



# **SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **CHIEF OF POLICE**

### **CRAIG N. MEIDL**

## **Strategic Initiatives**

### **August 2021 Report**



## **Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**

### **August 2, 2021**

### **Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendations**

Today while at work my team and I got stuck...on a steep hill with a full trailer load of asphalt sealant. We had no tow straps, but across the street, was a shiny beacon of hope in the form of a black and white Spokane city police vehicle. Now I know that in today's times, officers, deputies and troopers are overlooked for the way they help others, but I always think back to what my mother taught me: when you need help, find an officer. They are prepared for anything. So I approached this officer at his residence and he generously loaned us two brand new tow straps to safely pull up the steep hill and avoid damaging property and most definitely myself who stupidly pulled too far down the hill in the first place. I know this was his day off, so I hope you can find out who he is and let him know that he gives credit to the badge. Thank you for having officers like this! **[Officer Mike McCasland.]**

I had the opportunity to collaborate with **Officer [Micah] Prim** and **Officer [Casey] Jones** yesterday. Without their assistance, we would not have had a successful outcome in this particular situation, which potentially saved this person's life and addressed a very real community health concern! I have always believed it is important to call out successes in collaboration. I am very grateful for the outcome of our endeavor yesterday- thank you to your team!

I had the great opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Officer Mike Baldwin**, on Sergeant Tafoya's shift. We spent nearly seven hours together and I found him to be courteous, professional, and extremely competent in his work. This shift began differently from any shift I have observed, as there was a significant structure fire in an apartment complex going on when roll call was beginning. Sgt. Tafoya gave quick briefs to individual officers and put them into service immediately. On this shift, Officer Baldwin handled several complex situations to include: attempting to help at the apartment fire; an anonymous complaint of an inappropriate adult male/juvenile female relationship; a house alarm; a neighborhood dispute over fixing a vehicle to have it moved; and a complaint of a juvenile runaway, who was recovered. Officer Baldwin impressively handled these sensitive situations while on scene and provided significant attention to investigation and follow up. Officer Baldwin jokingly explained that he has a reputation of receiving complex calls to the point his team refers to it as "They just got Baldwin'd (sp)" if they get dispatched with him. His abilities were clearly evident as Officer Baldwin put in significant effort to research information during these calls and the officers were able to effectively handle all of the issues presented. Officer Baldwin consistently made me feel welcome and he did his best to answer all of my questions. He was transparent in his responses to me and replied from an informed officer perspective as we talked about upcoming legislation and its potential impacts on law enforcement.

**Officer [Tim] Schwering**, You probably don't hear that enough so I wanted to thank you for clearing out the park on Regal last week. I have been calling 311 and stopping at the COPS NE for a while and it seemed nobody did anything till you came along. Again, I just wanted to give a sign suggestion and give you personally a big thanks.... Nobody else seemed to care or was able to do anything. It was like the Army came in and saved the block from the invaders!!



## Internal Affairs Unit Update

### January 1 through June 30 2021 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received:    **Total: 115**

Complaints Received:        **Total: 45 (35 from community)**

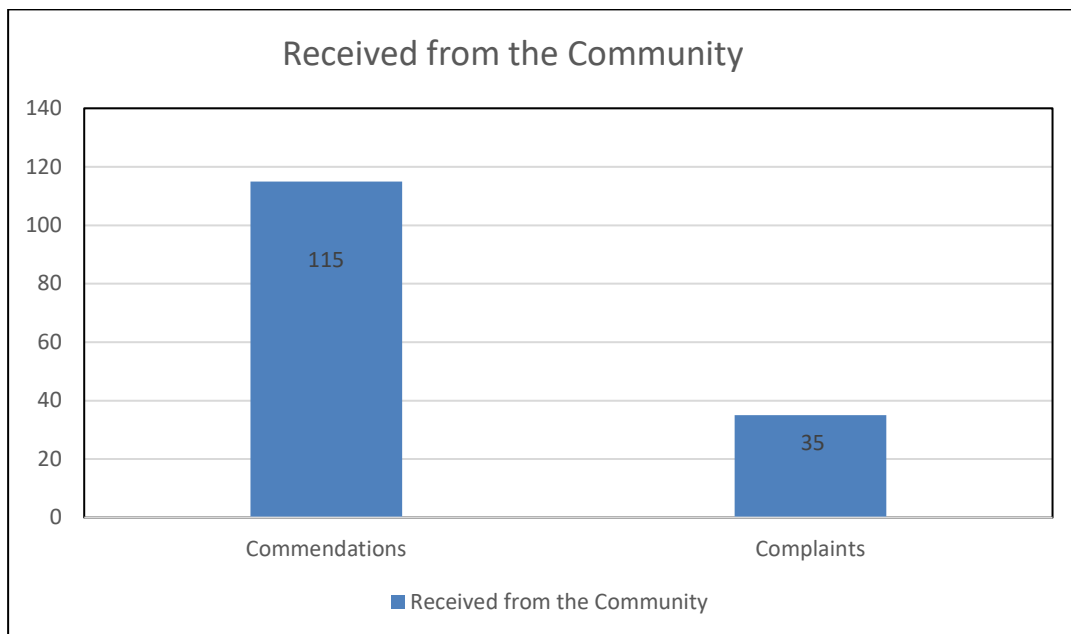
**Closed Out as Inquiries: 3 (As of June 30, 2021)**

