



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

---

**Strategic Initiatives**  
**January 2022 Report**



**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**January 10, 2022**



### Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendations

**These excerpts are all about the Candy Rogers case, thanking the Major Crimes Detectives  
(Personal identifying information has been removed.)**

I would like to thank all of the officers involved in solving my cousin Candy's murder. I have contacted my siblings and cousins to also let them know. [One relative] had hoped so much that there would be closure prior to her death and while it makes me sad to know that never happened, I am sure somehow she will rest more peacefully for your efforts. I was also 9 years old in 1959 and remember clearly when my mom sat me down, told me my cousin had been murdered and showed me the article in the Spokesman-Review. It has haunted me all my life and I am so relieved to have some closure.

I'd like to commend the men and women of the Spokane Police Department on their perseverance, diligence and initiative in bringing to closure the Candy Rogers case. I was about 5 years old growing up in Spokane at the time when this tragedy happened. I can remember my parents restricting my sister and me from going to the park or playing outside after dark with all of our neighborhood friends because of this tragedy.

I am a cousin of Candy Rogers. I was contacted last night via FB that Spokane Detectives had solved the case of Candy Rogers. I could not believe after so many years and so much hurt the persistence of all of you paid off. I thank you from myself and my other brothers, sisters, and other cousins. I cannot express enough my congratulations, and thanks.

A heartfelt thank you to the Spokane Police Department for continuing to investigate and finally close the Candy Rogers case. I was 5 years old when Candy was abducted. I saw it on the evening news the first few days it was broadcast and hounded my parents with questions as only a five-year old can. There were no age-appropriate answers or explanations, but my parents' unusual silence had a significant impact on me. So did their avoidance of the evening news for several weeks. In the many years since, I have had Candy's photo flash in my memory every time I heard of a crime against a child. Candy epitomized the unanswered questions of an innocent child trying to understand evil in the world. Thank you for giving silence to the questions that were still in my heart. Thank you for letting her memory rest in peace.

When I was growing up as a child in Spokane, I had two great fears: polio and the Candy Rogers case. I have often thought of Candy over the years because she and I both sold those mints and were born the same year. Just within the past month I found myself wondering if the case would ever be solved. I have vivid memories of myself as a child sitting in the living room thinking about Candy... I want to thank the police department, and specifically those responsible for solving this case. It brings tears to my eyes to know that it has been solved. I have found a certain peace in knowing the case is closed. It's hard to fully express my feelings in words, but I really am grateful for the work that your department has done.



## Internal Affairs Unit Update

### January 1 through November 30, 2021 Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received:    **Total: 201**

Complaints Received:        **Total: 78 (61 from community)**

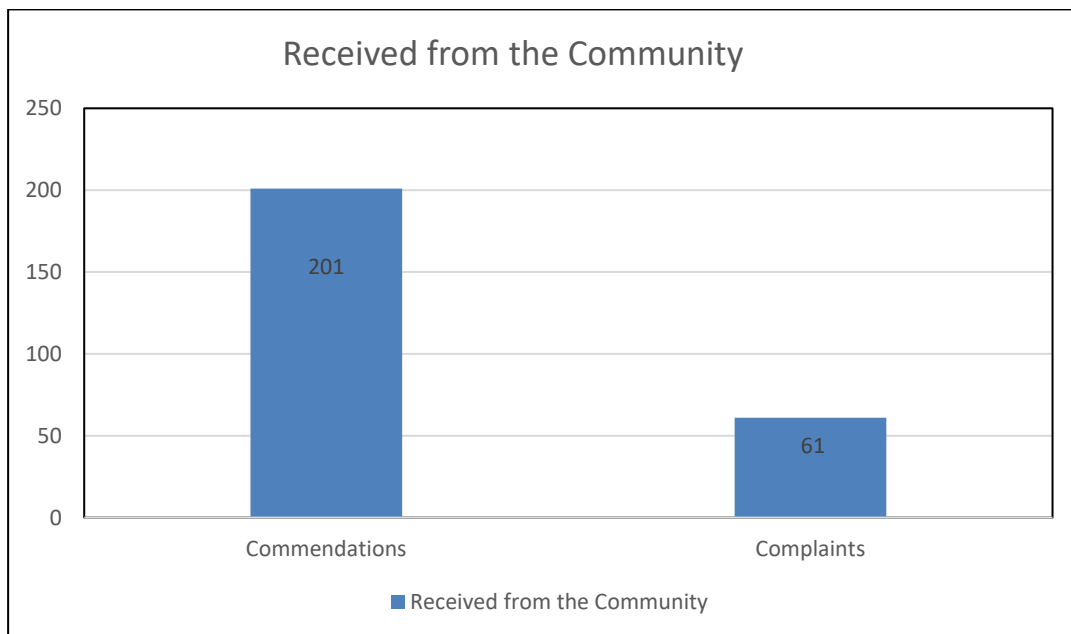
**Closed Out as Inquiries: 5 (As of November 30, 2021)**

