



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
February 2020 Report

Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
February 2, 2020

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





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

... A gentleman well-known to me experienced cardiac arrest in the parking lot of the medical facility. Assisted by the Spokane Fire Department and AMR paramedics, we attempted resuscitation for over an hour, were unsuccessful, and the patient died. I practice in a specialty where acute and severe illnesses are daily issues, whether in dialysis clinics or in the intensive care units of our local hospitals. End of life circumstances are common in these settings but rarely involve interaction with law enforcement. This day was different, in a parking stall near the front entrance of the facility and within plain view of any patients arriving and departing. We called for police investigation following the death. The arriving officers were professional and extremely helpful in navigating the necessary law enforcement channels, as we attempted to find family. The officers could have easily left following their investigative work. But they didn't.

The decedent had two young children for whom he was a single parent. We had difficulty identifying and locating any family. Through teamwork we all focused for several hours to locate the children and worked with Child Protective Services to verify that the eventually identified next of kin were suitable guardians. **Officers [Jarod] Beasley, [Tyson] Setzler, and [Sergeant Mike] Schneider** were professional and offered comfort and solace to the family. These officers were committed to finding a solution to this tragic situation and they did so with kindness, compassion, and empathy. Officers Beasley, Setzler, and Schneider are splendid ambassadors for the Spokane community. I am grateful for their service.

[Sergeant Kevin Huddle and Officer John Yen]

Thank you for coming to our school and spending your valuable time to teach us about your profession. I really appreciate you answering all my questions. It was extremely interesting to hear all of your stories. Before you came in, and I didn't know anything about being a cop and honestly, I didn't see police officers in a nice light. But you showed me that there are a lot of good people in police departments. I appreciate you guys helping our community and making it a better place to live.

Something that will stick with me for a long time is that police officers get scared sometimes. I always thought that police officers were fearless and won't get scared if someone attacks them. John, your story of how you were terrified for your life really helped me put that in perspective.

The most valuable takeaway for me, was seeing you two as real people, who seem to me, as caring individuals who care about the work they do. I think it's important to begin viewing law enforcers are real people who are down to earth. I'm glad I met both of you guys yesterday. I think more people should have encounters like this. Again, thank you for your time, thank you for speaking to us and being open to answering our questions.





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through December 31, 2019 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 189**

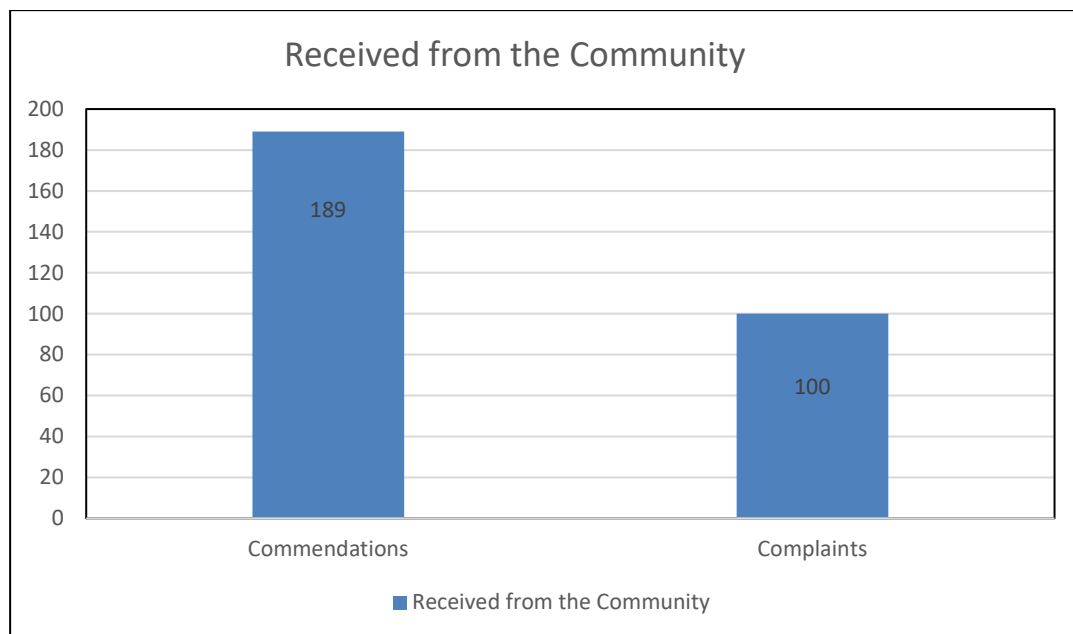
Complaints Received: **Total: 113 (100 from community)**

Closed Out as Inquiries: 37 (As of December 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 December 31, 2019 Complaints

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 74
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 39
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 13
Generated by the Community	Total: 100





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Use of Force Update

2019 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-December 31, 2019, there were 119 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 25 K9 contacts and 94 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint).

2019 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-December 31, 2019, there were four deadly force incidents. See below for active cases.

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

Incident 2019-20004372 (Under investigation by SPD Internal Affairs)

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 is conducting an administrative investigation.

Incident 2019-20124831 (Under investigation by SPD Internal Affairs)

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 is conducting an administrative investigation.

