



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

---

**Strategic Initiatives**  
**June 2020 Report**

**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**June 1, 2020**

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





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Chief Meidl, I wanted to take a moment to share a great success that we had for our vulnerable adult community through the collaboration between the Spokane Police Department's Behavioral Health Unit and the Crime Victim Advocacy Unit of Spokane COPS. I recently petitioned on behalf of a vulnerable adult, who is developmentally disabled for an order of protection – and that order was granted. Through the dedicated efforts of **Officers [Stacy] Flynn and [Ron] Voeller** of the Behavioral Health Unit lead by **Sergeant Jay Kernkamp** – a member of this fragile sector of our community had a voice and was looked after with dignity. Their genuine care and concern for my client's well-being was evident in all their interactions and follow-up. They went above and beyond in their communication and professionalism.

Chief Meidl, there was a minor incident near my home over the weekend that involved a response by SPD. While I wasn't involved directly, I was working in my yard and witnessed the incident, and shared that info with the responding officer. **Mike Thompson** was the officer who responded, and he was so wonderful. He was so kind, patient, polite and professional with me and with the folks involved in the incident.

I live near Shadle High School and today 3 officers were dealing with a person that seemed to be mentally ill. They were kind but also to-the-point and explained to the person she was making the people who hand out the free lunches to the families scared. All 3 officers **[Kris Honaker, Ron Voeller, and Jaelene Leeson]** did the right thing explaining what people observed, offered her options to keep them from detaining her. Then 2 of the officers offered to walk her someplace, and she agreed and they walked her a long way toward the way she felt the need to go. I have worked in mental health for over 30 years and train people in mental health issues. This is proof that the CIT training works. Thanks to the officers for a job very well done.

My sister was murdered on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We were so taken back by this loss of our beautiful sister and still trying to figure out how evil like this can exist. But **Detective Ben Green** who is working our case has gone above and beyond with our case. He always answers our calls, gives us as much information as he can, and has been there for us to ask us how we are doing and making sure we are okay. He has gone above and beyond in ways we couldn't have ever imagined. This has been a horrible loss and we are beyond torn apart to have lost her, especially in this way, but Ben has been amazing and always answers our questions to the best of his ability. Thank you all for working so hard on this case.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Internal Affairs Unit Update

#### January 1 through April 30, 2020 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received:    **Total: 59**

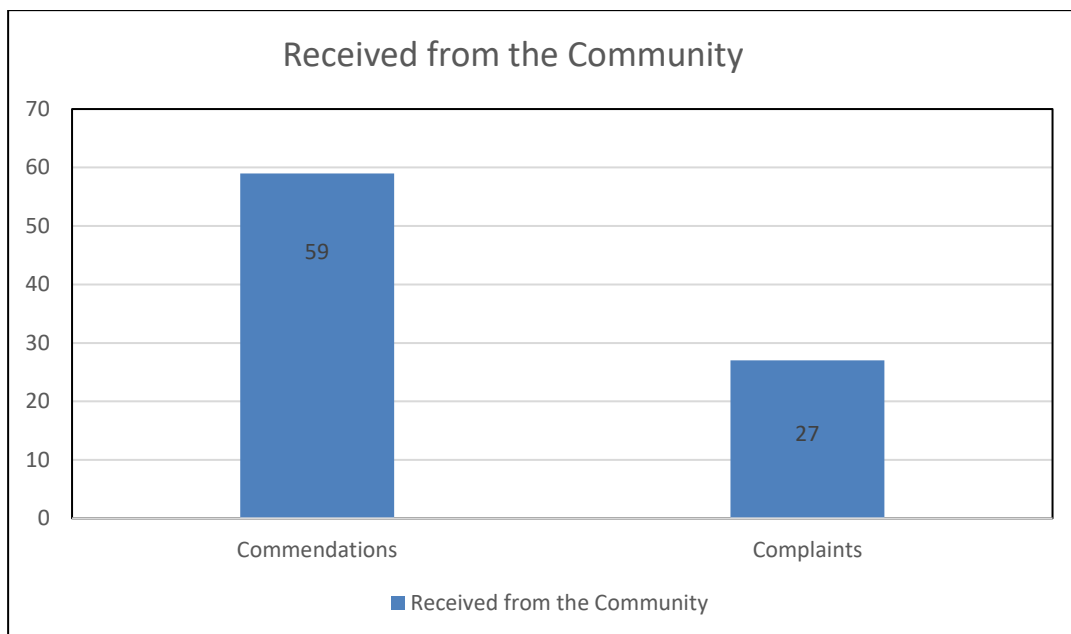
Complaints Received:        **Total: 32 (27 from community)**

**Closed Out as Inquiries: 5 (As of April 30, 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 April 30, 2020 Complaints

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 13</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 19</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 5</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 27</b>





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Use of Force Update

##### 2020 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-April 30, 2020, there were 18 non-deadly use of force incidents- 2 K9 contacts and 16 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint).

