



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

---

**Strategic Initiatives**  
**December 2021 Report**



**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**December 6, 2021**



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

I would like to express my sincere thanks to you and bring to your attention the assistance provided to our office by your **Public Records Specialist Mr. Michael Snell**. He was beyond helpful and prompt in his response and follow-through. On October 4, 2021, I reached out to Mr. Snell regarding concerns from a community member and their attorney about BWC footage that had been received via a Public Records Request (PRR) after being referred to him by the City Clerk's Office. The footage was heavily redacted citing an "interior of a place of residence where a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy." According to his records, the attorney who had requested the BWC footage for the community member had not identified themselves as representing the community member during the PRR process. Mr. Snell promptly provided the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPO) directions on how to move forward, which was passed along to the attorney. Once the appropriate documents were submitted, Mr. Snell quickly uploaded the BWC footage and notified the OPO and the attorney. The entire process was completed in approximately 2 days. I sincerely appreciate Mr. Snell making himself immediately available to discuss the situation, provide the answers needed, and quickly make the adjustments upon receiving the appropriate documentation. His prompt response enabled us to turn a potential concern into a customer service opportunity.

My car window was broken and backpack stolen. Every number I called was less than helpful and no one responded for an hour so I drove around the corner to the downtown station. Officer Phillips was incredible. She was professional, concerned and had another officer there in minutes. She was reassuring and put me at ease. My thanks to Officer Phillips [**Officer Alexis Phillips**].

I called in with a concern about a neighbor last week. The police arrive much more promptly than expected and the issue was resolved in a professional manner making my neighborhood safer. Calling the police is nerve wracking for me and this was a positive experience. I'm sure you all don't get thanked enough so I wanted to pass along my appreciation!

#### **[Officer Trystan Herzog]**

My next door neighbor just shot himself and the officers are so sweet. I was freaking out and they have been so nice. I had to upload footage to T. Herzog but there are more here. Please pass on the appreciation for me.

Dear Police Officers, We met officers Matt, Anthony from Faith & Blue. We looked at some durable cars and interesting equipment that you have, for the SWAT team, the Bomb Squad team. THANK YOU for protecting us citizens of Spokane County, and WA, and USA. At this difficult time, WE LOVE YOU MORE SPD!



## Internal Affairs Unit Update

### January 1 through October 31, 2021 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received:    **Total: 179**

Complaints Received:        **Total: 70 (53 from community)**

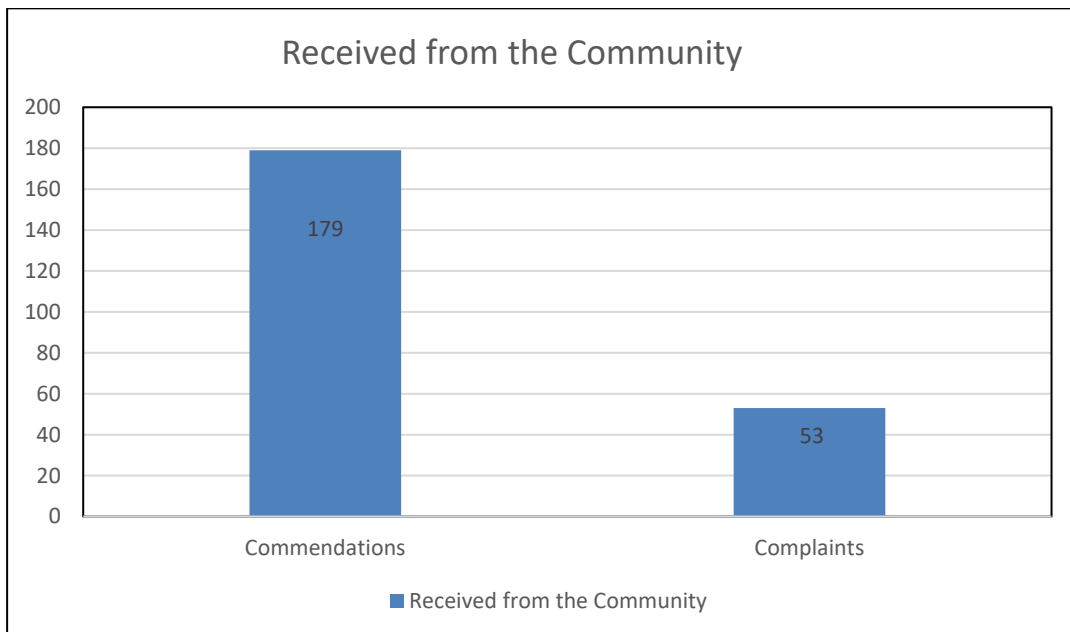
**Closed Out as Inquiries: 5 (As of October 31, 2021)**

