



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
November 2021 Report



Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
November 1, 2021

Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendations

I wanted to take the opportunity to point out the exceptional efforts of **Officer Ethan Wilke**. The Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney's Office recently completed the successful prosecution of a defendant. The case against the defendant was based on a domestic assault by strangulation and harassment incident to which Officer Wilke was assigned. The exceptional work done by Officer Wilke was a primary reason that the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney's Office could successfully hold the defendant accountable and have his case brought to justice. It was necessary to rely on Officer Wilke to participate in court proceedings and witness meetings where, under normal circumstances, there would be no need. Officer Wilke consistently made himself available whenever asked and did so with an entirely positive and enthusiastic attitude. Officer Wilke participated in the litigation of this matter extensively. Officer Wilke's participation and testimony were important at trial, where he sat as the State's designated agent, assisted with the jury selection process, testified effectively, and even served the victim with a subpoena in open court when the victim made an unexpected appearance. It is due to such exceptional efforts that the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney's Office can achieve successes such as this in the fight against domestic violence. Therefore, I would like to commend Officer Wilke for his efforts and commend the Spokane Police Department for its continuing support.

[Officers Stone, Donaldson, Zimmerman, McLucas, Brearty, D. Lesser.]

I just want to thank the officers who responded to Chief Garry Park the evening of 8-26-21 to a disturbance during movie night, approx. 9:30pm. They deescalated the situation very well which involved a machete. I know they don't get thanked enough, we are grateful for their professional response.

Just wanted to pass along a note of thanks to a couple of your downtown bike patrol officers. I was sitting in our condo's courtyard around 7:00 this past Monday evening when one of your officers rode his bike through our open garage door, through the garage and into the courtyard. He said he was concerned about the open doors and just wanted to check to make sure everything was fine. I explained that the garage door was open because one of my neighbors had just driven her car into the garage and was about to close the door when he rolled through. I thanked him and said I was glad someone was keeping eye on things here in the West End of downtown. Thanks for a good job...very much appreciated.

We've had some interesting activity in front of the BoA building, which has been discouraging as what looks like druggies and/or gang-bangers have been a lot bolder here. Thankful to see the officers at work this evening confronting something that was turning rowdy. The way they approached the situation here was conservative, obviously thoughtful, and cool/collected. Can't believe what a difficult job you have now with the new standards for stopping someone too. So thankful we still have men and women willing to do this job. We need you! And we experienced a palpable benefit of your service last night at the BoA building. Thank you! So appreciate your service and I feel for the difficulty of your job!



Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through September 30, 2021 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 160**

Complaints Received: **Total: 66 (49 from community)**

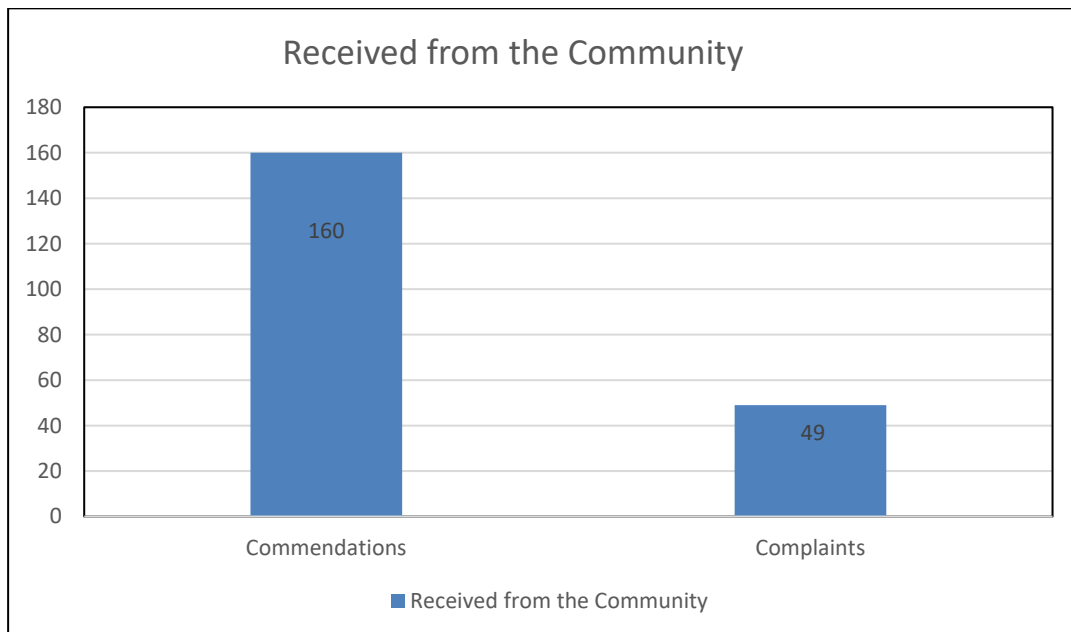
Closed Out as Inquiries: 5 (As of September 30, 2021)

