



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
January 2021 Report

Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
January 4, 2021

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





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendations

We want to recognize Spokane Police Department's **PACT team**, including **Corporal Shane Oien** and five other officers, for their exemplary service to our business. Suspects broke into our warehouse and stole several items from the landscaping department including a landscaping truck, trailer, mowers, trimmers, blowers and several other tools. The total value of the property taken was well over \$40K. We compiled all the information relating to the burglary along with GPS tracking records on the truck. We were able to track our stolen truck to several locations. We called Crime Check and reported the burglary. All the information was given to Corporal Oien and the PACT team. The officers followed up on every lead along with the GPS tracking records. They quickly recovered the stolen truck and trailer. Most of the tools and equipment were also recovered. Corporal Shane and the PACT team did not stop there. They continued to search for the suspect or suspects who committed the burglary and followed up on more leads. Corporal Shane and the PACT team located and arrested the suspect. The suspect was booked into the Spokane County jail for Burglary, 1st degree Theft, and Theft of a Motor Vehicle. We are incredibly grateful for the Spokane Police Department PACT team. Excellent service and outstanding police work.

I am writing to say thank you to **Officer [Dale] Wells**. He was open and transparent in his communication. He successfully dealt with the homeless issues near me. When problems occur, we can count on SPD and Officer Wells.

I want to make sure that **Officer Trevor Nollmeyer** knows how much I appreciated all of his help and for his kindness. He responded to my accident at Browne/Pacific. He was so nice, so friendly, and so professional. He gave me all of the necessary information and explained everything to me. I appreciate all of his kindness and wish him the best in his career.

[Officers Austin Neale and Zachary Templin]

I appreciate the response of officers who responded to the report of my elderly father who suffers from dementia, who was destroying property and potentially endangering family members. I want to express my extreme gratitude and respect for the way the officers handled the situation and interacted with my family. I was very impressed with their actions and professionalism. Their response really changed my impression of the Spokane Police Department in a positive way.

While I wasn't especially excited about receiving a citation, **Officer [Dean] Draper's** demeanor was relaxed, kind, and professional... it's a personality that is great to see in our public servants.





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through November 30, 2020 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 391**

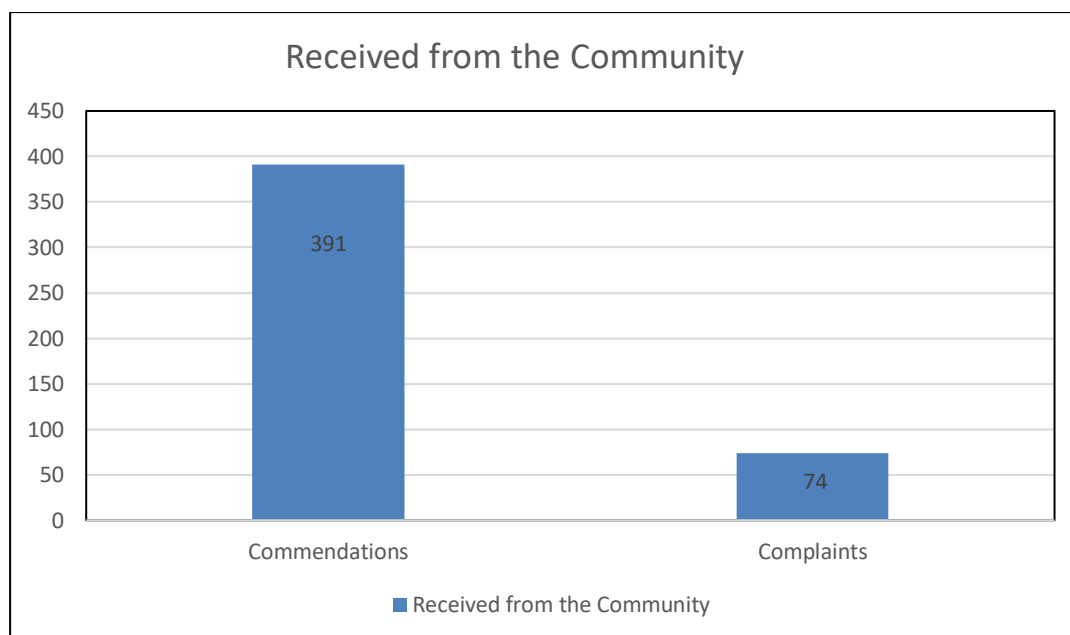
Complaints Received: **Total: 83 (74 from community)**

Closed Out as Inquiries: 11 (As of November 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 November 30, 2020

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 44
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 39
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 9
Generated by the Community	Total: 74





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Use of Force Update

2020 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-November 30, 2020, there were 60 non-deadly use of force incidents- 9 K9 contacts and 51 other (e.g., TASER, Level I lateral neck restraint).