*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 October 31, 2021

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 26</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 44</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 17</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 53</b>

As of October 31, 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- October 31, 2021, there were 59 non-deadly use of force incidents- 10 K9 contacts and 49 other (e.g., TASER).

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

From January 1- October 31, 2021, there were two deadly force incidents.

#### **Incident 2021-20002320 (Pending SPD Administrative Investigation)**

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 Spokane County Prosecutor ruled the use of deadly force justified. SPD is conducting an administrative investigation.

#### **Incident 2021-20059960 (Pending SPD Administrative Investigation)**

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 Spokane County Prosecutor ruled the use of deadly force justified. SPD is conducting an administrative investigation.

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

From January 1-December 31, 2020, there were three deadly force incidents. One is still open.

#### **Incident 2020-20160038 (Pending SPD Administrative Investigation)**

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 Spokane County Prosecutor ruled the use of deadly force justified. SPD is conducting an administrative investigation.

## **Items of Interest**

### **Sex Offenders Database on SPD's website**

Would you like information on registered sex offenders residing in the City and in Spokane County? Spokane Police Department assists the Spokane County Sheriff's Office in the dissemination of relevant information about sex offenders in the City of Spokane. For the most current information regarding sex offenders in your area, you can access the sex offender database via the City of Spokane Police Department website. Notifications regarding the presence of sex offenders in the area are made for the sole intent of protecting the public from any danger an offender may create to the public at large.



More information on offenders, including a geographic search tool, and an option to sign up for offender alerts, can be found on the website. See screen shots below.

<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/prevention/sex-offenders-database/>

[Search for Offenders in your area](#)[Register for Email Alerts](#)

**Offender Search**

[In your area](#)[Name](#)[City](#)[Non-compliant](#)

Use this search to view all published offenders within a specified radius of your home, business, school or other desired address. > [How searches work](#)

Address:  \*

City:  \*

State:  \*

Zip:  \*

Zip Plus:

Offender Address Type: ☒ Home Addresses

\* Denotes required field

Sign up for registration alerts on the site.

Address:  \* Do not enter P.O. Box

City:  \*

State:  \*

Zip:  \*

Email:  \*

Confirm Email:  \*

☒ By submitting this information, you indicate you have read our [NOTIFICATION CONTRACT](#).  
[Please also view our Privacy Policy.](#)

\*Denotes required field

By registering your address here you will receive email alerts directly from the law enforcement agency responsible for registering offenders.

To better ensure that you receive the latest information within your neighborhood, please add the following email address to your personal address book: **notifications@icrimewatch.net**

You will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours confirming your registration. If you do not receive an email confirming your registration in your inbox, it may be due to not having added **notifications@icrimewatch.net** to your contact list. If this occurs, please check your bulk or junk folders.

