



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

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**Strategic Initiatives**  
**November 2020 Report**

**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**November 2, 2020**

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





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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#### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendations

I write to acknowledge the tremendous contribution **Officer Deanna Storch** made this weekend in ensuring one of our long term Community Court "illegal camping" defendant got safely reconnected with her family. What is most poignant about this is that, Officer Storch volunteered for this task on her day off and without her, the woman would be a danger to herself and to others. All of that hard work would have been for nothing if Officer Storch had not stepped up to provide her a ride from jail to the airport. This speaks volumes to the dedication of our Spokane community.

#### **[Officers Benjamin Yinger, David Betts, Daniel Valencia, and Seth Wolfe]**

We are grateful for the officers' response to an occupied burglary involving our daughter. The girls were alerted to a possible intruder by the "ring cameras" on both their front and back doors when the intruder attempted to gain entry through both entrances. The girls called the Spokane police and officers arrived at their home within 10 minutes. Your quick response and presence was appreciated by them and is very much appreciated by us. We live in Montana and it is hard to have a child go through something traumatic and not be there to help them. This can't be an easy time to be a police officer in this country which is why I wanted to take the opportunity to say thank you and let those officers know that we are grateful for their service.

I want to start with a simple thank you to all law enforcement. This specifically goes to every law enforcement officer, man and woman, who wears the uniform and services the citizens, in and around Spokane- THANK YOU. This includes all other employees, volunteers, and support staff also. We respect and admire your courage, making life and death split-second decisions in very dangerous situations. We appreciate your compassion towards those you serve, your honor, faithfulness and professionalism in doing a good job to the best of your abilities.

A neighbor noticed a missing window from the house next door to her. The owner was out of town and contacted and asked for the SPD to investigate. **Officers Derek Jones and Ethan Wilke** responded to the call. It was determined that there was no break in or concern. The officers were kind and efficient and we are thankful for the work that they did that day. This call was "small potatoes" but the response was the best we could have hoped for and I wanted to recognize these two officers and your department. I am the coordinator of our Block Watch program and will share this story with my neighbors, encouraging them to call and report, knowing that good people are there to help.





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### Internal Affairs Unit Update

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

Commendations Received:    **Total: 363**

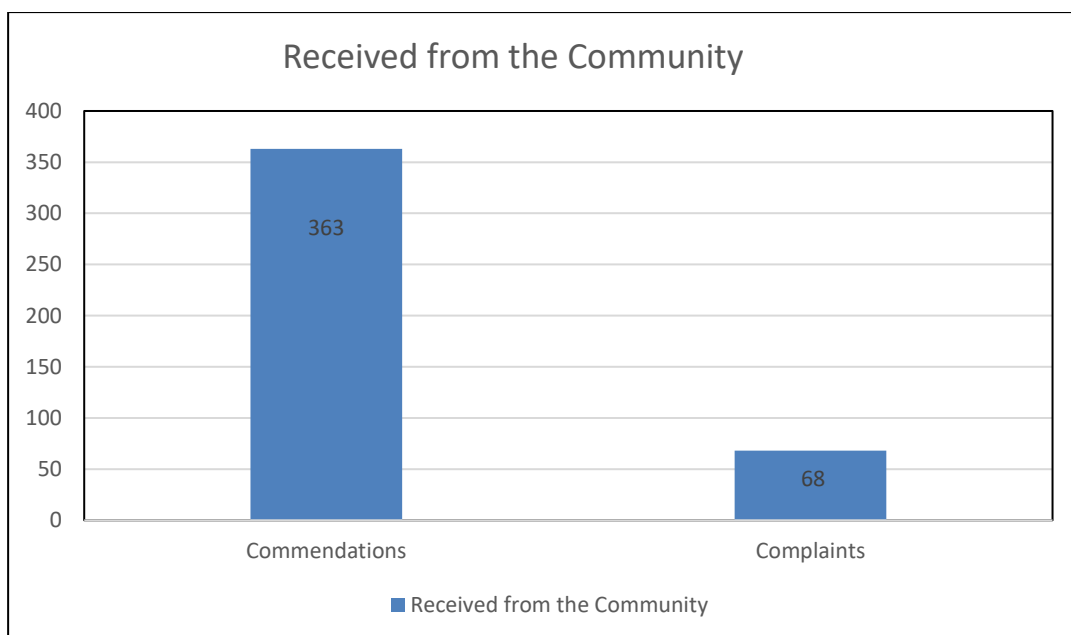
Complaints Received:        **Total: 76 (68 from community)**

**Closed Out as Inquiries: 10** (As of September 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 Complaints—January 1 through September 30, 2020

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 41</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 35</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 8</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 68</b>





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### Use of Force Update

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

From January 1-September 30, 2020, there were 47 non-deadly use of force incidents- 5 K9 contacts and 42 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint).

