



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
March 2021 Report

Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
March 1, 2021

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





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendations

I just wanted to send a quick note to give Kudos to two of your Dispatch team. Tonight we had a vehicle theft occur in our jurisdiction, and we quickly discovered that a two-year-old child was in the back seat of the car. Naturally, this set off an escalated response, due to the threat of harm to the child. As you can imagine, it was quite chaotic. Dispatchers **Scott Leslie** and **Trevor Berg** made calls to outside agencies to expedite the dissemination of information. They also dug for information related to the call. They are both consistently helpful and courteous, and very easy to work with. I appreciate their teamwork and professionalism.

On January 13, my husband and I were involved in a car accident Downtown. A group of young people abruptly turned left just in front of us while they were in the middle no-turn lane....and we collided. **Officer Daniel Valencia** responded. Thankfully, everyone was OK... just sore from the collision. We live 100 miles away and were stranded. Our car was only drivable a couple of blocks, and their car was not drivable. Officer Valencia filed the case number. He was VERY PATIENT and made us all feel like we MATTERED. Officer Valencia looked at PEMCO's list of collision specialists and escorted us to the shop. He then took us to Enterprise Rental, a few blocks away from the collision specialist and waited until HE knew we were going to be able to get home safely. January 13 was the wind advisory day that the power was out and many stoplights were out. This made it even more difficult to drive downtown, and Officer Daniel's compassion was reassuring to both of us.

[SPD Academy, Community Outreach, Internal Affairs]

The staff at Arlington Elementary School want to thank you for helping so many of our families enjoy a blessed Christmas. This would not have happened without your incredibly generous support. You answered our prayers with resounding love and generosity by helping families and children benefit from your selflessness and kindness. Because of you, many children were able to enjoy the joy and peace of a traditional Christmas season.

I wanted to thank you for all that you've done for me and my family, helping me get into treatment during COVID. If it weren't for you, I wouldn't even know about this place. I'm staying clean and working, and I'm so grateful for your help.

Several of your patrol officers are very proactive and reach out to me (for STCU related) and other financial institutions working situations and cases... **Officers Eckersley and Schwering**, to name a few.

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Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1-31, 2021 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 22**

Complaints Received: **Total: 3 (2 from community)**

Source of Complaints—January 1-31, 2021

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 0
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 3
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 1
Generated by the Community	Total: 2

January 1 through December 31, 2020 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 411**

Complaints Received: **Total: 91 (80 from community)**

Closed Out as Inquiries: 11 (As of December 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 Complaints—January 1 through December 31, 2020

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 49
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 42
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 11
Generated by the Community	Total: 80

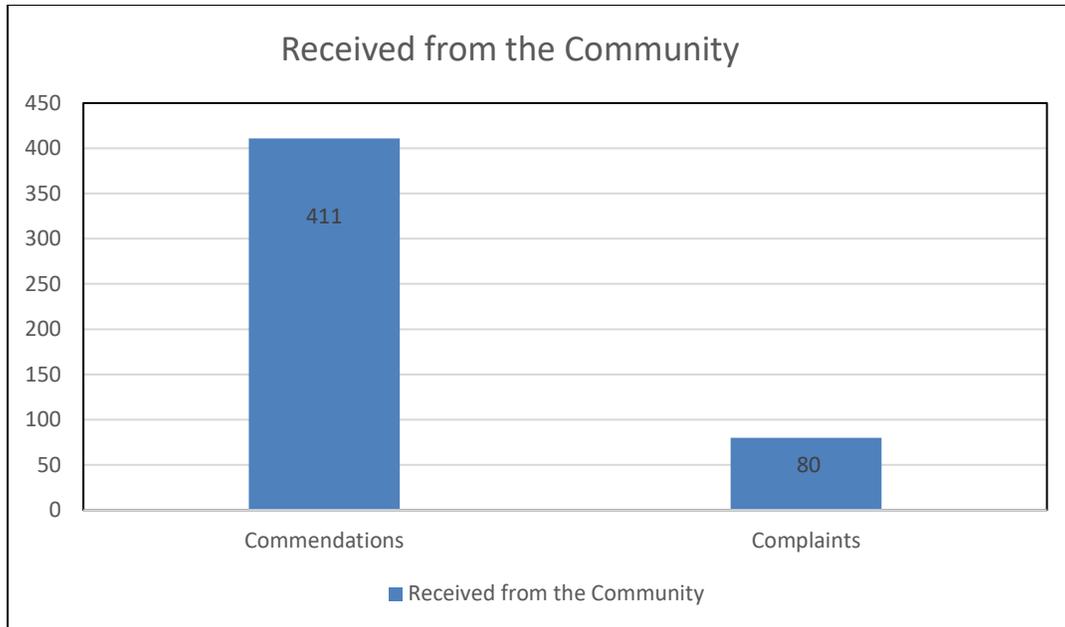




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Use of Force Update

2021 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-January 31, 2021, there were 5 non-deadly use of force incidents- 0 K9 contacts and 5 other (e.g., TASER, Level I lateral neck restraint).