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 September 30, 2021

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman | Total: 23 |
| Received by the Spokane Police Department | Total: 43 |
| Internally Generated by the SPD | Total: 17 |
| Generated by the Community | Total: 49 |

As of September 30, 2021, the department has received 69% more commendations from the community than complaints.



Use of Force Update

2021 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1- September 30, 2021, there were 50 non-deadly use of force incidents- 9 K9 contacts and 41 other (e.g., TASER).

2021 Deadly Force Incidents (Officer-Involved Shootings)

From January 1- September 30, 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



Sgt. Teresa Fuller of Spokane Police Department Becomes First Female Law Enforcement Liaison in Washington

The Washington Traffic Safety Commission recognized Sgt. Fuller in her new role as a Law Enforcement Liaison. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Governors Highway Safety Administration created the role to help promote national and state highway safety. In the role, Fuller will coordinate the Spokane Police Department's participation with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to address behavioral traffic safety issues like speeding, distracted driving, impairment and more.

“Policing is a great career for anyone committed to helping people, and living up to the badge,” she says. “Maybe that’s why I’m so committed to traffic safety, because so much of what we do prevents injury or death. Maybe I saved a kid through a car seat check or getting a parent to wear their seat belt. I’m just grateful to have had the opportunity to help people in that way, and help keep the streets safe, and work with the community to make them even safer.”

Link to article here:

<https://www.wtscpartners.com/success-stories/2021/09/27/sgt-teresa-fuller-of-spokane-police-department-becomes-first-female-law-enforcement-liaison-in-washington/>

Reserve Officers

On September 18, 2021, six new Reserve Officers, five for Spokane Police Department and one from Reardan Police Department, graduated from the Reserve Academy. What makes this very special is they are all volunteers who gave up numerous nights and Saturdays to complete this academy. Reserve Officers Mathew Allen, Kevin Boblet, Ryan Clark, Melissa Foust (Reardan), Ehblu Nateewah, and Cory Rose, welcome to the family and congratulations!

Below left, Officer Ehblu Nateewah. Below right, Ofc. Mathew Allen, Ofc. Kevin Boblet, and Ofc. Ehblu Nateewah.



"Honor Spokane's Law Enforcement & Firefighters" First Responder drive through Luncheon.

West Central Community Center wanted to "Honor Spokane's Law Enforcement & Firefighters" by providing a First Responder drive through Luncheon. WCCC provided an amazing lunch for those that were able to partake in the event. The Spokane Police Department thanks West Central Community Center for taking the time to recognize law enforcement and firefighters.

Hiring Update



As part of our ongoing recruiting efforts, SPD offered two free Public Safety Tests on September 18 and October 3. For police officer candidates who submit their scores to the Spokane Police Department, there is no charge. Officer Butler is heavily involved in the SPD Recruiting Program. He recently attended recruiting events at Fairchild Air Force Base and Olympia, WA. Officer Butler is attending the upcoming Public Safety Tests at Kent, Lynnwood, Olympia, and Vancouver, Washington. At the Public Safety Tests, Officer Butler is able to stand in front of the large group of potential applicants and explain why SPD is a quality organization. He is also 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.

2020 Awards, Awarded in 2021

Lifesaving Medal Recipients

Corporal Kevin Busch, Officer Daniel Morley, Officer Marvin Cunningham, Officer David Betts



Corporal Kevin Busch:

Corporal Busch responded to a vehicle accident in which a young woman had broken her spine in two places and had a facial laceration that cut to the bone. Corporal Busch kept her from moving her neck and applied pressure to her laceration to prevent her from bleeding out for thirty minutes, until Fire could safely get her out of the car and on to a backboard. His actions prevented her from having her spinal cord severed, resulting in paralysis, as well as saved her life.