2020 Deadly Force Incidents (Officer-Involved Shootings)

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

Incident 2020-20136616 (Prosecutor 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 and the case is with the Prosecutor.

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 November 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 9th. The Spokane Investigative Regional Response Team (SIRR) criminal investigation is complete. The County Prosecutor ruled the use of





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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 (SIIR) 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

Behavioral Health Unit Update

Officers from the Spokane Police Department and Deputies from the Spokane County Sheriff's Office and Spokane Valley Police Department co-deploy with clinicians from Frontier Behavioral Health to assist people experiencing a "crisis" within our community. A "crisis contact" is described as a person who is experiencing increased emotion and decreased reasoning.

The Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) continued to successfully divert people in crisis from jails and hospitals in November. The unit had 151 crisis contacts and relieved patrol of 245 calls, a saving of 152 hours for patrol. 75% of the contacts had an outcome other than jail or hospitalization. 22.5% were emergently detained, 57.4% of contacts resulted in a referral, and 8.1% were diverted from an arrestable offense or the hospital. Only 0.48% were arrested and there was zero use of force beyond handcuffing.

BHU contacts are generally multi-layered and require substantial time and effort by officers and clinicians as noted in the following incidents:

Patrol officers responded to a bipolar male who was becoming very delusional, and threatening family members on a regular basis. He was starting to escalate in his threatening behavior and consumption of alcohol. He would routinely get heavily intoxicated and flee the house prior to police arriving. The BHU detained him early in the month due to his delusional state and increase in substance abuse. He fled the emergency room because there were no secured rooms available. He was detained again within 24 hours with similar concerns. During a 14-day commitment, he was very violent with others and threatened staff. During this time, he turned voluntary and left the facility.

The male continued to escalate in his behavior, stating he had bombs placed in California, Nevada, and New York. As a result, he was evaluated two more times. Each time he would present himself very well with baseline behavior and put on a "show", being very deceptive with evaluators. Throughout a weeks' time, the male would come and go from his residence heavily intoxicated, threatening his family and then leaving





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immediately. This placed the community at great risk with him being on the roadways in such a condition. Also during this time, the male threatened to bomb a local business. During an investigation, it was determined probable cause to arrest existed. The male was arrested for Threats to Bomb person/property and booked into jail. At jail he was evaluated a third time. The BHU coordinated efforts between federal law enforcement agencies and local agencies to ensure the mental health experts had all the pertinent and historical information needed for the evaluation. Once released from jail, he was transported to a local hospital where he was detained for further evaluation.

BHU continues to work with all partners throughout the community and constantly looks at ways to improve response and service.

KHQ recently featured the success of the Behavioral Health Unit:

Spokane Behavioral Health Units sees increase of crisis calls in November, helps divert people from jails and hospitals

https://www.khq.com/news/spokane-behavioral-health-units-sees-increase-of-crisis-calls-in-november-helps-divert-people-from/article_6c72c8e0-39b5-11eb-82a3-3b5699e1202f.html

Precinct Highlights

South Precinct

Crime Prevention Missions

South Precinct officers were happy to find out the results of one of their crime prevention missions from 2019. They learned that a community member who had been a prolific burglar was now on the right track. In 2019, due to his multiple burglaries on the South Hill, the South Precinct and patrol team had made apprehending him a special mission. During that time, the patrol team stopped by his house many times and checked in with his family. He was committing the burglaries to support his drug habit, and the family was having a very hard time. The patrol team found him and arrested him. In 2020, they encountered him and learned that he was sober and raising his daughter. He said the arrest was what got him cleaned up. He thanked patrol Officers Cole Stanley and Jordan Schott.

Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents Addressing Quality of Life Issues

- Neighborhood Resource Officers are working on affidavits for abatement on five separate nuisance properties.
- NROs have fully abated these nuisance properties:
 - 3100 block of S. Mt Vernon St
 - 3500 block of E. Hartson Ave
 - 1800 block of E. 16th Avenue





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- Patrol and NROs are working together on two other problem locations that have surfaced recently, one in East Central Neighborhood and one in the South Perry Neighborhood.

Community Engagement

- The Precinct worked with multiple businesses in the South Perry Neighborhood to sign on as foundational members of SPDs newly implemented Safe Place Program. The program accepts businesses who volunteer and commit to offering a safe place for victims of crime, notably hate crime, to report and wait for police response.
- Participated in the Salvation Army/JC Penney Clothe-A-Child Event: Officers helped disadvantaged youth shop for winter clothing.
- Attended Neighborhood Council Meetings by Zoom to stay connected with neighborhoods regarding concerns, crime trends, and important information that is neighborhood-specific.

