



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
September 2020 Report

Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
August 31, 2020





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

I work in a professional building with multiple providers and offices (medical and professional). Today a suspicious object was found in the parking lot and the police were called. Their response time was quick and the interaction with people was calm and reassuring. Their professionalism and tact was admirable. We are thankful to the entire team who worked to assure safety for all the people who were in the building while navigating a potentially dangerous situation. We are all thankful for the hard working team at the SPD.

Chief Meidl, I just wanted to take the opportunity to acknowledge appreciation for two of your officers. I was involved in a DV [domestic violence] situation in which I was called upon to support one of the individuals involved. I had been on the scene for approximately 15 minutes when **Officers [Matthew] Breese** and **[Benjamin] Manning** knocked on the door. In the apartment, there were three African-American men and I of course was one of them. As you are very well aware, the us and them narrative is very much alive and well when it comes to police and many in the African American Community. Officers Breese and Manning exercised the utmost professionalism and respect for the situation at hand. When they entered the apartment, I wanted to assure them that no one wanted to create any issues. As a result, we had a successful transition for the individual to remove his possessions from the apartment. During these increasingly difficult times between our various communities and the police, I feel that if the community can complain about police when we are unhappy with their actions, we the community, must also step up and acknowledge police when they are being professional and respectful.

Hello, I'm just a citizen of Spokane and have been all of my life. I just wanted to say, despite all the things going on the world, media taking things out of context and people getting extremely emotional and doing and saying drastic things, there are still some of us out here that support law enforcement and know how vital you are to all communities. Thank you for all that you do, and please know that there are people out there that still recognize the truth.

I had the privilege to experience a ride-along with **Officer Andrew Richmond** on Friday evening. I've always had so much respect for anyone whose career is protecting the public, and I now have an even greater regard and understanding of how difficult and important the occupation of law enforcement truly is. Although somewhat new to the department, Officer Richmond is no stranger to public safety. He is incredibly knowledgeable and represents the Spokane Police Department with integrity. Officer Richmond waved to people and gave warm hellos to others just walking the street. What a fine example to set for the community that police officers are human beings and have a kind side to them. Congratulations to both you and Chief Meidl, along with all of your officers - and in particular Officer Richmond. Our community is very fortunate to have what I would definitely refer to as Spokane's Finest.





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through July 31, 2020 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 312**

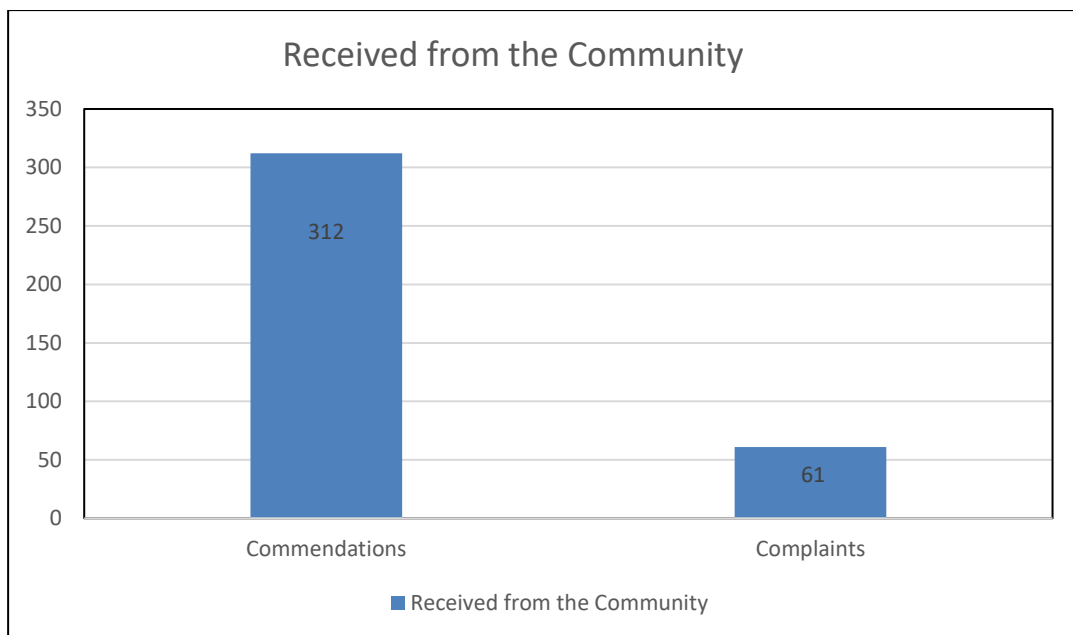
Complaints Received: **Total: 69 (61 from community)**

Closed Out as Inquiries: 5 (As of July 31, 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 Jan 1 through July 31, 2020 Complaints

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 37
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 32
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 8
Generated by the Community	Total: 61





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Use of Force Update

2020 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-July 31, 2020, there were 38 non-deadly use of force incidents- 5 K9 contacts and 33 other (e.g., TASER, neck restraint).