Please note the following:

- **Informational Only:** The Spokane Police Department has not considered or assessed the specific risk that any convicted sex offender displayed on this website will commit another offense or the nature of any future crimes that may be committed.
- **Legal Limits on Disclosures:** Only information on registered sex offenders allowed to be disclosed under Washington law appears on this website. Under state law, some registered sex offenders are not subject to public disclosure, so they are not included on this site. State law does not allow offenses other than the crimes for which the convicted sex offender is required to register to be disclosed here.
- **Mistaken Identities:** Extreme care must be taken in the use of information because mistaken identification may occur when relying solely upon name, age, and address to identify individuals.
- **Notice of Corrections:** If you believe that any information on this site is in error, please contact the Spokane Police Department at 509.625.4100.
- **Legal and Illegal Uses:** The information on this website is made available solely to protect the public. Anyone who uses this information to commit a crime or to harass an offender or his or her family is subject to criminal prosecution and civil liability.
- If you have any questions or corrections, please call 509.625.4100 or email: [eraspdweb@spokanepolice.org](mailto:eraspdweb@spokanepolice.org).

A frequently asked question is, “Do offenders have restrictions on where they can live?”

It depends on whether the offender is under supervision by the Department of Corrections, Juvenile Rehabilitation, or county probation. If offenders are under supervision, they can have certain limitations or restrictions placed on them by the Department of Corrections or the sentencing court upon their release from incarceration. These may include residency restrictions, not being around children, having a curfew, or not drinking alcohol or taking drugs. If they are found to be in violation of their restrictions, they may be sent back to jail or to prison. Offenders who have completed their time under supervision can live where they choose without restrictions. You can contact your local DOC office to inquire if an individual is still under supervision.

See more frequently asked questions here: <https://www.waspc.org/assets/SexOffenders/WSOR.pdf>

### Honorary Police Officer Ismael



Ismael is a student in the Spokane Public Schools Secondary Transition (STEP) program. Secondary Transition is a program for young adults (19-21) with disabilities which provides relevant real-life experiences through work-based learning. Ismael has been working at the Public Safety Building the past two years.

Spokane Schools reported on their Facebook page: “One of our STEP students’ dreams came true today. Ismael was sworn in as an honorary police officer. He rode around in the police car at the academy and was able to be involved in some mock scenes. He was very excited and said this was one of the best days of his life. Thanks to the Spokane Police Department for making this happen!”



## K9 Zeus Update



November 7, 2021 was a regular night off for Zeus, who ate his dinner and lay on his bed to tuck in for the night. Just a few hours later, his K9 handler Officer Todd Belitz noticed him acting sluggish and trying to vomit. Noting a swollen stomach as well, Officer Belitz rushed Zeus to Pet Emergency where Zeus underwent emergency surgery to relieve Gastric Torsion. After surgery, Zeus came out of anesthesia with a slight heart arrhythmia. He remained under watch at the clinic, as they monitored his blood platelets to ensure no clotting. After his heartbeat returned to normal, Zeus returned home with Officer Belitz.

Gastric Torsion is commonly known as Bloat. This is the dog's stomach twisting around itself and filling with gas. Zeus' stomach had twisted one and a half times.

Gastric Torsion is more common in large breed/deep chested dogs like a German Shepherd. Gastric Torsion carries a very high mortality rate- up to 60%, especially if left untreated for even a few hours. That mortality rate decreases with surgery but can stay as high as 33% with treatment. Our handlers train to provide medical care for their dogs. They practice preventative measures to include feeding multiple smaller meals, proper diet, and care to not exercise or create physical strain for the dogs after they eat.

The K9 Unit Supervisor Sergeant Nate Spiering says, "I am constantly impressed with the love and care our K9's receive from their handlers and families at home. This event came on with no warning or activity. While the medical care Zeus received was life-saving, Zeus' survival started with Todd and his family recognizing the change in behavior and acting fast."



## 2021 Life-Saving Awards



On November 4, 2021, Chief Meidl attended graveyard shift roll call to present lifesaving awards to four officers.

On June 25, 2021, Officers Trystan Herzog, Zachary Templin, Ryan Thomas, and Reserve Officer Carrie Christiansen, responded downtown to a report of a stabbing. Officers located a victim suffering from stab wounds, and immediately rendered life saving measures. On-scene medical personnel along with hospital staff, attributed the victim's survival to the officers on scene actions.