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

SPD Domestic Violence Unit Receives Award

Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Coalition awarded the Spokane Police Department Domestic Violence Unit a Pillar Award, in recognition of the “partnership and dedication on behalf of End the Violence. Thank you for giving a voice to those who need to be heard.”

New Lateral Officers Join SPD

On Monday, January 13, 2020, Officers Jacquelyn (Jacquie) Valencia and Jason Tanascu were sworn in.



Jacquie Valencia is a former police officer with the Anchorage Police Department where she served the community for about four and a half years. Prior to joining the department, she obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Social Science with a minor in Criminal Justice. She is a proud wife of an Air Force Sergeant and has two beautiful children. She is excited to join Spokane department and get to know the community.



Jason Tanascu comes to Spokane with almost five years of police experience with the Bellevue Police Department; he has spent the last year in a detective role as part of their Special Operations Group. Jason attended and played basketball at Carroll College and then Montana State University, majoring in Criminal Justice. Jason has been married to wife Kellie for almost six years. Last August they welcomed their baby girl.

Precinct Highlights

North Precinct Highlights

Crime Prevention



The 933 E. Mission Safeway has been an ongoing project for the North Precinct for the majority of 2019. Lieutenant Shawn Kendall reports, “Working with Safeway and the Starbucks located inside we have greatly reduced criminal activity and calls for service. Neighborhood Resource Officer David Kaurin did a tremendous job on this project.”





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Activities have included:

- Closing bathrooms during hours of darkness
- Improved lighting
- Off-duty officer employment
- Patrol-based Hot Spot policing
- Patrol-based special enforcement
- Parking restrictions on east and north side of property
- Heavy enforcement at nearby Mission Park
- Collaboration with Park Rangers and COPS volunteers
- Coffee with a Cop events

The North Precinct will continue to provide support to this previously high-crime location, but it is no longer a Hot Spot location and no off-duty employment is needed. Lieutenant Kendall reports it has been a “HUGE success!” The Safeway at 1616 W. Northwest Boulevard wants to follow a similar blueprint to improve activity there.



The North Precinct has been taking initiative on the towing and tagging of abandoned vehicles. These tows are usually related to a problem address or identified Hot Spot. The Precinct is assisting Parking Enforcement.

Lieutenant Kendall has organized several Crime Prevention/Situational Awareness presentations for area businesses: Associated Industries, Spokane City Credit Union, and Trauma Informed Therapies.

Downtown Precinct

Crime Prevention

Downtown Precinct staff will be conducting emphasis specials in the viaducts over the next few weeks. The goal will be to encourage those camping in the viaducts to stay in the shelters and get in contact with service providers.

Community Outreach and Events

The Downtown Precinct hosted Coffee with a Cop on January 15, 2020, at Starbuck's, 172 S. Division.





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South Precinct

Crime Prevention

- Update on 7-11 at 2nd/Division Hot Spot: Funding is approved for the fencing and new camera system to be installed at the location. This will deter criminal activity and record activity that occurs. This new system will also allow staff to have the capability to see the activity outside the location in all areas. A new security company was hired to assist with the negative activity occurring in the parking lot.
- Precinct staff held a Crime Prevention Meeting with tenants and staff at 55th Avenue Apartments, as they have experienced an increase in criminal activity at the location.
- A nuisance property located in the 500 block of South Fiske was boarded up with a "Do Not Occupy" order.

Community Outreach and Events

- Staff attended the Head Start to the Construction Trades (HCT) Graduation of Correctional Inmates at Salem Lutheran Church.
- The Precinct staff adopted a family in the East Central neighborhood for Christmas.





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Outreach Update

Holiday Outreach



Through the Community Outreach Unit, the Spokane Police Department served 35 families and 91 children with Christmas presents. 18 of the families (49 children) were helped through our partnerships with The Spokane Police Foundation, Les Schwab, and The Salvation Army. 17 families and 42 children were served through employees of Spokane Police Department “adopting” them. Below are a few of the families, Les Schwab employees, and SPD employees.





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Community Outreach Unit Summary

- Eastern State Hospital Patient Outreach (1/9)
- PAL Boxing Club (1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30)
- Seniors Group, Northeast Community Center (1/14)
- Evergreen Club meeting (1/15)
- Eastern State Hospital Patient Outreach (1/17)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration (1/20)
- Lunch with Eastern State Hospital patient (1/21)
- West Spokane Wellness Partnership (1/21)
- School Community Partnership meeting (1/21)
- Youth & Police Initiative at North Central High School (1/21-1/29)
- Truancy Board (1/23)
- Shaw Whole Child Study Group (1/23)
- Boy Scouts Tour of Public Safety Building (1/24)
- Coordination of Services Presentation at Juvenile Court (1/27)
- Patient Education at Eastern State Hospital (1/31)

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. Below, photos of Rick, officers, and youth.





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Notable News

Spokane Police bust suspected package thief on Christmas Eve

With a search warrant on Christmas Eve, Spokane Police found a man who admitted stealing Christmas gifts from Spokane porches in December. The man had over 35 stolen items in his home. Police are working to return the items to the original owners.

<https://www.kxly.com/spokane-police-bust-suspected-package-thief-on-christmas-eve-2/>