



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

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**Strategic Initiatives**  
**April 2021 Report**

**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**March 29, 2021**

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





# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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#### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendations

##### **[Officers Spring, Ussery, C. Lesser, Tangeman, Fisher and K. Richardson]**

Thank you for the group of fellows. I was in an auto accident yesterday. Those men are absolutely amazing. I want to thank you and thank them for me. I am grateful. They were so kind and gentle. It made me feel so good. You guys get such lousy advertising and I appreciate the time and care they took with me. It was my first car accident. I was shook, but they took excellent care of me.

Chief Meidl, We send our support for your efforts to find and bring to justice the perpetrators of the reprehensible vandalism of Temple Beth Shalom. This action was a disgraceful incidence, and it is frightening and discouraging to know that this hatred remains in our community and region; it reminds us that we must stand united and continue to educate work, and struggle for improvement for all of us. As an organization that is dedicated to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion, we appreciate that this offense is being pursued as a hate crime, and hope that the prosecution of the criminal(s) will be a deterrent to the racists and bigots who we know skulk in this region. We appreciate your continued diligence in this regard and look forward to hearing of your success in resolving this crime.

On behalf of the entire Gonzaga community, I thank you and your officers for their commitment to keeping our students and the Logan neighborhood community safe. We are truly grateful for the diligent efforts and countless hours that SPD and the PACT investigators dedicated to apprehending the suspects who burglarized several homes over winter break. The fact that the officer could link the three suspects with 9 of the 11 burglaries was genuinely commendable. Our sincerest thanks to you for the work you do every day to keep the residents of Spokane safe. The ways in which you work in collaboration with Gonzaga, and in particular our Campus Security and Public Safety officers, is deeply appreciated.

I was at home when a worker in my apartment complex advised me that three people just opened a box which had been on my porch. They fled when he confronted them. At that point, I followed on foot and called 911. Once they realized I was following they split up into three directions. I kept dispatch updated as much as possible while attempting to keep tabs on the suspects, two males and a female. **Officers Rhine and Barker** responded and were able to detain one of the suspects. One officer went and spoke with the witness who advised that it was the female who actually opened the box. The officers checked the area for her but were unable to locate her. Despite not catching the prime suspect, the officers did an excellent job and I would like you to commend them for me.





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### Internal Affairs Unit Update

#### January 1 through February 28, 2021 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received:    **Total: 35**

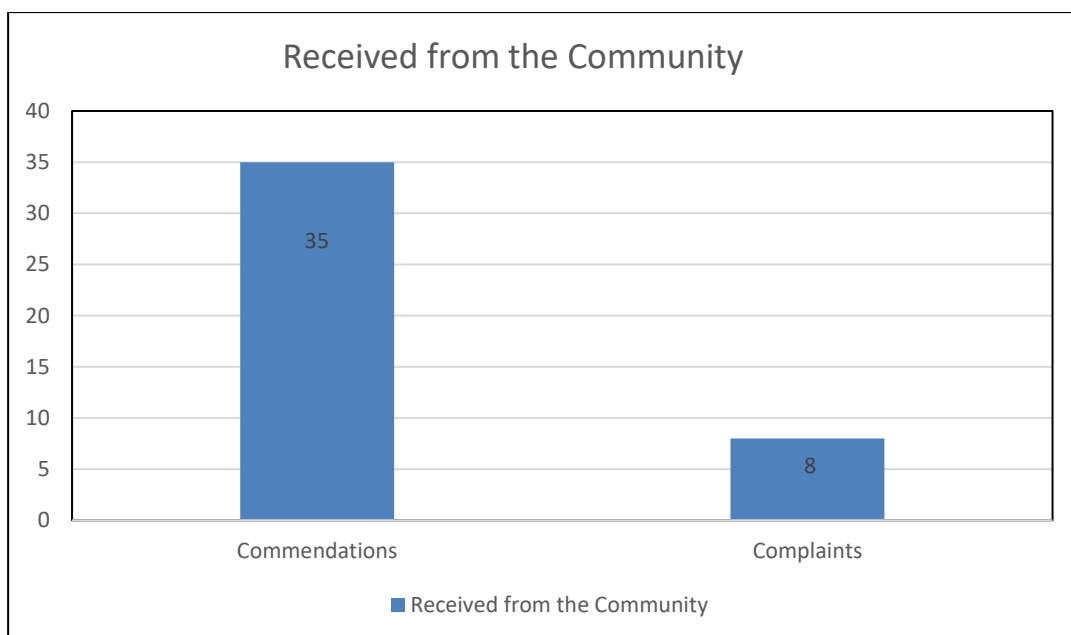
Complaints Received:        **Total: 11 (8 from community)**