##### 2020 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-April 30, 2020, there were no deadly force incidents. See below for active cases from 2019.

#### 2019 Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through April 30, 2020)

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

##### **Incident 2019-20004372 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board- delayed by COVID-19 protocols)**

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- delayed by COVID-19 protocols)**

Incident 2019-20124831 occurred on July 6, 2019, in the 1400 block of West 9<sup>th</sup>. 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.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Items of Interest

##### Crime Prevention Missions

SPD is deploying officers strategically to prevent commercial burglaries at closed businesses and to provide a sense of assurance by being highly visible at grocery stores, pharmacies, and high-traffic areas. Officers are conducting prowl checks and high presence patrols of vulnerable targets. Officers are asked to make proactive check-ins at every shift.

##### Domestic Violence Victim Resource Flyer

A victim resource flyer that lists two dozen organizations, hotlines, and services to help victims of domestic violence will land right where it's needed most ... in homes. The resource guide is a collaborative effort between the Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Coalition, the Spokane Police Department, and the City of Spokane. The City mailed out 85,000 flyers in utility bills starting the first week of May.

Funding for the project came from the Spokane Police Guild, and the Innovia Foundation's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funds.

Historically, domestic violence is underreported to law enforcement and that underreporting is highlighted during these unprecedented times. The reason, in part, according to Spokane Police Sergeant Jordan Ferguson, is because not all victims want police or deputies involved in their personal lives. "This flyer empowers victims by giving them options." he says.

##### Businesses Support Spokane Police Department

Little Caesars delivered several pizzas to officers in April as part of their corporate effort to thank first responders working during COVID. They generously offered to extend their pizza donation to the Spokane Police Department for another month as part of the company's Give a Million program.

<https://ilitchnewshub.com/2020/04/little-caesars-to-donate-and-deliver-1-million-pizzas-to-hospital-workers-and-first-responders-nationwide/>

The Alpine Deli and Country Financial Insurance came together to provide food for officers, providing boxes of sandwiches and desserts.







# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

#### Appreciation for Health Care Workers: First Responder Thank you Procession

Spokane Police Department joined Spokane Fire Department to show their appreciation to health care workers and first responders at the parade! It was wonderful to see all the essential workers in high spirits!





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL



MultiCare Deaconess Hospital President, Laureen Driscoll, summed it up perfectly when she said, "During this COVID-19 pandemic, our everyday lives have changed. One constant is the strength of our community and our exemplary ability to come together. This parade is a celebration of our community and our Health Care Heroes."

SPD would also like to thank the children at Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center for crafting the amazing and vibrant signs for the parade. They looked great and we were honored to receive them!

### Precinct Highlights

#### **South Precinct**

##### Crime Prevention

South Precinct Staff has followed up on multiple commercial and residential burglaries, as well as vehicle prowling incidents, across the City and County. During this process, NRO Kelly Mongan has written and the staff has served several search warrants on residences, storage facilities, and vehicles. The investigation is ongoing, but there have already been four arrests on the primary subjects involved. A great deal of stolen property has already been recovered and more is likely to be found.







# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL



Above, South NROs dealing with stolen property

The transition of the Jewels Helping Hands Warming Center led to a large group of people pitching tents in Coeur d'Alene Park in an act of protest. South Precinct responded, with the help of Spokane Transit Authority, to transport the campers to the library shelter space. A small portion of the illegal campers took down their tents without incident, but many others stayed and began chanting that they would not leave. Available Patrol Officers were called in to assist, due to the likelihood of arrests. Protesters were told they still had the opportunity to spend one more night at the Cannon Shelter, so they eventually left peacefully. Many accolades came to SPD through different community members on how peacefully it was handled.



Officers were involved with the arrest of a chronic offender in the South Riverton area. The offender was sentenced to almost four years after his arrest for a garage burglary.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