2020 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1-December 31, 2020, there were 71 non-deadly use of force incidents- 12 K9 contacts and 59 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.





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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

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

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

Recruiting and Hiring

One of our strategic measures as an agency is to develop and retain a qualified, diverse workforce. We are making efforts to promote a more diverse workforce through diversifying our recruitment material, targeting diverse groups on college campuses, and through interacting with diverse groups in our community through our community outreach program.

Our recruiting efforts over the past year have consisted of reaching out to multiple universities to include Spokane Community College, Spokane Falls Community College, Whitworth University, Eastern Washington University and Washington State University. We are also consistently attending and hosting free Public Safety Tests.

Officer Graig Butler has been pivotal in using his role with Community Outreach in connecting with all segments of our community and pushing our efforts as an agency to diversify our workforce. Officer Butler has conducted both in-person and ZOOM calls/meetings with students of the Criminal Justice Program at SCC and WSU over the past year. He also attended a job fair at UI and WSU in 2019.

His name, email, and number are posted to the city's website as the recruiting officer. He regularly receives calls or emails each week from interested entry-level or lateral applicants who have specific questions. From 2019-2020, he attended four Public Safety Test testing dates in Burien to recruit entry-level applicants at the test. The pool of candidates testing there was very diverse, far more so than here in Spokane. Officer Butler made concerted efforts to seek out qualified minority and female candidates at these events. Since the COVID era, he has attended each of the PST testing dates here in Spokane, either at the SPD Academy or the Sherriff's Training Center.

At Burien and here locally, Officer Butler has been able to stand in front of the large group of potential applicants and explain why SPD is a quality organization. He has also been able to have one-on-one conversations with individual applicants. He offers to meet with them in person or by phone to discuss interview strategies and prepare them to put their best foot forward in the application process. He believes that every applicant can benefit from some individual attention if they so desire it. Quite a few of the applicants who have received his business card or interacted with at the testing events have reached out to take him up on his offer for later contact.





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Applicants from 01/01/20 to 02/04/21:

Total number of applicants: 490

Gender: 422 males, 58 females, 10 unknown gender

- 18 African American males
- 3 African American females
- 2 Native American males
- 2 Native American females
- 21 Asian males
- 4 Asian females
- 50 Hispanic males
- 4 Hispanic females
- 5 Hawaiian or Pacific Islander males
- 0 Hawaiian or Pacific Islander females
- 300 Caucasian males
- 38 Caucasian females
- 26 two or more race males
- 7 two or more race females
- 10 Unknown gender

Number of individuals forwarded to Civil Service after no-shows or PST failures: 434

Gender: 383 males, 50 females, 1 unknown.

- 9 African American males
- 3 African American females
- 2 Native American males
- 2 Native American females
- 19 Asian males
- 1 Asian female
- 44 Hispanic males
- 4 Hispanic females
- 5 Hawaiian or Pacific Islander males
- 0 Hawaiian or Pacific Islander females
- 280 Caucasian males
- 34 Caucasian females
- 24 two or more race males
- 6 two or more race females
- 1 unknown gender.





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Police Advisory Committee (PAC) Member Roger Moses Retires



Roger Moses is retiring from SPD's Police Advisory Committee - PAC - after serving for the past 20 years. He served under four Chiefs and several Interim Chiefs and has offered advice and a listening ear on a myriad of topics. Roger was recruited by former Police Chief Roger Bragdon in 2001 as Bragdon sought to expand the make-up of the PAC and recruited Roger, a Native American and Spokane

Tribal member. Roger says he enjoyed being a bridge between the police department and the Native community and saw a lot of growth in the relationship between the two. Roger understood the value of the relationship and worked to improve it including through his involvement in training SPD employees on Native culture. Building cultural bridges can be challenging but Roger says it's important and as a PAC member he always tried to look through the lens of everyone. He feels it's important to volunteer because it can build community and unity. Roger, who has worked as a Tribal Fish and Game Officer, a Tribal Police Officer, taught school equity classes, and most recently held various jobs in private security, is stepping down from PAC because of a promotion at his work that brings with it more responsibility. PAC is better for Roger's 20 years of volunteer service.