*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 May 31, 2021

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 16</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 29</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 10</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 35</b>

As of June 30, 2021, the department has received 70% more commendations from the community than complaints.



## Use of Force Update

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

From January 1-June 30, 2021, there were 35 non-deadly use of force incidents- 9 K9 contacts and 26 other (e.g., TASER).

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

From January 1-June 30, 2021, there were two deadly force incidents.

#### **Incident 2021-20002320 (Pending Prosecutor Review)**

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

#### **Incident 2021-20059960 (Pending Prosecutor Review)**

Incident 2021-20059960 took place on April 17, 2021, in the area of 500 S Cannon. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) conducted the criminal investigation. The case is currently with the Spokane County Prosecutor.

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

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

#### **Incident 2020-20136616 (Pending Administrative Review)**

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. The SPD administrative investigation is complete. The case is with the Administrative Review Panel.

#### **Incident 2020-20160038 (Pending Prosecutor review)**

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

## Items of Interest

### Behavioral Health Unit

The Spokane Regional Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) is comprised of Spokane Police Officers, Spokane County Sheriff's Office/Spokane Valley Deputies, and Frontier Behavioral Health Mental Health Professionals.



#### May 2021 Statistics:

- 75% of contacts had an outcome other than jail or the hospital
- 0.6% were arrested
- 20% were emergently detained
- 0% force beyond handcuffing used
- 9% diverted from an arrestable offense and diverted from the hospital
- 361 total calls relieved from patrol
- 12,960 minutes of time saved (time the BHU spent to resolve calls, allowing patrol to respond to other calls)
- 76% of contacts resulted in a referral

#### Recruiting Update

SPD welcomed several graduates from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy here in Spokane. They graduated June 30 and are currently in Post Academy training. We look forward to them starting the Field Training portion very soon. Not pictured: Graduate Melinda Leen.

First Row: Officers Anthony Inman, Ian Quist, Jesse Molina



Second Row: Officers Quinn Cochrane, Tristan Ferreyra, Whitney Hagan





## Precinct Highlights

### **North Precinct**

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

- During the month of June, NRO Tim Schwering had 64 abandoned vehicles towed. From the start of the year, he has towed 133 vehicles. The vehicles were associated with 404 calls for service.
- In one location, neighbors were concerned about transient camps and excessive garbage behind a nearby commercial building. NRO Pavlischak contacted the owners and did a walk-through of the property. He and the owners came up with some ideas to help deter the trespassing.
- Neighbors were concerned about drug use and dealing at a residence. The NROs talked with the property owner, who stated that a guest was living in the trailer. She assured officers that the trailer would be gone in two weeks. NROs continued to monitor activity. After the problematic individual was served with a Domestic Violence Protection Order, he was removed from the property and the concerns were resolved.
- Neighbors complained about a tenant's guest who was parking abandoned vehicles all over their block. NRO Pavlischak posted warnings on six of the vehicles with no license plates and expired tabs. He came back three days later and towed four of the abandoned vehicles.

#### Crime Prevention Missions

Residents experienced a number of garage burglaries in the Nine Mile area. After beginning the hotspot patrol, officers found many neighbors were leaving their garage doors open. One officer could even see keys hanging in the garage for the vehicle in the middle of the night. The officer called the registered owner of the vehicle and left a message. NRO Cler contacted 42 neighbors about their open garages.