2020 Deadly Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-July 31, 2020, there were no deadly force incidents. See below for active cases from 2019.

Note: This report only includes data from a full month (July 2020). However, there was a deadly force incident in August. Information about this incident will be included in the following month's report.

2019 Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through July 31, 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 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 (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.





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Items of Interest

BHU Update

The Regional Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) created last fall. BHU is comprised of Spokane Police Department, Spokane County Sheriff's Office, and Frontier Behavioral Health staff. Co-deployed teams respond to people in crisis.

BHU Data from July 2020:

73% of the BHU contacts had an outcome other than jail or the hospital.

0.8 % of the contacts were arrested.

16% were detained on an emergency basis.

No force beyond standard handcuffing was used.

423 calls were relieved from patrol.

Read more about the BHU here:

A Calming Voice for People in Crisis

<https://my.spokanecity.org/news/stories/2020/07/24/a-calming-voice-for-people-in-crisis/>

Recruiting New Officers

As the City of Spokane is accepting applications for those interested in becoming a police officer, the City is offering a special incentive-- free Public Safety Testing. Testing is free for those applicants who send their results to the City of Spokane only. This summer, there are two opportunities to take the test at no charge. Testing is scheduled for Saturday, August 29 and Sunday, August 30.

<https://www.publicsafetytesting.com/calendar>.

All candidates must take and pass the Public Safety Test (PST) in order to be considered, except laterals. Learn more about becoming a Police Officer with the City of Spokane on our website:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/spokanecity/jobs/1264025-0/police-officer>.

Precinct Highlights

South Precinct

Crime Prevention and Notable Arrests

South Precinct Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) have just completed affidavits on two separate habitual problem houses that will now proceed to the Assistant City Attorney's Civil Enforcement Unit office for hearings to close them and foreclose on ownership. Both cases are very extensive and require

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numerous hours to complete. The South Precinct has worked on five properties so far this year that have proceeded to hearings.

NRO Kelly Mongan has been very busy initiating investigations in between Unlawful Camping POD assignments on several drug trafficking locations on the Cannon Hill side of town. He has recently arrested five suspects for warrants, possession of meth and stolen property, and has had to give up chase on three stolen cars coming or leaving these addresses.

Detective Ty Snider just completed two large embezzlement cases with charges and affidavits developed for additional charges.

Detective Bob Mosman wrapped up his investigation of the Lewis and Clark High School Malicious Mischief case that resulted in over \$10,000.00 damage with the last arrest taking place last week.

North Precinct

Crime Prevention

In preparation for the new shelter opening at W. 55 Mission Avenue, the North Precinct staff conducted outreach to area businesses and residences, and conducted a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment on the location itself. The CPTED offers recommendations for increasing safety and deterring criminal behavior.

Patrol and the Precinct are working together to have a coordinated response during the shelter's opening: Officers will check in to the area at least once per hour during this time, checking in with shelter staff to exchange any situations of concern at the shelter or within proximity. Officers will make at least two social/business contacts during the deployment at the 100+ open businesses in the designated area. Officers will enforce observed criminal behavior in the area with emphasis on Pedestrian Interference, Lewd Conduct, Unlawful Camping, Littering, and Trespassing. Officers will educate individuals at residential and business properties on the importance of Crime Check reporting and CPTED vulnerabilities.

Outreach Update

Police Activities League (PAL)

SPD hosted a condensed Summer PAL session, due to COVID-19 concerns. SPD is partnering with the YMCA and Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center to work with youth in their programs. PAL began July 14 at the North YMCA at Holmberg Park and July 15 at Riverfront Park.





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Below, the first day of PAL 2020. Although the department had to work with fewer children due to COVID, they are out there and interacting with the youth. Officers focus on the core values of PAL which are: honesty, integrity, leadership, sportsmanship and respect.



Below, photos of PAL at Riverfront Park.