**Closed Out as Inquiries: 0** (As of February 28, 2021)

*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 February 28, 2021

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 0</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 11</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 3</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 11</b>





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#### Use of Force Update

##### 2021 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-February 28, 2021, there were 9 non-deadly use of force incidents- 0 K9 contacts and 9 other (e.g., TASER, Level I Lateral Neck Restraint).

##### 2021 Deadly Force Incidents (Officer-Involved Shootings)

From January 1-January 31, 2021, there was one deadly force incident.

##### **Incident 2021-20002320 (Under Investigation)**

Incident 2021-20002320 took place on January 5, 2021 in the area of 5100 N Ash. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

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

From January 1-December 31, 2020, there were three deadly force incidents.

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

Incident 2020-20136616 took place on August 7, 2020 in the area of Courtland/Crestline. The criminal investigation is by the Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) team is complete. The Prosecutor ruled the use of deadly force justified. SPD will commence an administrative investigation.

##### **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 December 31, 2020)

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





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#### **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 Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) team 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 Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) team 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

#### Police Strategies LLC Report on SPD Police Interaction

The Spokane Police Department commissions a data driven report on SPD interactions with community members looking at demographics such as sex, age, and race.

#### General Conclusions:

While the report focused on police data regarding demographics of sex, age, and race, the authors' contend a number of other factors greatly influence criminal behavior including poverty, unemployment, education, health care and housing.

The authors' conclude no significant racial disparities are observed in police stops or arrests when applying the activity-based research methodology.

The findings show it is unlikely that Spokane Police officers are engaged in systemic biased practices against any particular demographic group. The data also suggests that the racial groups that are typically viewed as the targets of police racial bias (Blacks, Hispanic/Latinx, and Native Americans) are not more likely to have enforcement actions taken against them where officers have a high level of discretion in making law enforcement decisions. The analysis shows that in those cases where officers have the highest levels of discretion, Black, Native American, and juvenile subjects have the lowest risk of being subjected to enforcement actions.

See the details at this link:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/news/2021/03/03/police-strategies-llc-report-on-spd-police-interaction/>





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#### SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF POLICE INTERACTIONS

AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF POLICE ACTIVITY  
BY POLICE STRATEGIES LLC

### REPORTED CRIME SUSPECTS

#### DISPARITIES EXIST IN CRIMES REPORTED TO POLICE



Crimes reported to police identify a Black suspect nearly 3 times more often than expected based on population. Native Americans were 68% more likely to be identified as a suspect, and Asians were 65% less likely to be identified as a suspect than expected based on city population demographics.

### POLICE STOPS

#### ALL RACES EQUALLY LIKELY TO BE CONTACTED

When Spokane police contact individuals either during traffic stops or when investigating suspects in a crime, there are no racial disparities observed. The proportion of stops by race closely resembles the proportion of reported crimes by race.



### ARRESTS

#### NO RACIAL DISPARITY FOUND IN ARRESTS



When compared to police stops, persons of all races are equally likely to be arrested. In incidents with more officer discretion (ex: minor traffic violations), Black individuals are 46% less likely and Native American individuals are 76% less likely to be issued a citation or infraction.

### USE OF FORCE

#### DISPARITY FOUND IN USE OF FORCE

Black arrestees are 22% more likely to have force used against them. Native American arrestees are 49% more likely to have force used against them.



### ENFORCEMENT ACTION

#### NO SIGNIFICANT RACIAL DISPARITIES



Data suggests the racial groups that are typically viewed as the targets of police racial bias (Blacks, Hispanic/Latinx, and Native Americans) have the lowest risk of enforcement action being taken against them when officers have the highest level of discretion in making law enforcement decisions.

### OUR MISSION

The Spokane Police Department is committed to providing excellence in policing, enhancing the safety and security of individuals, and building partnerships to better the lives of our community members as a whole.







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#### New Hires

On February 15, 2021, SPD welcomed seven new entry-level officers, who are in the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA).