### **Downtown Precinct**



#### Collaboration Addressing Quality of Life Issues

Neighborhood Resource Officers have been working with multiple businesses to address trespassing and disorderly behavior. Several contacts involved subjects with outstanding warrants. Other contacts involved intoxicated subjects. In one instance, officers helped detain a naked man who was dancing in view of the restaurant's customers. In another case, an intoxicated male was blocking the business's emergency exit. He had removed several metal barricades belonging to STA from the bus stop to further barricade himself in the alcove. Officers were able to remove him from the business and provide a mental health referral for him.

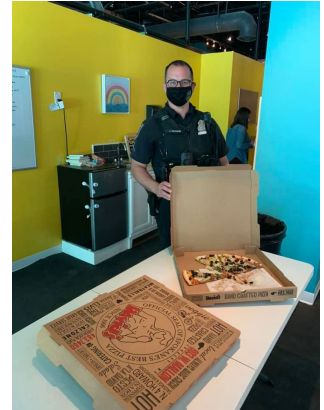
Hooptown USA courts are open at Riverfront Park!

### Crime Prevention Missions

The Downtown Precinct has been focusing on the Browne/Post/Madison Viaducts during late June and early July. They saw a reduction in calls for service and Part I crimes in the area. The new Mission is Pacific to 3rd/Browne to Spokane Street. The goal is to reduce Part I crimes (assaults in particular, which increased recently). Unfortunately, the assaults are quite spread out and difficult to target with a Mission. Precinct staff members are using high visibility patrols as a tactic. Ten electric bikes just arrived at the Downtown Precinct, and they have allowed for increased bike patrols with a focus on enforcement.

### Precinct Outreach

- Mental Health Stabilization Project team meeting
- Downtown Community Court triage meeting
- Hot spotters meeting
- Downtown security group meeting
- Spokane Treatment and Recovery Services Board meeting
- Business Improvement District Board meeting
- Salvation Army Board meeting
- Continuum of Care Board meeting
- Washington State Public Safety Review Panel meeting
- Riverside Neighborhood Council meeting



Downtown Precinct officers enjoyed getting to know youth at Lumen High School with a lunch and icebreaker event. Officer Joe Dotson is pictured above, at right. Precinct staff are also participating in the Police Activities League (PAL) and PAL Boxing this summer.

### **South Precinct**

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

- Neighborhood Resource Officers received 99 neighborhood referrals in June 2021.
- The South Precinct has been working with several nuisance properties. One property was associated with several calls for service, including a shooting. The NRO issued a Chronic Nuisance Notice. He is giving the homeowner time to respond.
- In another location, NROs have been working with neighbors to resolve various criminal issues. The owner does not live at the location and has been recently unresponsive. The property has had stolen vehicles, stolen property, guns, and drugs, and has racked up almost \$5,000.00 in citations.

### Crime Prevention Missions

- The South Precinct saw success with the Browne's Addition area mission for June. Officers saw a decrease of criminal activity, with a 44% reduction of Part I crimes. Officers documented 35 mission entries in late June, and most officers reported that the area was quiet.
- The South Precinct's mission in late June/early July is 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Avenues and Elm to Cedar. The area had been plagued with assaults, shootings, vehicle prowling, vehicle thefts, and burglaries. The goal is to reduce criminal activity by 50% over the next few weeks.



### New Staff Member at the South Precinct

Lieutenant Dave Staben is joining the South Precinct. He is standing on the right, next to Captain Arleth at a past Police Activities League event.

## Outreach Update

### Police Activities League (PAL) Summer Program



PAL bridges the gap between Spokane Police officers and youth in our community through fun and educational summer activities such as STEM, Basketball, Track, Baseball, Flag Football, and Soccer. Spokane Public Schools Summer Meal Program provides lunches each day. PAL is held at neighborhood parks in West Central, East Central, and Hillyard.

PAL engages participating youth in positive athletic and academic programs, including gang and drug intervention and prevention. It's a collaborative program of Spokane Police

Department, Spokane Parks Department, Spokane Public Schools, and many other organizations working together to supply a myriad of resources in a central location.

Please see flyer and registration form for more information.

<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/community-outreach/>



To register, please contact [SPDCommunityOutreach@spokanepolice.org](mailto:SPDCommunityOutreach@spokanepolice.org) or contact Campus Safety Specialist Ed Richardson at 509.354.5151 or [EdR@spokaneschools.org](mailto:EdR@spokaneschools.org)

PAL started on July 13 in AM Cannon Park. 80+ children participated in different sports and games. Children enjoyed had a K9 presentation, Numerica sent volunteers and popsicles, and kids and Officers connected.



