



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
February 2022 Report



Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
February 7, 2022



Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendations
(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)

[Officers Andrew Richmond, Marvin Cunningham, Daniel Rhine]

I am writing to ask that someone give those officers that helped me an immense and heartfelt thank you from me please. And tell them I got home safe and sound because of them. I had had a terrible day up to that point because of medical issues and going back and forth with doctors and 3 hours of intense medical testing. Suffice it to say I was in no condition to be stuck in a car in the freezing cold. After unsuccessfully getting help through my roadside assistance provider I feel I didn't have another option but to call 911. When they arrived I was very emotional and had a difficult time just not crying. They were so patient and gentle as if they knew I was barely hanging on. Well, they got me out of that bind and even offered to follow me home to make sure I got there safely. I don't have enough words really to say thank you. In a world where it can seem as though no one cares much for their fellow man/ woman it is just a wonderful point of light when someone does something good for a stranger when they don't have to. Again, please try to find out their names and let them know this. It matters to me that they know.

I just wanted to say thank you to all the amazing police that helped get us through the crazy snow/ice traffic last Thursday. It really seemed like you were around every icy turn helping and guiding all of us.

Dear **Sergeant Rogan and Officer Butler and the police officer who came to Trunk or Treating [Officer Jen Kerns]**, I would like to thank you so much for your participation in our Trunk or Treating activity on October 28th at Stevens Elementary. It is SO important for our children to see the police as our community partner. We so appreciate you taking the time to have fun with our students and families.

I recently attended the 40 hour CIT [Crisis Intervention Team] class at your training center with several of our officers. I want to commend your **Sgt. Jay Kernkamp** and all the officers who facilitated the training. They did an outstanding job and the training was spectacular!

I wanted to pass along our appreciation of **[Detective Shawn Pegram]** Shawn for all of his work on the case. The work that we all do can often be difficult and requires attunement to not only the needs of vulnerable children, but also awareness of intricacies involved in working with a team to secure the best safety outcomes for children. Shawn has done a tremendous job working with us in support of these children.



Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through December 31, 2021 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 214**

Complaints Received: **Total: 82 (64 from community)**

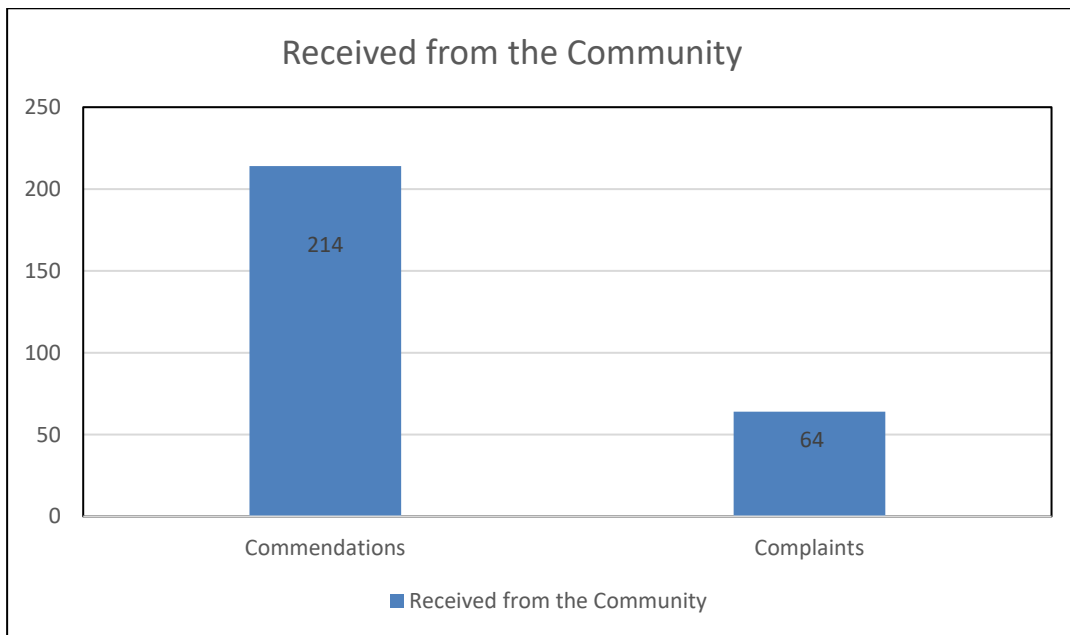
Closed Out as Inquiries: 6 (As of December 31, 2021)