Officer Daniel Morley, Officer Marvin Cunningham, and Officer David Betts:

These officers discovered a male who was unresponsive behind the wheel. They quickly realized he was overdosing on heroin. They began CPR and administered Narcan (overdose medication) while waiting for medics. Medics arrived after five minutes. With continued CPR and more doses of Narcan, medics stabilized the male and transported him to the hospital.

Precinct Highlights

North Precinct

Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents Addressing Quality of Life Issues

- NROs collaborated with Major Crimes Detectives to identify the person who was assaulted at Shopko by a group of teens while she was sleeping. The victim was contacted and charges were filed against the assailants.
- NRO Storch completed interviews with businesses in the Franklin Park area to determine their biggest issues. 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.
- Neighbors have been very helpful with one location in the Nevawood area. In a ten-day period, neighbors reported multiple noise violations late at night. There were 22 police responses and 18 confirmed violations of noise. Additional incidents with police responses prior to 365-day period showed a continual pattern of nuisance activity from this residence. A Spokane C.O.P.S. advocate is helping neighbors obtain anti-harassment orders and the NRO has issued a Chronic Nuisance Notice.
- Two locations in Northeast Spokane were recently issued Chronic Nuisance Notices. Thank you to the neighbors who reported the activity.
- Two locations in the Garland area were recently issued Chronic Nuisance Notices.

Below, Neighborhood Resource Officers and SPD Volunteers at various Coffee with a Cop events. Coffee with a Cop events were held regularly by precinct staff before COVID-19.



Downtown Precinct

Crime Prevention Missions

The Downtown Precinct has been focusing on Wall-Washington/Riverside-Sprague, with a mission to reduce Part I crimes and calls for service. DTP leaders met with the Bank of America building head of security, installed additional No Trespass signage, and received trespass authorization letters. After focused enforcement using high visibility patrols and bike patrols and meeting with agency leaders, officers saw significant improvement around the Bank of America building and the Parkade Plaza. Calls for service in the area dropped from 91 the week prior to 58 during the first week of special enforcement.

The Downtown Precinct has also focused on Pacific-2nd/Browne-Division, with a mission to reduce Part I crimes and calls for service. After focused enforcement using high visibility patrols and bike patrols and meeting with agency leaders, officers saw significant improvement around the shelters. Calls for service, especially Medics calls, continued to be high, but Part I crimes dropped by 45%.

Bar District Issues

SPD has added special emphasis patrols in the bar district. At one problematic block, calls for service in the area dropped from 60 the week prior to 38 during the first week of special enforcement. Part I crimes dropped from 11 the week prior to one during the special 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

South Precinct

Resolving Nuisance Properties

South Precinct NROs are working with neighborhood residents on dozens of nuisance properties, where unsafe conditions exist or where crime repeatedly occur. Neighborhood Resource officers (NROs) work with neighbors to resolve various criminal issues, such as stolen vehicles, stolen property, guns, and drugs. NROs also work with Code Enforcement and City Legal to resolve issues.

The SPD South Precinct has been actively working 21 Chronic Nuisance properties so far in 2021. 13 of those properties have been resolved at this point. Almost all nuisance properties start out as nuisance calls and are ultimately resolved before being elevated to “chronic nuisance.” NROs resolve the vast majority of the problems without the properties being declared a chronic nuisance.



During the month of September, the South Precinct received 87 new referrals for problem addresses.

Crime Prevention Missions

- The South Precinct has been focusing on the Rockwood to 31st/Mt. Vernon to South Napa area, due to recent burglaries and vehicle prowls. The South Precinct is teaming up with patrol to look for suspicious behavior. There have been multiple officer-initiated checks and they have found it quiet.
- During the month of September, the South Precinct partnered with patrol to address parking complaints. 443 parking complaints were resolved over a three-week period. The latest weekly data showed that there were 207 vehicle complaints selected to address. Of those 207 complaints, 73 were closed (towed, ticketed; resolved without enforcement). 8 complaints had a status of In-Progress (had a 24 or 72 Hour Violation Impound notice). 126 were still open. Some officers shared that they conducted additional enforcement (tows, tickets) on vehicles not in their lists that they encountered while conducting the special. Totals for those are not in the above stats.