#### 2020 Deadly Force Incidents (Officer-Involved Shootings)

From January 1-September 30, 2020, there were three deadly force incidents.

##### **Incident 2020-20136616 (Under Investigation)**

Incident 2020-20136616 took place on August 7, 2020 in the area of Courtland/Crestline. The criminal investigation is being conducted by the Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR).

##### **Incident 2020-20160038 (Under Investigation)**

Incident 2020-20160038 took place on September 11, 2020 in the 6300 block of East Broadway. The criminal investigation is being conducted by the Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR).

##### **Incident 2020-20168741 (Under Investigation)**

Incident 2020-20168741 took place on September 24, 2020 in the 9000 block of Highway 2. The criminal investigation is being conducted by the Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR).

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

These incidents took place in 2019 but are still pending the Deadly Force Review Board- delayed by COVID-19 protocols.

##### **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.





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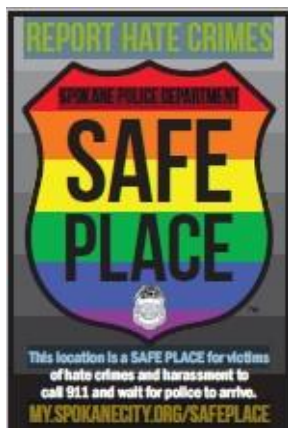
#### **Incident 2019-20201879 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board- delayed by COVID-19 protocols)**

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 completed the administrative investigation. The case will be reviewed by a Deadly Force Review Board.

#### **Items of Interest**

##### **Safe Place Program**

In 2020, the City of Spokane Police Department was approached by our local PFLAG chapter regarding implementing the Seattle Safe Place Program in Spokane. PFLAG is the largest and oldest LGBTQ+ support organization in the nation. After reviewing the Seattle Police Department's innovative program, the Spokane Police Department began working on implementing Safe Place.



Safe Place is an agreement between businesses, the police department and the community to report crimes (especially hate crimes) and provide a place for victims to safely wait for police. Business owners request a decal to display near their front door to highlight their commitment to and participation in the initiative. Participating businesses agree to report crimes and are required to train employees, volunteers, and staff on the reporting of crime, especially hate crimes. Businesses agree to allow a victim/complainant to wait inside their location for police arrival.

SPD's Community Outreach division has already signed up 16 businesses as early adopters of the program, many of them in Spokane's Perry District.

The Spokane Police Department reviewed and updated our policies - adding changes in the law from 2019 to already established procedures to thoroughly investigate hate crimes. Officers were provided additional training and resources regarding hate crimes and protected groups to augment SPD's existing training.

At the Spokane Police Department we provide service to all members of our community. We seek to bridge gaps with all communities and look for new ways to serve everyone. Spokane Police Officers are expected to treat all members of the public with dignity and respect. As part of this program we would like anyone reporting a Hate Crime to know that we take your complaint seriously and we will investigate hate crimes as reported.

For additional information, contact Sergeant Michael Schneider, Spokane Safe Place Coordinator, at [SPDCommunityOutreach@spokanepolice.org](mailto:SPDCommunityOutreach@spokanepolice.org) or 509-622-5816.





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#### Perspectives of those affected by Domestic Violence

Domestic violence (DV) hurts thousands of women, children, and men in Spokane County every year, and often goes unseen and unheard. The Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Coalition (SRDVC), a partnership among many people and multiple organizations in Spokane, is working on a plan to End the Violence in our communities and to advocate for the voice and needs of DV victims and survivors. We are inviting victims and survivors to share their stories and perspectives through an anonymous survey. If you are a victim or survivor of DV, or have a loved one who is, we would like to hear from you. Please share your voice and end the silence!

The survey can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DVsurvivorsEndtheSilence>

#### Precinct Highlights

##### **South Precinct**

#### Crime Prevention and Notable Arrests

The Precinct resumed its “Mission” focus: identifying a specific crime trend(s) in an area, asking for clear expectations of officers/teams who are directly assigned to the mission, which typically results in more ownership of patrol teams and greater impact in the areas. The last mission in the Cannon Hill area resulted in an arrest that tied the suspect to at least 11 vehicle prowlings in the area.



##### **North Precinct**

#### Crime Prevention

Mission Park Focus: The North Precinct and patrol teams have recently focused on crime around Mission Park, due to increase in calls for service, park violations, and unlawful camping in the area. The goal was to improve the park and make it usable for people who work and live around the area and decrease the amount of people using the park inappropriately and after hours. Patrol officers went to Mission Park after hours and trespassed people, and the Northside NROs deployed several times a day, referring to the trespass list.

In two weeks, the tactics have had a huge impact on the unwanted criminal behavior taking place at this park the past couple of months. The park is clean and the unlawful camping activity has all but ceased. The focus on Mission Park has also reduced the calls for service activity that was on the rise at the nearby Safeway.