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 December 31, 2021

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 32
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 50
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 18
Generated by the Community	Total: 64

In 2021, the department received three times more commendations from the community than complaints.



Use of Force Update

2021 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1- December 31, 2021, there were 66 non-deadly use of force incidents, including K9 contacts and other types of force (e.g., TASER).

2021 Deadly Force Incidents (Officer-Involved Shootings)

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

Incident 2021-20002320 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board)

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 conducted an administrative investigation and found the incident to be within policy. A Deadly Force Review Board will be convened for a secondary review.

Incident 2021-20059960 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board)

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 conducted an administrative investigation and found the incident to be within policy. A Deadly Force Review Board will be convened for a secondary review.

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 Deadly Force Review Board)

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 conducted an administrative investigation and found the incident to be within policy. A Deadly Force Review Board will be convened for a secondary review.

Items of Interest

K9 Unit Update

The K9 Unit had a busy year with 987 patrol deployments and 324 captures in 2021. With 14 K9 contacts, their bite ratio was 4.3%.

Officer Paul Gorman retired from the police department, which disbanded one of our K9 teams resulting in only 5 teams on the street for the last half of 2021. Officer Zachary Templin began his basic patrol handler school in January 2022. SPD hopes to have our sixth K9 team on the street by the end of March.



Behavioral Health Unit Update

In 2021, SPD's Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) grew with continued positive diversions in its second year of operations. In partnership with the Sheriff's Office, the Spokane Valley Police Department, and Frontier Behavioral Health, the BHU diverts people in crisis from being arrested or seeking treatment in hospital ER's when other options may better meet their needs while keeping the community safe. Often these people experience co-occurring disorders including mental health and substance abuse.

In 2021, the BHU received additional grant funding from the State to increase the unit from 4 co-responder teams to 7 co-responder teams which allows:

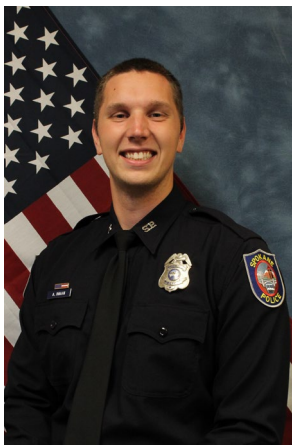
- Increased BHU availability for community members in crisis
- Patrol officers freed up to respond to other calls for service
- Increased ability for the unit to follow-up with individuals who are living independently and may need assistance
- Reach more individuals and connect them with services and resources they may not otherwise be able to receive
- Reduction in 911 calls from individuals who are high utilizers of services by being proactive in addressing root causes of behavior.
- Reduction in the recidivism of individuals in and out of the hospital emergency rooms and jails

Year-end data shows the BHU had an increase of 9% in the number of contacts made with people in crisis in 2021 compared to 2020.

Of the 4090 people contacted, 79% had an outcome other than jail or hospital.

Internal Commendation for Officer Anthony Inman

[Officer Anthony Inman is a 2021 hire and recent graduate of the Basic Law Enforcement Academy.]



Sirs, I just wanted to reach out and let you know about a recent incident with one of your cops. Officer Anthony Inman came across a young female sitting on the ledge of the Monroe Street Bridge earlier this month. It was clear that this female was in crisis.

He was first on scene and immediately gained a rapport with the distraught female. She was agitated and hysterical and stated that she wanted to jump off the bridge to end her life. Officer Inman remained calm and professional. When I arrived on scene, he was actively communicating with the young girl. Unlike many of these calls we encounter like this, the distraught female was communicating along with him.