#### Behavioral Health Unit

The Spokane Regional Behavioral Health Unit, which is part of a WASPC grant, recently published their 2020 data. The unit made contact with 3760 individuals.

- 1,473 of contacts resulted in a referral.
- 78% of those contacts had an outcome other than jail or the hospital.
- 46 individuals were arrested, which is 1.2% of contacts.
- 590 individuals were emergently detained, which is 15.7% of contacts.
- 331 individuals were diverted from an arrestable offense and were diverted from the hospital.
- 4,272 calls were relieved from patrol (160,273 minutes or 2,671 hours of time saved from the patrol load).
- The BHU responded to 434 suicidal calls, followed up with 520 individuals, 1,044 welfare calls, and assisted Designated Crisis Responders in 772 calls.

#### Recent Commendation for the Domestic Violence Unit

*It came to my attention this morning that a defendant was arrested on two counts of a Domestic Violence No Contact Order violation. Upon review of his recent DV criminal history against his victim, it was determined that his pattern of violence was escalating, and the victim could be in further danger if he was given a lower bond. It had been reported that he strangled his victim on two separate occasions and stomped on her chest with his foot. I felt that it was most beneficial if a member of the DV Unit came along and spoke to the facts surrounding the very recent and escalating behavior of the defendant. I asked **Officers Aaron Ames and Erick Specht** to join me in court.*





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*Both Officer Ames and Officer Specht immediately obliged and without hesitation appeared in court with me. I had alerted the court coordinator that the DV Unit would be present in court and would like the opportunity to speak to the pending criminal case and the reported strangulations. When Officer Specht was called to testify, he was extremely professional, well-spoken and commanded presence in his testimony. His information was perfectly delivered and in my opinion, without it, the defendant would have been released today. Instead, the Commissioner increased his bond*

*to \$10,000.00 and sternly instructed the defendant to follow the terms of the No Contact Order or there would be a higher bond and more criminal charges. I am confident that without Officer Ames being present to represent the DV Unit, and the powerful testimony of Officer Specht, this hearing would have had a much different outcome. Their genuine concern and efforts have kept our victim and community safe.*

### Spokane Police Department's Community Crisis Assistance Program

The program kicked off in March 2021, and is made possible thanks to the Spokane Police Foundation. The intended purpose of the Community Crisis Assistance Program is for officers to have access to funds to assist those they contact during the course of their duties for emergency situations such as the following:

- Officers could use the funds to purchase food for a family/individual who have experienced extreme loss or are experiencing extreme hardship, like a family who experiences a fire.
- Officers enter a home on a call and see that the cupboards are bare, with no food for the children, the program can help.
- The funds can be used to purchase appropriate clothing for weather conditions, such as if officers come across a family in the middle of winter who have no coats or no blankets for their beds.

The funds are not to be used to secure temporary shelter. The assistance provided is temporary and not a long-term solution. Community Outreach will follow-up with those assisted through this program when possible to see if there are longer-term solutions. Officers who desire to use funds from the Spokane Police Community Crisis Assistance Program will contact someone in their chain of command to request approval to use the funds.







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#### Precinct Highlights

##### **North Precinct**

##### North Precinct Crime Analyst is the Employee of the Quarter, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020

Lieutenant Shawn Kendall nominated Jamie Lamanna for the Employee of the Quarter Award. Employee of the Quarter nominations are based on either a specific act of unusual meritorious service, a specific project of significance to the community, City, or Department, or sustained superior performance of assigned duties.

In his nomination, Lieutenant Kendall wrote:



*Jaime has been assigned to the Crime Analysis unit since October of 2015. Prior to that, she worked as an intern for the unit. During her internship, the Crime Analysis unit learned, first hand, how skilled she is in this field. She met every challenge and routinely produced superior product. Her success during her internship definitely created her current full time employment in the unit.*

*Upon my assignment as the North Spokane Crime Prevention Lieutenant in August of 2019, I quickly learned that crime analysis is a key component in developing strategies to lower criminal behavior. I was lucky enough to have Jaime assigned as our north side crime analyst. Her ability to locate, analyze and interpret data is amazing. She utilized this skill with her common sense approach to help me develop plans, strategies, responses and reports on criminal behavior in Spokane.*