## Precinct Highlights

### North Precinct

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

- Franklin Park Mall had 56 calls for service within a two-week period. Ross, Ulta, Trader Joe's, Bed Bath and Beyond, Burlington Coat Factory, Guitar Center, Old Navy and Rite Aid have all dealt with many theft and transient issues. Officers' mission is to deter shoplifting and improve the environment for businesses and consumers. Patrol officers are helping Neighborhood Resource Officers with regular checks.

#### Property Crime Prevention and Education

The North Precinct is working with Neighborhoods on Patrol and Reserve Officers to educate residents on property crime prevention.

- Garages: Unsecured garages are a huge issue. SPD is contacting people with unsecured garages to alert them.
- Valuables: Be sure to store valuables safely... out of sight and of mind of prowlers. Toys, tools, and other valuables should be put away in the garage/shed.
- Evaluate your home's lighting. If you stand outside in your lawn, can you see the street or other homes easily?
- Landscaping: Are there overgrown hedges and bushes that allow a criminal to hide?
- Vehicles: If you park on the street, try to have it illuminated by as streetlight. Your car should be secured and locked, with no visible items inside. Consider the Club or other anti-theft devices.
- Security Cameras: a great option.
- Signage: "Under Video Surveillance" and "Block Watch" signs are deterrents.
- Vacation prevention: Make arrangements to have your walk shoveled in the winter. Have your packages picked up by family or friends. Cancel your mail and newspapers. Consider having COPS/NOPS conduct vacation checks when out of town.
- Neighbors: Get to know your neighbors and work together to look out for one another's properties.

#### North Precinct Neighborhood Resource Officer recognized as Employee of the Quarter

**Officer Tim Schwering** was nominated by his supervisors. From the letter:



"Tim joined the North Precinct in January of 2021. With him, he brought a reputation of thoroughness, relentless dedication and a passion for problem solving-during his time in patrol. He has lived up to this reputation and more. Tim has been assigned to the Logan Neighborhood in Spokane. Tim deployed himself into his neighborhood, quickly identifying areas of concern. His thoroughness to process, organization, data collection and communication skills helped him create and implement strategies that greatly improved the quality of life for those impacted by these issues.



Tim works closely with our Civil Enforcement Unit, implementing strategies that hold problem locations and people accountable. He also works closely with our business and education organizations, assisting them in crime prevention recommendations and criminal investigations.

Last April, Tim had an idea to utilize calls-for-service and crime data to identify his top problem locations. After identifying these addresses, he would deploy quality-of-life improvement and accountability tactics in hopes to lower the calls-for-service at these locations. After a four-month test run, we evaluated the impact. The results were amazing. We looked at 15 different properties where Tim utilized this strategy. We went from 211 calls-for-service per month (when combining all of the properties) down to 15. Many of these locations dropped to zero. The highest calls-for-service location during this test phase had 45 per month. After Tim's deployment, it had zero calls per month. Based on this success, we now utilize this tactic with all of our NRO's.

This out-of-the-box thinking is just one example of what Tim brings to the North precinct and SPD. He routinely calls during his days off to share concerns and, most importantly, solutions. Tim works with many other departments within the city. He coordinates street signage, tows abandoned vehicles that Parking does not get to (over 200 in 7 months), coordinates the vacating of properties that have become a haven for crime, and much more. His fresh approach has definitely helped shape north-side NRO tactics.

## **Downtown Precinct**

### Crime Prevention and Partnerships with Agencies

- The Downtown Precinct leadership recently met with the founders of Compassionate Addiction Treatment, 115 E 1st, to discuss how we can better work together in getting homeless addicts in connection with resources.
- Neighborhood Resource Officer Micah Prim recently completed a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) for the Washington Grain Commission, 2702 W Sunset.
- The Downtown Precinct is working with Spokane Transit Authority (STA) on how to improve safety at the Plaza.

### 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





Jason Green is with Kenneth Crary and Julie Garcia.

October 14 at 6:13 PM · 🌐

What a beautiful display of compassion tonight by the [City of Spokane Police Department](#).