North Precinct

Crime Prevention Missions

- Hill N Dale Park focus: The North Precinct staff members have received several complaints about people violating the park rules by being in the park after hours (city parks are closed from 10pm-6am) and camping in the park. Those actions are grounds to trespass an individual from the park. Then if they choose to violate the trespass notice, they can be arrested for trespassing. This is an active and ongoing issue due to the amount of complaints from the neighborhood. NROs note that they are constantly offering resource guides, suggesting shelter use, and offering transportation to a shelter via Jewels Helping Hands. Several people took the resource guides, but continued to camp in the park and on other private properties nearby. Only one individual accepted the offer for a ride. NROs provided a list of approximately 15 individuals who are frequently found violating park rules or trespassing on private property to the service providers associated with Community Court.
- Another focus area was on the 800 block of East Rosewood. The NRO worked closely with the PACT team, after developing information that there was suspicious behavior occurring at East Rosewood and extending into the Zips Mini Storage. The PACT team recovered an occupied stolen vehicle on Rosewood and a few weeks later gathered information that linked a construction site burglary with the storage unit. This burglary involved over \$15,000 worth of stolen property.

Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents Addressing Quality of Life Issues

North Precinct NROs are working with neighborhood residents on dozens of nuisance properties. In one location, the problem tenants moved out but caused all kinds of problems when they moved, dumping property and throwing rocks at the neighbors. The NRO arrested him for violating the anti-harassment order and issued him citations for nuisance and illegal dumping. The suspect kept coming back and harassing the





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neighbors, so patrol developed probable cause to arrest him again. The NRO assisted with the criminal case.

Another location experienced issues with problematic transients. Chas Clinic/Christ Kitchen and neighbors nearby complained of transients sleeping at the Chas Clinic then going out into the neighborhood causing trouble such as trespassing, malicious mischief, leaving gates open, using power, etc. The NRO met with the managers of CHAS and Christ Kitchen. Both expressed concerns about transients who will not leave and transients who leave but come back the next night. The NRO conducted a quick CPTED and made a few suggestions. He trespassed two people who had both caused many problems in the area. Within a few weeks, three out of four of the suspects had been trespassed and arrested for violating the trespass order.

In another location, neighbors complained about drugs and nuisance issues caused by the adult son of the owner. The NRO worked with the owner in the Chronic Nuisance process. As a result, the owner removed the two problem tenants, but chose to leave two others in the house. The NRO felt it would be the end of the problems with the residence. If problems continue, he had the option of a formal eviction and citing the remaining tenants.

One residence generated prolific nuisance complaints. The NRO had both the owner and problem tenant sign the Abatement Agreement. The owner is in the process of evicting the tenant with drug use and nuisance as basis for eviction.

In another location, neighbors complained of squatters, nuisance issues, and drug trafficking. The NRO worked with the Department of Corrections to remove renter. He also worked with the owner and her attorney to clear the house and turn control over to the owner.

Downtown Precinct

The Precinct is adding four more Neighborhood Resource Officers and a sergeant next year. DTP is also planning on adding two additional Behavioral Health Unit officers next year.

Crime Prevention Missions

- The previous mission was at Sprague-3rd/Division-Browne with a focus on commercial burglaries and robbery. Officers used boot and bike patrols (weather permitting) for special enforcement. Officers have been making some great arrests and gathering useful intelligence. The enforcement is having a positive impact on our burglary numbers. We have seen a 100% reduction in residential burglary for the past month and a 67% drop in commercial burglary.
- The new mission is foot patrols at River Park Square. Officers will maintain a visual presence to keep shoppers safe and deter property crime. Patrols will include the parking garage to deter vehicle prowling.





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Outreach Update

Outreach at the Evergreen Club:



Over the past two years, Officer Graig Butler has had the privilege of developing relationships with members and staff of the Evergreen Club. The Evergreen Club is a program within Frontier Behavioral Health that provides community to adult residents of Spokane living with mental health disorders. The Evergreen Club is a fully accredited, internationally recognized clubhouse that operates around a Day Support model to encourage those seeking resources such as employment, housing and daily living activities. Most importantly, it helps members develop meaningful relationships.

With members unable to gather in person to celebrate Thanksgiving this year, Officer Butler delivered Thanksgiving meals this week to members. It was great to reconnect with some folks and to make new connections. The Spokane Police Department greatly values its relationship with Frontier Behavioral Health and recognizes the importance of the collaborative effort our two agencies undertake daily, to make our community a safer and healthier place to live.