*Jaime was a key component as North Precinct leadership and NRO Kaurin developed a plan to impact the Safeway at Mission and Hamilton. Historically, this location has been a hot bed for criminal activity including, theft, assaults and robbery to name a few. The calls for service at this location had been a continual drain of patrol resources. After deploying several tactics and strategies over the course of several months, the calls for service at this location dropped approximately 80%. Again, Jaime's contributions to this project were critical for our success.*

*Overall crime in north Spokane dropped in 2019. Jaime's involvement and contributions were critical in achieving this. I have described Jaime's skill and common sense approach as her pivotal strengths which we rely on but after getting to know her, I have learned that her passion for crime prevention is by far her greatest strength. She genuinely wants to improve the quality of life for our Spokane citizens. She will take on numerous tasks and assignments beyond her daily workload. She will routinely work on her days off and outside her work hours ensuring that critical projects are completed. SPD is very lucky to have Jaime and*





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*other members of the Crime Analysis Unit. I am confident that without them, SPD would not be celebrating a city-wide drop in crime.*

#### Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents Addressing Quality of Life Issues

- The Neighborhood Resource Officer recently started a nuisance case on a residence with harassment, drugs, and behavioral health issues. The tenant would harass the other tenants in the building. The NRO mailed the tenant a ticket for fail to enter into an abatement agreement. Recently, patrol units served her with an Anti-harassment order from one of the other tenants. The landlord served her with eviction papers. The tenant did not respond to any of the court paperwork to fight eviction and she continued to be cited for subsequent nuisance issues in February 2021.
- Another location involved a resident trafficking in stolen property and drug activity occurring at the location. The NRO researched the history of the location and contacted neighbors. He recently confirmed that the resident has moved out of the location.
- One Northside nuisance location involved an Adult Protective Services (APS) investigation into a situation where an elderly person was abused by people who moved in to "help." The NRO worked with the owner and APS. The people taking advantage of the renter have all moved out. Seven dumpsters of trash have been removed from the property, along with multiple vehicles.
- At one location, neighbors have complained of the drug dealing and prostitution happening at the residence. The NRO has issued a chronic nuisance citation and there is now a signed abatement agreement in place.

#### Recent Commendation for North Precinct Neighborhood Resource Officer

Wow! When you say you are going to help, you mean it! I called Crime Check today because a trespasser would not leave. The response time was less than 5 minutes. Everyone was helpful, courteous, and very competent. **Officer Dale Wells** had suggestions for me to make the building less friendly to trespassers, and we will implement them. He also had the man served as a habitual trespasser, and removed. The businesses and I are so happy and thankful. Please convey our appreciation to all the officers that helped. We are so lucky to have such an outstanding police force!

#### **Downtown Precinct**

#### Crime Prevention Missions

- Officers are focusing on the area of Browne-Pine and Pacific-2<sup>nd</sup> Ave with foot patrols and bike patrols. The goal is to reduce calls for service (127 calls for service in the area recently) and Part 1 crimes.
- Officers are focusing on the Post Street viaducts at night. The area has had issues with lots of hypodermic needles, human waste, and other garbage. A Neighborhood Resource Officer is conducting a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) of the area.





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#### Precinct Outreach

The Downtown Precinct recently took a tour of the Lumen school. Lumen High School is a charter school that services only teen parents who wish to obtain their high school diplomas. Lumen is next door to the DT precinct and they are interested in meeting their neighbors. Community Outreach is also organizing chat a question and answer session/pizza party where some of the Downtown officers could meet face to face (with masks) with students.

When restrictions lift, Downtown Precinct staff will hold a Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) at the location.

#### **South Precinct**

#### Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents Addressing Quality of Life Issues

- Neighborhood Resource Officers have been arresting several suspects while building an abatement case with a particular residence. Neighbors have complained of guns, drugs, trafficking stolen property, and stolen vehicles.
- NROs are working with Code Enforcement and the Civil Enforcement Unit (CEU) with one nuisance location with continuous criminal enterprise and squatters. They are moving toward a full abatement with CEU.
- Another location has been a long-term problem with the neighbors due to stolen property. An NRO has assisted with two search warrants for this location, for Trafficking Stolen Property and Possession of Stolen Property.
- NROs are dealing with one location with domestic violence incidents, drug dealing, and a shooting. They are working with an individual who is a power of attorney and are attempting to resolve the problem. NROs have moved forward with the chronic nuisance and abatement plan.
- The three NROs for the South Precinct were very busy with neighborhood requests. During the month of February, the three NROs handed 129 referrals from patrol over 28 days.