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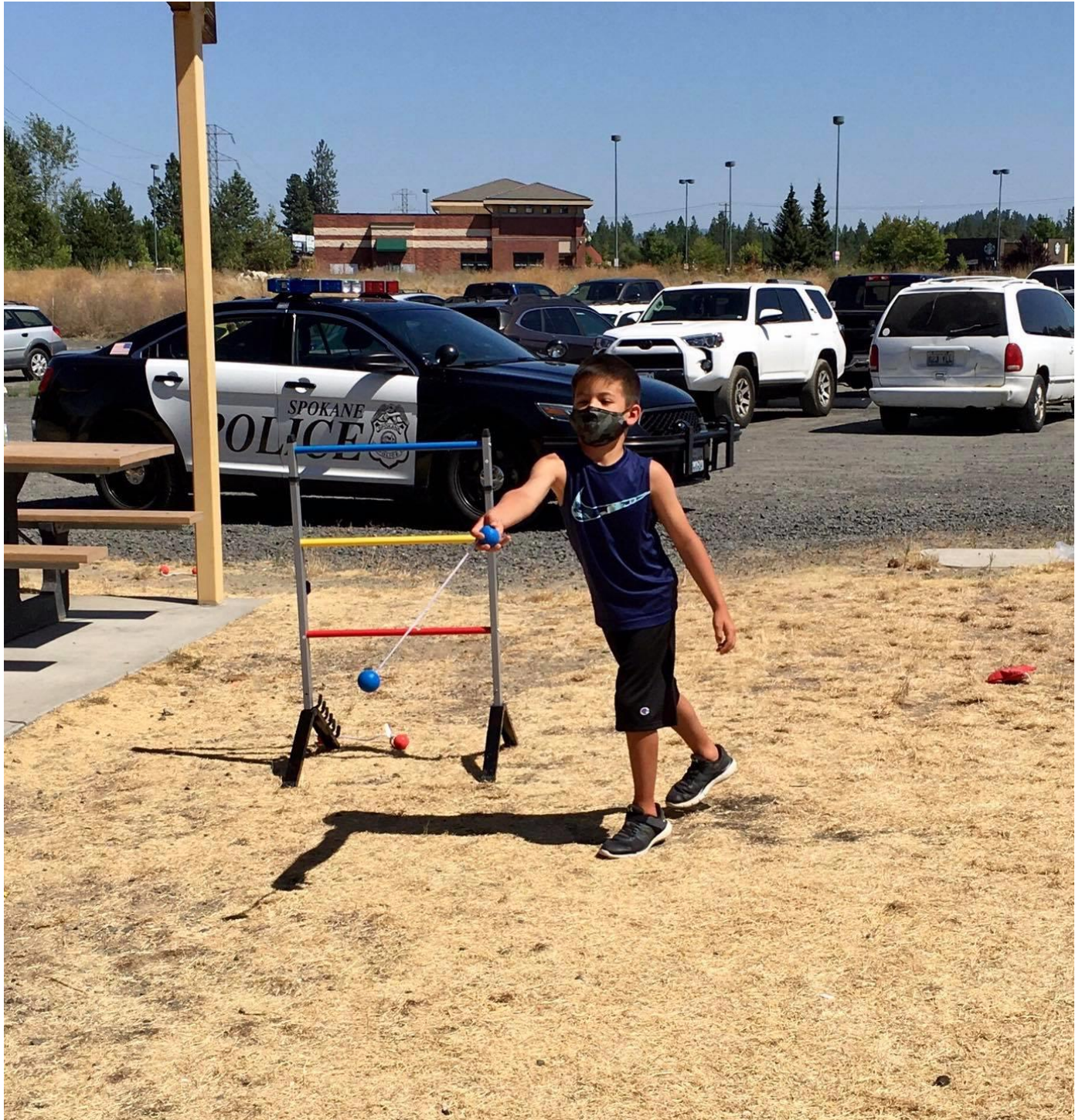
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Officers and youth enjoyed outdoor activities in sunny weather in beautiful Riverfront Park.





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Recent Outreach during COVID-19

- The Community Outreach Unit started moving towards a cooperative program with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, called “Bigs in Blue.”
- Online meetings continue for several organizations such as World Relief, Shadle Wellness Coalition, West Central Wellness Coalition, and NE Partners.
- Community Outreach Officers are connecting with youth at Crosswalk Youth Shelter, skate parks, and the STA plaza.
- Officers have been coordinating with SPD Investigations to do outreach with youth who frequently run away from home.
- Officers have been handing out food at many community locations.
- Officers spent time at Northeast Youth Center, one of our PAL partners.



Spokane Police Department gave entries for the upcoming virtual Hoopfest event to these two young boys, pictured below, Landon and Caleb. The Police Guild donated 3 Hoopfest entries and these two lucky boys will get to take advantage of the donation. School Resource Officer Ed Richardson helped the police department get in touch with Landon and Caleb who attend Franklin Elementary School. One entry was also donated to the Native Project.





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Below, Community Outreach Sergeant Schneider spending time with the Girl Scouts.



Notable News

New Spokane Officers Pledge to Help Community

<https://my.spokanecity.org/news/stories/2020/08/06/new-spokane-officers-pledge-to-help-community/>