Tonight on my way home I got a call that Jay was with a friend experiencing homelessness that has had a rough couple mental health days that if it continued was going to end her up in jail. I headed straight there, so did [Kenneth Crary](#) and [Julie Garcia](#). The SPD was onsite with Officer Plunkett, Officer Walker, and Officer Berkeley. The kindness, compassion, and empathy they were showing was outstanding. Officer Plunkett had the lead and was very familiar with this woman, he had a couple interactions in the last couple days with her. It would have been very easy for him to take a hard line approach, but he and the other officers took the harder path. They allowed us along with them to talk to our friend, from a place of love and encouragement that a mental health facility is the best place to go. It took time.

In the end she got transported to the hospital and from there can get in a longer term mental health place to get meds worked out.

Today, I am proud of our community, I am proud of our officers that took the time and saw the person, not the mental health issues.

## South Precinct

During the month of October, the South Precinct received 81 new referrals for problem addresses.

### Crime Prevention Missions

- The South Precinct has been focusing on the Cannon Hill area, due to recent burglaries and vehicle prowls. The South Precinct is teaming up with patrol to look for suspicious behavior. Officers are looking in darkened areas of parking lots, alleys, and unlit areas for suspicious persons. There have been multiple officer-initiated checks and they have found it quiet.

- The other focus area is Grandview/Thorpe, for Vehicle Prowling & Theft. The goal is to reduce vehicle prowling incidents. Officers report their activities, contacts, and arrests at the end of each shift to their supervisor.

### Spokane Resident Shoutout to Neighborhood Resource Officer Jake Willard

*I called Officer Willard NRO for help with trespassing. He's helped our neighborhood numerous times regarding homeless people camping in the woods. He always returns your calls, including yesterday. Since I had the plate number, he was able to get ahold of the individual and explain the consequences of trespassing on property that is not his.*

*Officer Willard is extremely helpful, polite, and proactive. He's a huge asset to the department and all of us neighbors hope he never leaves the Southside Cops station. We hope he gets the recognition that he deserves. We just wanted you all to know how helpful Officer Willard is.*

At right, Officer Willard is pictured in the photo. He is on the far right.



### Outreach Update

#### Recent Outreach Activities

Spokane Juvenile Court Coordination of Services

PAL Boxing

Refugee Connections

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Shopping with the Salvation Army

Northeast Community Center Coalition

Numerous Halloween celebrations

The Community Outreach Unit partners with World Relief on a regular basis. World Relief staff attended Senior Staff training on November 10, 2021 and educated SPD leadership about their organization and anticipated numbers for upcoming refugees coming to Spokane.





### Montessori School Visit

Officer Graig Butler spoke to three separate middle school classes at our local Montessori school in October. They are currently focusing on careers of service and the sciences. The teacher felt an introduction to crime scene investigations would fit well to their current topics of conversation.

### Halloween Celebrations

Isaac Foundation and Life Center Church Trunk or Treat:

Thanks to The Isaac Foundation and Life Center Church for allowing us to get spooky and creative. There were great displays and awesome costumes. Fun had by all!



### Stevens Elementary Trunk or Treat



## Halloween Fun

"Huge shoutout to Officer Zach from [City of Spokane Police Department](#) for inviting my son to check out his police car. Officer Zach asked if he wanted to turn on the lights. It was so sweet. This absolutely made my son's night."



## Drug Take-Back Event

This year's Drug Take Back event was a huge success. SPD joined in collaboration with the Shadle Prevention & Wellness Coalition on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021, in a drive-thru event to drop off unused and unwanted medications. We collected 137 pounds of medication for destruction. We will be doing another Drug Take Back in the spring of 2022.

## PAL Boxing

PAL Boxing is back in full effect! We meet every Tuesday at the Spokane Boxing Club (115 S. Jefferson) from 3:00-4:30 pm. We welcome youth between the ages of 12-17. We'd love to have them down to get a workout in with our officers! Please reach out to [spdcommunityoutreach@spokanepolice.org](mailto:spdcommunityoutreach@spokanepolice.org) for more information.