Coat Donations:

Spokane area Retired Educators Association donated about 50 new coats, hats, and gloves to the Spokane Police Department. These items will go to some families who have been adopted by SPD for Christmas and some to Patrol to give out where they see the need.





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Follow Up with YPI Graduates:



Many people do not know the efforts our SPD Community Outreach Unit makes every day with the youth of our Spokane community. They continually follow up with many youth that they have met through different programs with which they are involved. The Spokane Police Foundation provides resources in these times of COVID and restrictions, for the officers to meet one on one with youth, taking them to lunch or coffee. The officers continue to reach out, hoping to make a difference and hoping to continue to build bridges.

A few weeks ago Ofc. Butler got a chance to catch up over lunch with a former YPI student, Dayzon. Dayzon has was a recent transplant to Spokane when he and Ofc. Butler met in late 2018. He has since bounced back and forth between his hometown and Spokane. With the support of a local business owner, Dayzon is now making great strides to better himself. He has gotten his GED, is taking on leadership roles at a local gym and will be beginning at SCC this winter. Keep up the hard work, Dayzon!





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Clothe a Child

SPD partnered once again with the Salvation Army for the annual Clothe a Child event. The groups are smaller due to CV19 so the department had several shopping sessions with kids. Thank you to Spokane Police, Salvation Army, and JC Penney. This year more than ever this was a huge blessing to some of our kiddos here in Spokane.

Below, Assistant Chief Justin Lundgren, Lieutenant Steve Wohl and Officer John Yen with participants.



Adopt a Family Christmas program

The Community Outreach team is working with community members to select families and then adopt those families to SPD employees. This program is joint effort between Spokane Police Officers/teams/units/civilian employees and the Spokane Police Foundation. Officers reached out to school counselors, Partners with Families and Children, Lutheran Community Services Northwest and World Relief to locate families in need.

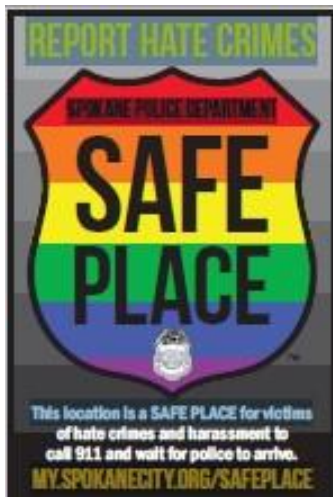


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Safe Place Program Update:



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 added 17 locations through Frontier Behavioral Health to the Safe Place Program. The South Precinct worked with multiple businesses in the South Perry Neighborhood to sign on as foundational members of SPD's newly implemented Safe Place Program.

Other Notable Outreach:

- Adding 17 locations through Frontier Behavioral Health to the Safe Place Program.
- Shadle Wellness Coalition's monthly meeting.
- West Central Wellness Coalition's monthly meeting.
- Northeast Coalition's monthly meeting.
- Helping with Community Court at the East Central Community Center.
- Participating in an online training twice a week entitled "Connecting Youth & Communities with Law Enforcement" (CYCLE) trainings.
- Connecting families with community resources to aid with food insecurities and increase in family disputes – connecting with resources. Officers delivered food to two families in need on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Officer DeRuwe checks in on YPI graduates to see what their needs are.
- Helping with World Relief Food Distribution from 2nd Harvest. On two occasions, we helped World Relief with their weekly food distribution. The second occasion was the day before Thanksgiving. We helped distribute boxes of food to approximately 150 families. Many of these families are part of the Latinx community in Spokane.
- Attending a Spokane Montessori School class of seventh graders to discuss justice issues.
- Facilitating a lunch meeting with a juvenile probation student and his mother. Originally, the student, who was arrested at a protest this summer, was going to watch Tactical Team training. However, the training was canceled due to COVID-19.
- Ringing the bell for Salvation Army (Nov 19) at River Park Square.





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- Visiting with a child with a sensory disorder. It was an opportunity to connect with a member of our community who has special needs and may need police services someday.

Notable News

KREM featured a story about SPD retrieving stolen Christmas trees. It became national news and was promoted by NBC and MSN. The owner wanted to donate 50 trees to first responders, and the officers delivered the trees to needy families.

Spokane police catch real-life Grinch who stole 50 Christmas trees from hardware store

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/spokane-police-catch-real-life-grinch-who-stole-50-christmas-trees-from-hardware-store/ar-BB1bs1Ta>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/the-grinch-who-couldn-t-steal-christmas-97193541969>