Precinct Highlights

North Precinct

Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents Addressing Quality of Life Issues

- One location involved 77 calls for service. Neighbors reported narcotics being sold out of the residence and chronic nuisance activity. The NRO executed a search warrant on the residence and recovered heroin and methamphetamine. He served a Chronic Nuisance Notice on the property owners, bank, and tenant. He will enter into an abatement agreement with the tenant and homeowners.





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- In one location, neighbors complained about stolen vehicles and drug activity. There were numerous code violation complaints of people living in RV's in the back yard and debris everywhere. The NRO issued a chronic nuisance notice (CNN). Code enforcement has several active complaints and are currently looking at criminal action as well. When the owner did not respond to the CNN, he issued tickets for failing to respond to CNN and failing to enter into abatement agreement. Code enforcement issued multiple infractions.
- In another empty location, frequented by squatters, neighbors reported multiple assaults and drug activity. The NRO made an arrest of a squatter who had entered despite the house being boarded up. The NRO is working with the homeowner, who plans to sell the house.
- One location involved an ongoing issue with an elderly renter who had allowed other people to live in the residence and they were taking advantage of her. Neighbors had reported drug and other criminal activity. The owner, Adult Protective Services, and the NRO worked together to remove the other individuals. The owner is currently cleaning out the house. He has removed seven large dumpsters and multiple vehicles from the property.
- One location involved 112 calls for service. Neighbors complained of drug activity at the location. The NRO contacted the new owner of the property, who inherited several problem properties. The NRO assisted in the confirming the residents has moved out of the location. There have not been any more problems since.
- Tim Schwering, a new Neighborhood Resource Officer, worked closely with Gonzaga University on a nuisance residence. Officer Schwering worked with the owners and renters resolve the issue quickly. Becky Wilkey, Director of Campus Security and Public Safety, wrote, "Officer Tim is a ROCKSTAR!"

South Precinct



The South Precinct Welcomes New Captain

Captain Brad Arleth, formerly the Investigations Captain, became the South Precinct Captain in January. Captain Arleth has served as the Downtown Precinct Captain. He is pictured at left.

Crime Prevention Missions

- Garry Park with the goal of reducing Part I crimes by 50%.
- South Riverton to Sharp/South Riverton to Stone: A focus on residential and garage burglaries, vehicle prowls, vehicle thefts, assaults, and shootings.





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Downtown Precinct

New Officers

The Precinct added a new sergeant, Sergeant Craig Hamilton. He is pictured below.



The Precinct added and four Neighborhood Resource Officers:

- Tyler Heiman
- Chris Lesser
- Timothy Marquez
- Karl Richardson

The addition of our four new NROs has made a huge positive impact. The Precinct has been able to conduct foot and/or bike patrols on a daily basis, which has led to a lot a great contacts with the public and businesses.

The Downtown Precinct is adding two additional Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) officers. Officer Daniel Strassenberg recently joined the BHU.

Downtown Precinct Officers test E-bikes while patrolling downtown Spokane.

Recently, Spokane Police officers working out of the Downtown Precinct (DTP) were able to test and evaluate E-bikes for patrol. Bulls Bikes graciously loaned several Sentinel E-bikes to the department for our officers to experience the benefits over a traditional pedal powered mountain bike. Immediately officers realized the impact these bikes had on response times, their lack of fatigue and overall E-bike performance benefit. The bikes are pedal assist and do not have a throttle. They are plugged into a standard outlet to recharge.

This month, SPD added four officers to work out of the DTP with an emphasis on increased presence and crime prevention. Bicycle patrol is a great way to increase presence and visibility while adding an enhanced method of reducing and preventing crime. With the level of traffic and foot congestion in the downtown core, maneuvering in a car can be challenging for those calls requiring a quick response. The E-bikes provide the ability to utilize more methods for police response, while also increasing the ability for our officers to interact with the public.

Officers have found the E-bikes allow them to respond to calls for assistance at speeds up to 28 mph while patrolling in the downtown business district, Riverfront Park, the Centennial Trail, the University District and Browne's Addition. Officers on these bikes arrive on scene without exhaustion, which benefits both them and the community. E-bikes can replace their patrol cars for nearly nine months of the year meaning less use of patrol cars.





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On January 20, 2021, DTP bike officers were assisting on a call in the area of 1400 W. 2nd Avenue when a report came in of a person being pistol whipped and having a firearm pointed at them in the area of 1000 W. 1st Avenue. The bike officers responded and were able to arrive on scene right after the first patrol officer. Body-worn-camera footage of their response can be seen in the following link.

https://spokane-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/jobrien_spokanepolice_org/EUI1z6rReZFCnL24cFTL8bsB4Y2LfbZld_V5VJTIKQgDvQ?e=1wuYI2

During this month-long test phase, officer feedback regarding the use of E-bikes and their benefit to the community was very positive. Not only do the E-bikes reduce carbon pollution, they also allow SPD to increase officer visibility in the downtown area while providing excellent police service. The City of Spokane is currently evaluating fleet needs in a number of departments and at this time there is no plan to purchase the E-bikes.