During this encounter, Officer Inman maintained a great dialogue with the young girl who was only 19 years old. His level of compassion and ability to communicate was much more advanced than his time as a brand-new police officer. With the assistance of Sgt. Spiering, the female was talked down and they were able to get her the help she greatly needed.

It was a pleasure to watch Officer Inman handle this call from a distance with great poise and compassion. He should be commended for his work.

Regards,
Officer Todd Belitz

SPD Volunteers

SPD Volunteers showed impressive commitment and dedication in 2021.



Citizen Volunteers donated 4,044 hours
Explorers (1 volunteer alone volunteered 182 hours)
Reserve Officers donated 5,559 hours
Co-Ops donated 3,276 hours
Chaplains donated 6,424 hours

Total Volunteer Hours: 19,485

Chaplain Highlight: Spokane Police Chaplains assist police officers responding to murders, suicides, and accidental deaths by meeting with family members and others at the scene who may be in shock and/or dealing with grief, anger, and heartache. Officers responding to such calls also experience their own emotions and challenges. In 2021, Police Chaplains responded to 459 DOA calls in 2021 and 16 SWAT calls. Chaplains donated 6,424 volunteer hours. They ensure our police officers have the emotional support they need as the constant exposure to trauma can take a mental and physical toll. A primary focus of the SPD Chaplains' is ministering to members of the Police Department.

Precinct Highlights

North Precinct

Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents Addressing Quality of Life Issues

- The top calls for service in the Logan area were all apartment complexes or businesses with no residential properties on the list; since the implementation of the residential property Calls for Service approach to addressing chronic properties in early 2021, residential properties have completely fallen out of the top CFS locations consistently each month. Flare-ups on residential properties can usually be addressed quickly with attention paid to not only CFS, but also addressing properties that are common targets for both PACT and SIU due to nefarious activity at the locations.
- Recently, Chronic Nuisance Notices were issued to three residences in the Minnehaha area and two residences in the Logan area. Two abatement agreements were signed in the West Central area.
- In 2021, 292 vehicles have been towed by the Logan NRO. Citizens had made 1206 calls for service about the vehicles.

Downtown Precinct

Crime Prevention Missions

The Downtown Precinct has been focusing on the 300 block of Adams Street, near Hope House, during January. Emphasis patrols have resulted in reductions in calls for service and Part I crimes.

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

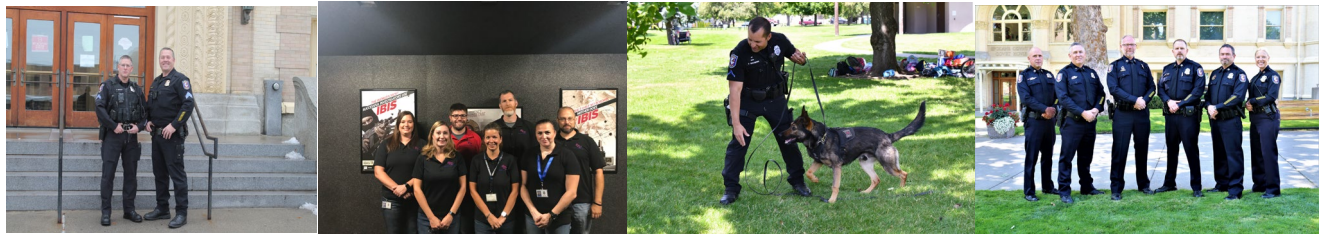
The South Precinct received 1,129 new referrals of problem addresses during the last six months of 2021.

Crime Prevention Missions

- The South Precinct has been focusing on the Cannon Hill area, due to recent burglaries and vehicle prowls, and Garry Park, where there have been several Part I crimes like stolen vehicles, prowling, burglaries, and a shooting. The South Precinct is teaming up with patrol to look for suspicious behavior. Officers report their activities, contacts, and arrests at the end of each shift to their supervisor. Since starting emphasis patrols, both areas have been quieter in terms of calls for service and foot traffic.