*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 November 30, 2021

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 30</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 48</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 17</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 61</b>

As of November 30, 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- November 30, 2021, there were 62 non-deadly use of force incidents- 11 K9 contacts and 51 other (e.g., TASER).

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

From January 1- November 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

### Recruiting and Hiring Update

As of November 2021, we have doubled our applicants since 2019. Information taken from the PST shows not only a 75% increase in the number of applicants, but an increase in the diversity of applicants.

2019	2021
414 applicants	724 applicants
381 passed the PST	621 passed the PST

### **The diversity of applicants has also increased with our efforts:**

2019	2021 YTD
12 African American	40 African American
29 Hispanic	82 Hispanic
15 Asian	18 Asian
4 Native American/Alaskan Native	9 Native American/Alaskan Native
3 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	4 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
25 two or more races	55 two or more races
47 females	77 females

Almost one third of applicants are from groups historically underrepresented in law enforcement (female and minority populations) and **over one third of those hired in 2021 come from those groups.**

SPD received a grant for 2022 to fund increased and innovative recruiting efforts specifically designed to bolster applicant numbers and further diversify the applicant group. Stay tuned to see the ways SPD utilizes this opportunity to find the best officers for our community!





## Precinct Highlights

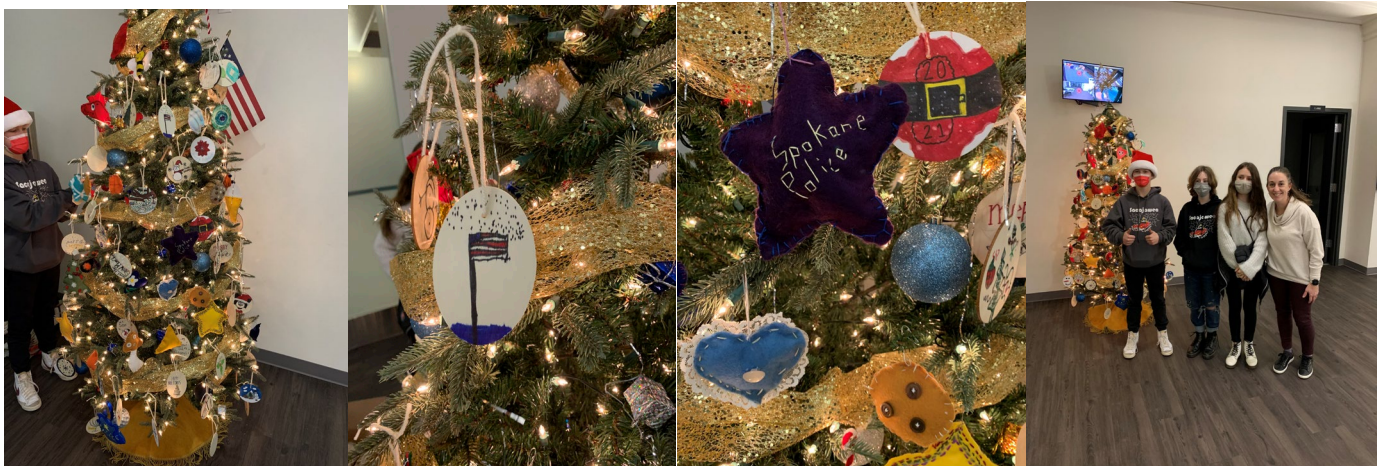
### North Precinct

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

- Criminal behavior at Franklin Park Mall continues to generate calls for service. 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. Neighborhood Resource Officers are looking at security footage and trying to identify suspects.
- NROs have been addressing neighbor complaints at Harmon Park. Most of the problems stem from overnight campers in vehicles. These vehicles also pile garbage in the park. 60 exclusion notices to have been issued to people who were violating park rules. As of December 1, 2021, "No Parking" signs have been put up on the curb line around the park. This will now give SPD the ability to further enforce park rules. Graveyard shift will help with enforcement during the closed hour times.
- A resident in the West Central neighborhood had recently generated several calls due to her behavior. She has been armed with a knife and yelling at people walking by the parking lot. Officers contacted her in the lot and attempted to get her to leave. She refused to leave and refused help from the Behavioral Health Unit. Officers discovered she had a valid warrant. She was eventually booked into jail on her warrant.
- 38 abandoned vehicles were towed during October 2021 by Northside NROs.
- NRO Tim Schwering has resolved 25 nuisance properties from January 1-October 31, 2021.

### Downtown Precinct

Students from Hutton Elementary and Sacajawea Middle School made Christmas ornaments and decorations for the Downtown Precinct.



## 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 151 new referrals of problem addresses during the month of November.

## Crime Prevention Missions

- The South Precinct has been focusing on the Cannon Hill area, due to recent burglaries and vehicle prowls, and East Central, due to recent commercial burglaries, stolen vehicles, prowling, burglaries, and a shooting. Other recent missions are Grandview/Thorpe and West Hills.