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**Vehicle Prowling around Corbin Park:** Due to the spike in property crime around Corbin Park, a current mission is in place to decrease vehicle prowling in the area by 75%. Patrol officers and NROs are deploying to the area and are apprehending criminals and deterring crime. Officers are contacting home owners about items of value (bikes, tools) that are in vulnerable locations and unsecure vehicles and garages.

#### **Downtown Precinct**



On October 16, 2020, signs were installed outside of the new police precinct in Downtown Spokane. Julie Humphreys with the Spokane Police Department said the installation marks the final step in opening the precinct and formally marks SPD as a new neighbor in the downtown core. The space will accommodate new and existing officers, and will also serve as the new headquarters for SPD's Behavioral Health Unit. Police Chief Craig Meidl said the purpose of moving the precinct into the downtown core was to demonstrate a new community policing model and make officers more visible.

Chief Meidl said the public should expect to see more officers on foot, on bikes and interacting with the public. Starting October 19, 2020, the new precinct will be manned by an officer Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) continue to conduct foot and bike patrols around Downtown. NROs assist the litter crew with Downtown clean up several times a week.

#### **Outreach Update**

##### **Appreciation for Health Care Workers**

The Outreach Unit accepted a donation from Light a Lamp to the Spokane Police Guild. It was a donation of about 140 thank you boxes with \$5.00 gift cards to Dutch Brothers in each box. With permission of Light a Lamp, the officers donated those these gifts to caregivers at Providence Sacred Heart and Holy Family hospitals.

##### **World Relief**

Outreach officers have been attending the World Relief quarterly providers meeting and have been updating World Relief about SPD current outreach efforts. Sergeant Schneider reported, "World Relief was seeking some school supplies and general daily need supplies. We were able to use our contacts in the community to source some items to help them out."





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#### Outreach to Temple Beth

Sergeant Schneider reached out to Temple Beth after a photo of white supremacist types posing in front of the Temple appeared on Facebook. He offered to meet with any of their groups, kids through adults, as well as being a resource to them.

#### Arc of Spokane

Community Outreach Officer DeRuwe began an online Zoom session with the Arc of Spokane. The Arc facilitated a group of special needs community members. They did a ride along with SPS Resource Officer Ed Richardson for the first session.

#### Junior League Touch a Truck Event

As the event is online this year, Officers DeRuwe and Butler filmed a video showcasing our police vehicles for the Touch a Truck event.

#### Outreach to Elementary Families

Officer DeRuwe was contacted by Arlington Elementary regarding a family in need. Officers were able to deliver a donated couch, mattress, and several boxes of food to this family.

#### Marijuana Public Policy Summit

Sergeant Schneider attended a summit on marijuana public policy. The training was paid for by the West Central Wellness Coalition. The training included sessions on marijuana use and education for teens, such as how marijuana use affects pregnancy and how second hand smoke affects children. It was valuable information that will come in helpful when the unit's teen outreach is running full speed.



#### PAL Boxing

The Outreach Unit met with Rick Welliver regarding getting PAL boxing going. They also met with Jeff Ross from Youth For Christ downtown about having one of his classes attend PAL boxing.

#### Birthday Party Drive-By Celebrations

Outreach officers continue to help Spokane kids celebrate their birthdays with COVID-19 precautions. One mother recently wrote, "Huge shout out to The Spokane Police Department! You showed up and surprised my sweet Mads for her 5th Birthday with some wonderful treasures and great memories. I am beyond blessed to live in a city that is protected and represented by such fine men and women who serve our community and take time out of their busy lives to make things like this happen! From the bottom of my heart. THANK YOU!!!"







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Sergeant Schneider and Officer DeRuwe were able to make Jaden's birthday a little more exciting than usual! Happy 8th birthday, Jaden!



#### School Visits

The Spokane Police Department's Community Outreach Unit did its annual visit at the Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. Officer Graig Butler read a book about dogs to the kids and provided them with a tour of the police car. The Community Outreach Unit loves to meet with the youth of Spokane. Please reach out at [spdcommunityoutreach@spokane police.org](mailto:spdcommunityoutreach@spokane police.org) to coordinate a visit.





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### Notable News

Spokane police officers complete bike patrol training, will serve as regional training unit

<https://www.krem.com/article/news/local/spokane-county/spokane-police-bike-officers-training/293-fcd06a31-acdf-4af5-8df8-6248fb97726c>

Spokane Police arrest 12-time convicted felon in connection to downtown stabbing

KXLY Spokane

<https://www.kxly.com/spokane-police-arrest-26-time-convicted-felon-in-connection-to-downtown-stabbing/>

'You can come to us': Spokane PD, businesses offer 'Safe Place' for victims of hate crimes

<https://www.krem.com/article/news/spokane-pd-businesses-program-for-victims-of-hate-crime/293-b06e0e04-a04f-4ac7-832d-fb7f83e17086>