Precinct Meetings and Partnerships

Precincts regularly collaborate with various Neighborhood Councils, and attend a variety of meetings, including Mental Health Stabilization Project team, Downtown Community Court triage, Hot Spotters, Downtown Security Group, Spokane Treatment and Recovery Services Board, Business Improvement District Board, Salvation Army Board, Continuum of Care Board, Washington State Public Safety Review Panel, YWCA, Homeless Coalition, and the East Spokane Business Association.



Outreach Update

Recent Outreach Activities

Spokane Juvenile Court Coordination of Services

PAL Boxing

Refugee Connections

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Northeast Community Center Coalition

Youth & Police Initiative with Excelsior Wellness Center

From 2014-2019, 750 youth participated in the Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) program. With COVID complications, the program was put on hold, but the Community Outreach Unit is planning a session with youth at Excelsior in March 2022.

The Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) is a prevention program for at-risk high school and middle school youth, designed to meet them where they are and help them prepare for their future. YPI curriculum involves an honest discussion about peer pressure and positive decision-making relating to school, gangs, and drugs.



Police officers lead the YPI program, building trust and rapport with students through dialogue, role-play and sharing perspectives. As teens and officers share life experiences, goals and dreams, communication increases and stereotypes decrease. The genuine sharing experience promotes sustainable relationships between police and youth.

The YPI “Life Stories and Choices” curriculum creates a structure for youth to reflect on the choices they have made in their lives, who those choices affected and how they feel about them. Participants discuss the consequences of their choices -both positive and negative- and their effects upon the person, their family and greater society. Instructors give examples as well and encourage discussion about choosing actions with positive outcomes. Instructors weave prevention education involving drugs, gangs, and school into meaningful dialogue.

Youth and police also discuss the role of the police in our community – interactions with youth, expectations, stereotypes. Students and officers role-play police interactions and debrief them. The conversations identify similarities between youth and police participants while discussing youth biases and stereotypes and police biases and stereotypes. Participants explore different perspectives with “You Be the Judge” scenarios. Later, after practice and feedback, youth participants give public speaking presentations about choices. The practice helps improve each participant’s presentation and public speaking skills. Instructors also share their life stories.



At the end of the program, teens have a very different view of their future and of police officers. Before YPI, students display distrust of police officers, despite 90% of students reporting that they had had a positive interaction with police at school or in their neighborhood. Only 50% of students agreed with the statement, “If I had a problem that needed to be solved by the police, I would feel comfortable asking a police officer for help.” By the end of YPI, 92% of students agreed with that statement.

The YPI program influences positive decision-making. After YPI, students are 57% more likely to want to volunteer in their community. Surveys confirm that the substance use education is effective. Students graduate YPI with new connections to resources, such as job training and letters of recommendation.

SPD looks forward to the upcoming YPI session at Excelsior, March 1-3, 7-8, 2022.

PAL Boxing

PAL Boxing meets 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.

One of our PAL Boxers was the focus of a KREM News feature recently.

'He's what's right about the world': Shriners Children's Hospital helps future boxer on his road to recovery
<https://www.krem.com/article/news/health/shriners-childrens-hospital-helps-future-boxer/293-30b1b326-a327-4478-ac20-e883306b04be>

When Yakobo Mleha was a young boy living in Tanzania he broke his lower leg that was never properly treated. Doctors in Tanzania did not think his leg was savable, and he was looking at an amputation. He was treated at Shriners Children’s Hospital in Spokane and made an amazing recovery. He is now one of the fantastic boxers in the PAL Boxing Program at Spokane’s Boxing Gym.

2021 Adopt a Family

SPD's Adopt a Family program brought Christmas presents to 67 children and 10 adults this year. Through a partnership with Spokane Police Foundation, Les Schwab, Christian Brothers Automotive, SPD employees and volunteers were able to provide multiple presents. SPD worked with local schools and service agencies to identify families in need. Thank you as well to Michelle Anderson (in memory of Lt. JD Anderson), Adell Whitehead, and all those who donated to this program.