Crime Prevention Missions

- The new mission is around the area of 2nd-3rd Avenues between Wall and Post Street, in response to recent crimes including burglary, assault, and malicious mischief. This area includes the Collins (204 S Wall) which generated dozens of calls for service and serious crimes recently. Officers have already conducted a special enforcement at the building and completed a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment.
- Officers have been contacting people in the viaducts who are interfering with pedestrian and vehicle traffic, and have made multiple arrests of people with outstanding warrants.

Outreach Update

World Relief



The Community Outreach team received a donation of 60 quilts made by retired Spokane Police Chaplain Beth Wilson and her friends. Our friends at World Relief routinely welcome new families into our community. At times, these new members of our community arrive with children and little more than what they could carry. World Relief gladly accepted these quilts to share with the young children who need them. Sergeant Schneider also met with the coordinator at World Relief about potential collaboration with the LatinX community.





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Hoodie Project

Spokane Public Schools created a Hoodie Project that was to inspire students and families from Title I schools to pursue college or some form of higher education. The Spokane Police Foundation donated to this cause and provided a college branded hooded sweatshirt with the Spokane Police Department's PAL/YPI logo to fifth graders at Lidgerwood Elementary. Community Outreach's Sergeant Schneider and Officer Butler delivered the sweatshirts to the fifth graders, along with the Spokane Police Foundation and EWU.



Reconnecting with YPI Youth



One of the young men who attended YPI a year ago recently turned 16! Continuing their relationship with the YPI youth is important and Community Outreach was able to attend his drive by birthday party, thanks to an invite from his mother.

Furniture Delivery

The Community Outreach Unit started January by delivering furniture to one of our adopted Christmas families. The plan had been to deliver the furniture the week following Christmas but the snow caused a delay.

Training

The Community Outreach Unit participated in a "Youth Engagement in Tobacco Control: Getting Started" training. The webinar, led by CADCA's professional youth trainers, is grounded in the CDC's Youth Engagement in Tobacco Prevention and Control Best Practices User Guide. The training outlines a solid foundation for an authentic and equitable youth program focused on achieving population-level change in tobacco- and other substance abuse prevention efforts.

Sergeant Schneider attended the "Hidden in Plain Sight" virtual workshop.

Indicators of teen drug use, mental health concerns, unhealthy relationships, human trafficking and other risk factors can be hidden in plain sight, but easy for parents and other adults to miss. The training provides information on current trends, how to increase protective factors and understand risk factors, as well as tips for talking to youth about these important issues. The training gives a virtual walk through of the teen room, which contains 70+ items that can indicate problems or risky behaviors. A presentation and discussion covered:

- Identification and discussion of items and how they may indicate problem or risky behaviors.
- Popular local youth trends backed up with local data.
- Tools to help navigate the teen years and discussion points for family conversations.

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Safe Place Promotion

Sergeant Schneider was on KYRS radio to promote the Safe Place Program. He talked on a show called “Can You Queer Me Now” about the program.

Meetings

- The Community Outreach Unit attended the monthly meetings for the West Central Wellness Partnership, the Shadle Prevention and Wellness Coalition, and the Northeast Support Team (NEST).
- Sergeant Schneider met with the coordinator for the West Central Coalition to collaborate on activities this year.
- Sergeant Schneider met with the CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest. SPD will be launching a new program where police officers are the Big Brothers and Big Sisters for kids in the community. It is called “Bigs in Blue” and should be up and running by the end of February.
- Officer Butler participated in the Continuum of Service (COS) through Spokane Juvenile Court. It is a follow-up meeting to help offenders and parents with resources and support.

Other Outreach Highlights

- Officer Butler participated in the casket watch for the Kalispel Tribal Police officer who passed away.
- Officer Butler, Officer Plunkett, and Officer Richardson participated in the One Chip Challenge. It is a hot chip eating challenge to raise money for the Wishing Star Foundation. They raised over \$1,500.00.

Notable News

Spokane Police looks to electronic bikes to improve response times downtown

https://www.khq.com/news/spokane-police-looks-to-electronic-bikes-to-improve-response-times-downtown/article_7a4ef58e-62ae-11eb-b813-fb07fc5378d0.html