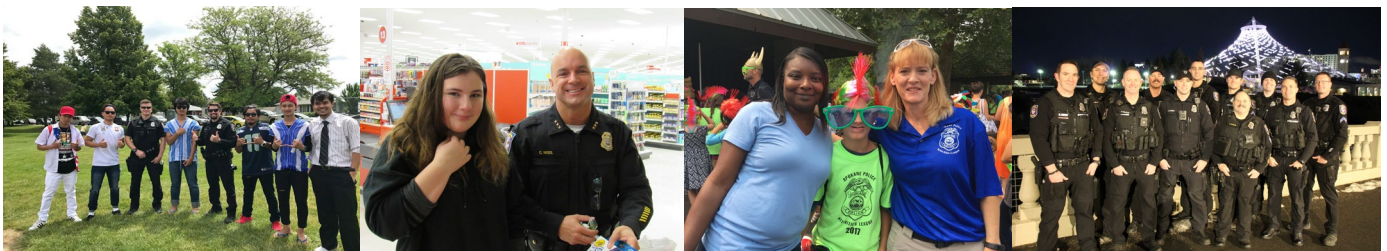
Shout Out to NRO Seth Berrow



Officer Berrow is pictured in uniform, at left.

I want to take a moment to give a shout out to Officer Seth Berrow. He is our neighborhood resource officer here in the Chief Garry Park neighborhood. I've had a few interactions with him in the neighborhood council. He's always eager to answer questions and keep us in the loop as to what's going on around here. He attends almost every neighborhood council meeting.

Recently I asked for his assistance with a nuisance vehicle with a nuisance family living in it about a half a block away from my house. He gave me guidance in getting my neighbors to call in and what he needed so he could take action. We emailed back and forth and I let him know when we all called in as well as sending him pictures. Once Officer Berrow got involved, the Suburban was gone within two weeks as of today. It had been there for over two months and we who live here have had to deal with them and their shenanigans. It's so nice to have them gone and also so nice to know we have an officer in our neighborhood who genuinely cares for the people who live here. I tip my hat to Officer Berrow and again to you for having such an amazing team of officers.



Outreach Update

The Community Outreach Unit Bids Farewell to Michael Schneider and Welcomes Sergeant Greg Rogan



Former Community Outreach Unit Sergeant Michael Schneider became the supervisor of the Special Victims Unit in Investigations. We appreciate all of his efforts during the COVID-19 restrictions to stay connected to the community. He continued to reach students and tried to fill in the holes caused by not being able to hold YPI sessions. Sergeant Schneider met with schools, Girl Scout troops, church youth groups, participated in Zoom sessions with the ARC of Spokane and Montessori school, participated in school food giveaways, and went on hikes and lunches with former YPI graduates. He also followed up with habitual runaway youth, in cooperation with

Investigations, in order to determine if there might be services available to them. Sergeant Schneider also collaborated with schools and nonprofits to identify children in need during the 2020 holiday season. He led the department's sponsoring of families. 22 different families were sponsored, impacting 113 individuals.

Sergeant Greg Rogan, pictured at left with Outreach Officers Graig Butler and Jen Kerns, is excited to lead the Community Outreach team. He has jumped in to help with the various outreach programs and activities.

He can be reached at

SPDCommunityOutreach@spokanepolice.org.

Recent Outreach Activities

Spokane County Interstate Fair

Touch-a-Truck

Spokane Juvenile Court Coordination of Services

PAL Boxing

Kids Meet and Greet with the Isaac Foundation

Refugee Connections

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Planning session with Juvenile Probation for future event "A Day with the Police"

Touch-a-Truck

SPD participated in Touch-A-Truck 2021 with Junior League Spokane at Spokane Community College. Kids were able to see all kinds of vehicles, from the SWAT Bearcat to the Oscar Meyer Weiner vehicle.



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 for more information.



Faith & Blue

The Spokane Police Department and the Spokane Police Chaplaincy held a Faith & Blue event on October 9. The department recognized the winners of an essay contest during the event. Additionally, the department hosted a meet & greet and a car show/equipment exhibition. Food was provided compliments of the Spokane Police Foundation.



Above, Chief Meidl with the SWAT Bearcat, and Assistant Chief Justin Lundgren with community members. Scotty Nicol from the Mayor's Office is far left and City Administrator Johnnie Perkins is on the far right.



Above, youth with the Explosive Disposal Unit robot, service dog and volunteers from Lutheran Community Services Northwest.

For more information about the national Faith & Blue movement, visit www.faithandblue.org.