South Precinct NRO Kelly Mongan, pictured below





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#### **Outreach Update**

##### **New Program - Bigs in Blue**

SPD officers have a new opportunity to reach youth in Spokane. The Spokane Police Department has collaborated with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of the Inland Northwest on a program entitled "Bigs in Blue." This is an opportunity for officers, of any rank, to improve the life of a child.

Bigs in Blue is a one-to-one mentoring program that connects youth with police in communities throughout our nation, building strong, trusting, lasting relationships. These relationships can help children develop into confident adults and help build stronger bonds between law enforcement and the families they serve.

Community-Based mentoring relationships involve one-to-one outings and activities, doing things the Big and Little enjoy together (like getting a meal or going to the park). Bigs and Littles spend 2-4 hours, 2-4 times a month with each other for at least 18 months. The Spokane Police Foundation will also sponsor special activities for the program.

##### **2021 COMMUNITY OUTREACH PLAN FOR EVENTS**

(Events with dates are confirmed)

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| March-  | Junior League Book Fair (March 6, 2021)  |
| April-  | Autism Walk (April 18th, 2021)<br>National Drug Takeback day (April 24, 2021)  |
| May-    | Riverfront Park Family Fun Fair  |
| June-   | World Refugee Day<br>Spokane Pride Parade<br>Junior Police Academy<br>Spokane Police Community Appreciation Day<br>Skyfest (Fairchild Air Force Base) (June 11/12, 2021)   |
| July-   | Police Activities League (PAL) (July 6 <sup>th</sup> – August 12 <sup>th</sup> ) 6 weeks   |
| August- | PAL (July 6 <sup>th</sup> – August 12 <sup>th</sup> )<br>PAL Graduation (August 12, 2021)<br>PAL Boxing Sanctioned Event at Brick West Brewing (August 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2021)<br>Unity in the Community (August 21, 2021)<br>Cops and Kids (August 21, 2021) |





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Salvation Army Back to School Shopping  
Gathering at the Falls Pow Wow  
National Night Out – Spokane Police Foundation

September- Spokane Interstate Fair (Sept 10-20)  
Pig Out in the Park booth (Sept 1-6)  
Hoopfest (Sept 11-12)  
Touch a Truck  
JDRF Diabetes Walk for Kids

October- YPI

November- YPI

December- YPI  
Shop with a Cop (Follow up with Holiday and Heroes event)  
Christmas Giving Program

#### **Ongoing Events Throughout the Year**

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters meetings
- Day In the Life: New partnership with Juvenile Probation, Lutheran Family Services Refugee Group and Explorers to learn about aspect of police work
- Coordination of Services (COS) Juvenile Probation monthly presentation (1 night a month for 2.5 hours)
- YPI/PAL sustainability events (Hiking, Chiefs, Indians games)
- PAL Boxing
- Community Forums (Faith Alliance, Refugee Youth etc.)
- Monthly Refugee Provider Meeting
- Refugee orientations (Quarterly- World Relief)
- Youth Leadership Spokane
- Native Project Wellness Nights (Wednesday nights Sept-June)
- East Central Community Center Family Nights (New)
- Various speaking engagements for Rotary Clubs, Cub Scout Groups and other organizations
- Excelsior Outreach (Phase 3)
- Success through Academic Connections (SAC) School Outreach for youth under the jurisdiction of the court (Phase 3)
- Detention School Outreach (Phase 3)
- Frontier Behavioral Health Evergreen Club Lunches and meetings (Phase 3. Will meet on Zoom)
- NAACP Meetings (monthly)

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#### Notable News

##### **Three men arrested in connection to Gonzaga winter break burglaries**

Spokane Police have arrested three men connected to nearly a dozen burglaries of Gonzaga University student housing over winter break. 57-year-old Bobby Holt, 49-year-old Bruce Erickson and 38-year-old David Good were arrested and charged with a combined 41 crimes, which include residential burglary, third- and second-degree malicious mischief, possession of a controlled substance, second- and first-degree trafficking stolen property and criminal conspiracy.

<https://www.kxly.com/three-men-arrested-in-connection-to-gonzaga-winter-break-burglaries/>