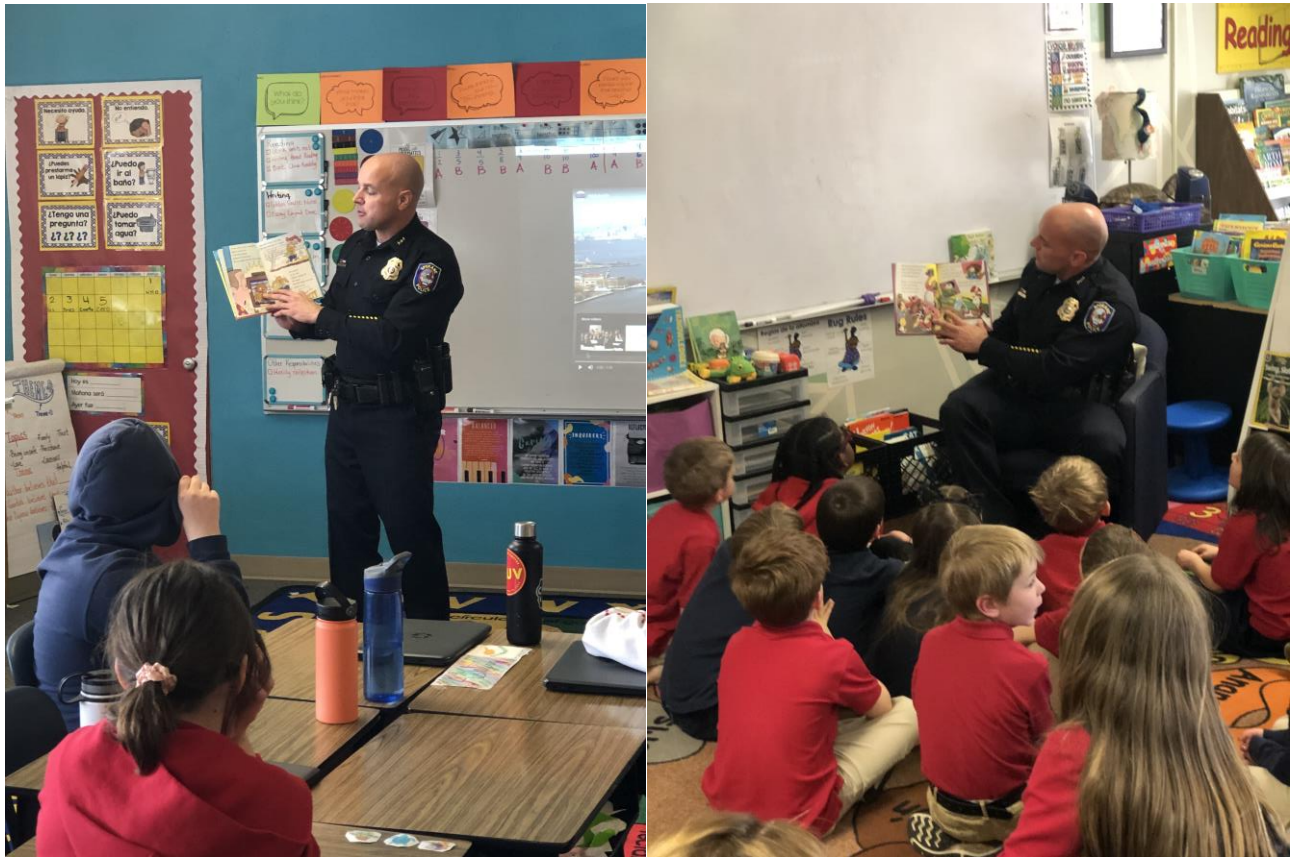


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Chief Meidl reading to kids for Read Across America Week.



Notable News

Spokane Fire, Police Departments host special needs station tour with the ISAAC Foundation

Special needs children from the Mead School District spent the day with police officers, firefighters and EMTs in a special station visit, courtesy of the ISAAC Foundation. Students and educators both toured the station last week. According to the ISAAC Foundation, safer encounters between first responders and people with special needs are predicated on practice and positive encounters.

<https://www.kxly.com/spokane-fire-police-departments-host-special-needs-station-tour-with-isaac-foundation/>