- Their new missions are Browne's Addition (vehicle prowling and burglaries) 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.

## Role of Neighborhood Resource Officers

Neighborhood Resource Officers are versatile in their approach to solving problems. NROs collaborate with investigative units on drug and gang issues. NROs routinely make referrals to other agencies; one NRO has made 32 referrals to the Behavioral Health Unit during the first ten months of 2021. NROs respond to neighbor concerns and work on nuisance properties, but they also assist patrol and investigations with intelligence. For example, South Precinct NRO Kelly Mongan has been instrumental in bringing a murder suspect into custody recently. He identified the suspect just before the suspect fled and barricaded himself inside a residence. This murder suspect was involved in a standoff with the SWAT Team and was detained.

## Shout Out to Neighborhood Resource Officer Kelly Mongan



[In response to living near a nuisance property] Officer Mongan became our NRO and we again asked for help. He provided us with support through meetings with the City Attorney's office, follow-up with infractions against the owner of the nuisance property, visiting the tenants at the property as well as handling multiple calls from us regarding help. He also met with other neighbors affected by this property and talked about ways to address the issues. One weekend there were approximately 20 plus calls from at least 6-7 different



homes regarding the nuisance property and he followed up with us immediately. Although this neighborhood continues to be a work in progress, I am so grateful for his support and communication with us when it seems we had nowhere to turn. Without him, I feel like we would have left this neighborhood, which continues to thrive and make positive changes. I wanted to make sure that he was acknowledged as part of the positive changes on our block.



## 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

Ness Elementary presentation to 5th graders about the police profession

### 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 [spdccommunityoutreach@spokanepolice.org](mailto:spdccommunityoutreach@spokanepolice.org) for more information.

### Youth Outreach at SPD Academy





## TAC Christmas Wheels

Christmas Wheels is a program started in 2020 that gives children in need of a bicycle in time for the holidays, promoting adventure, exercise, and community to youth who might not otherwise have the opportunity. This year, the SPD Tactical Team (TAC) partnered with the SPD Chaplaincy and the local organization “Back the Blue 509” to raise money and purchase 25 bikes for area kids. The bikes come disassembled, so the TAC Team partnered with Spokane Public Schools Criminal Justice (CJ) program, where students help with assembling the bikes. NewTech Skill Center instructor Tommy Williams was instrumental in making this project a success.



The CJ program affords high school students interested in criminal justice careers the opportunity to learn job related skills and interact with those in the profession. CJ students helped TAC officers assemble bikes to kids at various schools. Not only did CJ students learn mechanical skills while interacting with officers, they also relished the chance to give back to the community. School employees identified kids who would benefit from a bike, and SPD officers will deliver the “Christmas Wheels.”

Pictured above: CJ Instructor Tommy Williams and Officer Brownell pose with bikes.

SPD is thrilled to use work-related skills to provide opportunities to community members. The project would not be possible without the collaboration with the SPD Chaplaincy, Back the Blue 509 foundation, and Spokane Public Schools.



## **2021 Adopt a Family**

SPD's Adopt a Family program brought Christmas presents to 20 families 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.