### North Precinct

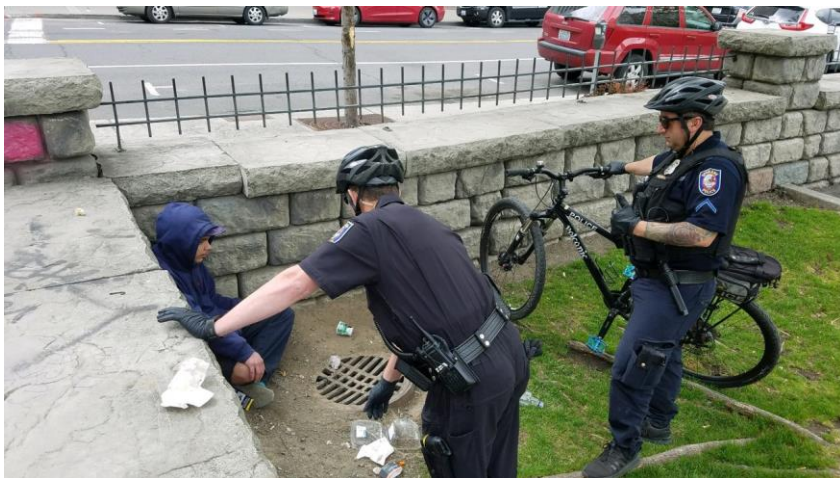
#### Crime Prevention

- Starting May 7, 2020, the Unlawful Camping Enforcement Team began being deployed again. They are only giving verbal warnings at this time and focusing on camps in public areas such as parks, businesses, and residential neighborhoods. In the first two days of deployment, they contacted 20 camps.
- The North Precinct is gearing up for the City's re-opening. They will be focusing on the North Town crime prevention project and retail theft emphasis. Officer Deanna Storch is developing a 2-4 hour class that we will offer North Town Loss Prevention on reporting and investigations.
- NROs give continual updates on neighborhood projects such as nuisance properties and quality of life issues. Officer Keith Cler recently received a letter of thanks from residents in an area to which he is assigned: "Dear Officer Cler, Thank you for hearing our concerns and taking action. Things have quieted down in our Shadle neighborhood and we are grateful. Thank you for your service to our city."

### Downtown Precinct

#### Crime Prevention and Notable Arrests

During the COVID crisis, Downtown NROs have conducted daily foot/bike patrols throughout the Downtown area. They have also conducted prowls checks around the overflow warming shelter at the Downtown Library as well as the area around the House of Charity.



At left, officers assist a citizen Downtown.

NROs join the City Litter Crew to clean the viaducts around the freeway and other locations in the Downtown area. Some days, they fill up two dump trucks with debris.



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

At right, photo of the Downtown cleanup effort.

Officers Prim and Dotson are completing a CPTED survey for all of the Larry H. Miller properties Downtown in response to approximately \$60,000.00 worth of damage done to their vehicles and property recently.

NROs worked together to identify and arrest a suspect that was alleged to have committed a strong arm robbery against a mobility impaired senior citizen. The suspect had threatened to cut the victim

with a knife and had stolen his phone. The victim was paraplegic and unable to defend himself. Officers arrested him for first degree Robbery and booked him into jail.



Below, Downtown NRO Alexis Phillips at the First Responder Procession





# **SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION**

## **CHIEF OF POLICE**

### **CRAIG N. MEIDL**

---

#### **Outreach Update**

##### **Shift of Community Outreach Unit during COVID-19 Pandemic**

COU Officers are working the front desk at the Public Safety Building and are checking messages from community members. If you or your loved ones have concerns regarding police enforcement of COVID-19 restrictions or simply have a question or rumor you'd like to have cleared up, please reach out to officers via the email address below:

[spdccommunityoutreach@spokanepolice.org](mailto:spdccommunityoutreach@spokanepolice.org).

##### **Outreach during COVID-19**

- Community Outreach Officers have been handing out lunches at Ferris High School on Thursdays when 2nd Harvest is also present. Ferris gives out over 300 lunches on those days.
- The unit delivered food to several families during April and May.
- Officers have also participated in several "drive by" birthday party parades for children celebrating birthdays.
- Community Outreach Unit officers have continued community meetings with the Shadle Wellness Coalition, West Spokane Wellness Partnership, and with World Relief to include the quarterly refugee providers meeting. All of the meetings have been through WebEx or Zoom. The meetings have been a good opportunity to talk with our community partners about how SPD has responded to the COVID pandemic and what services have changed.

##### **Police Activities League (PAL)**

SPD is tentatively planning on a condensed Summer PAL session for 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns. PAL will be a shorter session with fewer hours. The Community Outreach Unit had originally planned on starting PAL the last week of June, but are now planning to start PAL the week of July 12. PAL will begin July 14. The final celebration is tentatively planned for August 6, 2020. PAL runs from approximately Noon to 3:00 pm at AM Cannon Park, Harmon Park, and Liberty Park.

##### **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.





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

---

#### Notable News

##### **Behavioral Health Unit pairs officers with mental health professionals**

The Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) is a program based on a partnership with Spokane, Spokane Valley Police Department, Spokane County Sheriff's Office and Frontier Behavioral Health. When the COVID-19 restrictions were put in place, the need for the BHU jumped significantly. In April alone, the BHU responded to 413 calls, with 89 percent of those having an outcome other than jail or the hospital. Police did not use force in any of those cases.

"By providing services to those in crisis and spending more time on solving the problem, we're not just putting a Band-Aid on it," says Spokane Police Department Sgt. Jay Kernkamp, "This specialized unit can immediately access the problem, address the need, and link the person in crisis with specific care, significantly reducing the need for potentially unneeded emergency services for behavioral health needs."

<https://www.kxly.com/behavioral-health-unit-pairs-officers-with-mental-health-professionals/>