### PAL Boxing



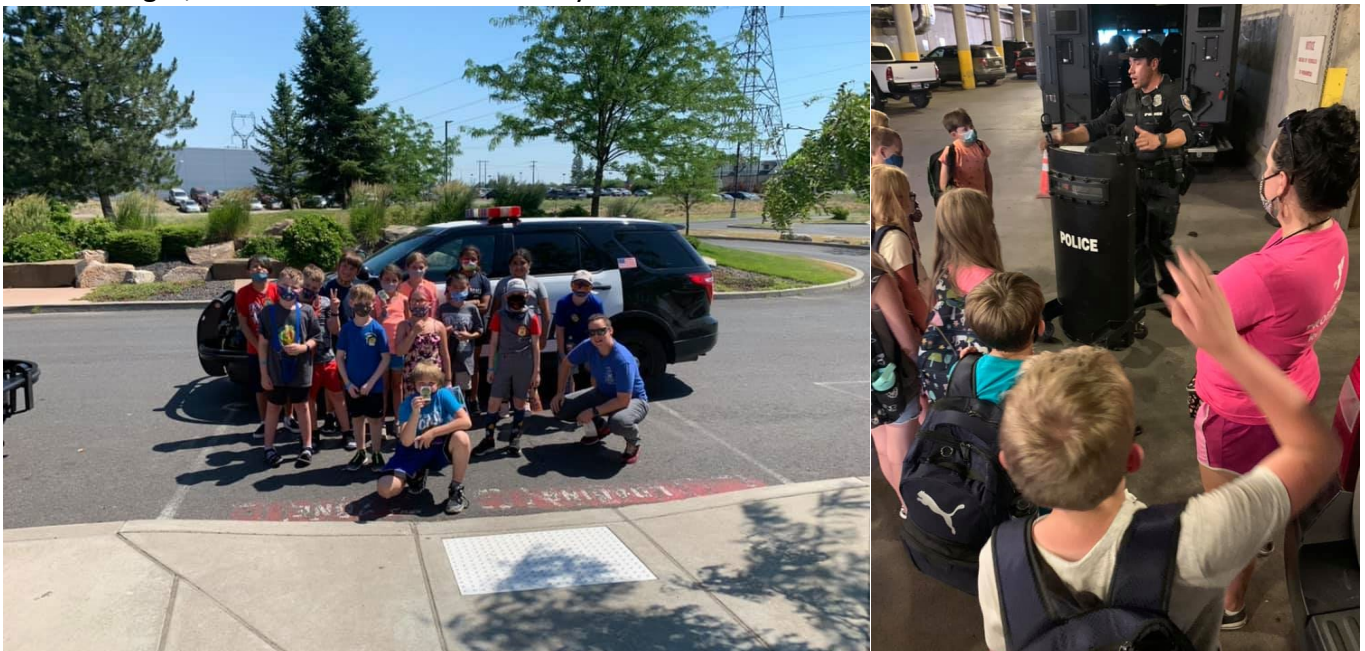
The Spokane Police Department is looking for youth who want to live their life with PASSION! Our Police Athletic League Boxing program is going strong, empowering local youth with the work ethic needed to succeed not only in sports, but in the ring of life. Middle school and High School age youth a welcome to join us at the Spokane Boxing Gym (115 S. Jefferson) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 - 4:45 pm.





### YMCA Summer Outreach

The Community Outreach Unit has been giving tours of the Public Safety Building to the youth in the YMCA summer programs. The tour includes a tour of police vehicles and discussions about safety and policing. Below at right, Officer Andres Valencia tells youth about the SWAT team.



### Spokane Police Bike Camp

The Spokane Police Bike Camp is coming up on July 21, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Pavilion at Riverfront Park. Youth will learn how to ride safely and expand riding skills with fun and challenging obstacles courses. The event concludes with a ride through Riverfront Park on Centennial Trail.

Participants must be ages 8 - 14 and must be independent riders (no training wheels, able to start/stop/control speed independently). Registration is DUE July 12th and there are only 30 spots available.

Spokane Police Foundation is supporting this event with t-shirts, water and food! For more information, see Spokane Police Foundation at <https://www.spokanepolicefoundation.org>

Below, Reserve Officer “Big Ed” Richardson conducting outreach

