



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
June 2022 Report



Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
June 6, 2022



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

Captain Singley, I really don't know how we can adequately express our gratitude to **Officer [Micah] Prim** and **Sheena [Frontier Behavioral Health mental health professional, co-deployed with SPD]**. Virtually every successful [Community Court] participant we have had in the last 3 months has come from their willingness to help encourage the participant with a "carrot & stick" approach. Today, they took one of our participants to treatment again. We owe them a debt of gratitude. Kindly help us share this with them.

Just wanted to send along a message of appreciation for Mr. **[Officer Brent] Armstrong** and his conduct during his interview at the hospital when meeting with a Sexual Assault survivor. He was very patient with her, attentive, empathetic, and intentional. I appreciated his humor during the questioning and the survivor mentioned this as well. He took the time to listen to her without any judgment and was very respectful of her emotions during such a heightened time.

Over the months, Pullman PD detectives have been working with various agencies to use genealogical forensics in an attempt to identify the offender in a string of home invasion/sexual assault cases, which took place in Pullman between November 2003 and March 2004. Once a DNA match was established, we began working with members of the **Spokane Police Department Special Investigations Unit**, who assisted in locating Kenneth Downing, an Elk, Washington resident working at a Spokane construction site. Your detectives assisted with surveillance efforts, obtained a suspect DNA sample, and successfully arrested Downing on Thursday, March 17, 2022. After 18 long years, Kenneth Downing was booked into the Whitman County Jail, to be held accountable for victimizing multiple women, and terrorizing our Pullman community. **Lieutenant Rob Boothe, Sergeant Blaine Kakuda, Officer Mark Brownell, and Detectives Nick Lundgren, Bruce Palmer, Paul Brasch, Chris McMurtrey, Juan Rodriguez, and Amy Ross** were instrumental in the success of this operation. I would also like to recognize the outstanding work of **Sergeant Art Dollard**, who served as our main point of contact in coordinating these collaborative efforts. On behalf of a grateful community, I thank the Spokane Police Department and the SPD Special Investigations Unit for your assistance in bringing this offender to justice.

I wanted to shoot you a short note about an officer that I just ran into while in traffic on North foothills. There was a lady that drove up to the intersection and her car died. While we were in traffic, I was trying just to get up there in case we need to push it, but he troubleshooted the engine and ended up getting it going temporarily. He remained with her all the way until she could get to a parking lot and wait a friend for help. His name is **Officer Derek Jones**, badge number 1401. And the interaction with the community member and the entire situation was just awesome.



Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through April 30, 2022, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 63**

Complaints Received: **Total: 25 (19 from community)**

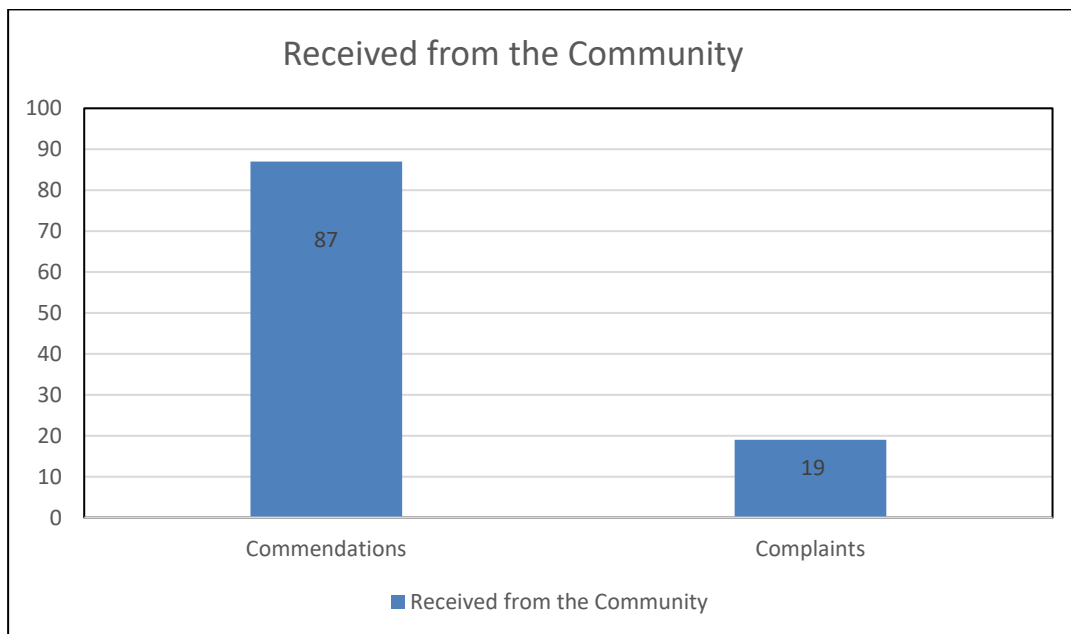
Closed Out as Inquiries: 0 (As of April 30, 2022)

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 April 30, 2022

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| Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman | Total: 6 |
| Received by the Spokane Police Department | Total: 19 |
| Internally Generated by the SPD | Total: 6 |
| Generated by the Community | Total: 19 |

The department consistently receives more commendations from the community than complaints.



Use of Force Update

2022 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1- April 30, 2022, there were 26 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 8 K9 contacts and 18 and other types of force (e.g., TASER). Four incidents involved both a K9 and other force.

2022 Deadly Force Incidents (Officer-Involved Shootings)

From January 1- April 30, 2022, there was one deadly force incident.

Incident 2022-20012711 (Pending Criminal Investigation)

Incident 2022-20012711 took place on January 24, 2022, in the area of 2400 E. Desmet. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

2021 Deadly Force Incidents (Officer-Involved Shootings)

From January 1- December 31, 2021, there were two deadly force incidents. One is still open.

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.



Items of Interest

Creation of the Stolen Property Enforcement and Recovery (SPEAR) Unit

The Spokane Police Department understands the sense of intrusion and loss people experience when they are a victim of theft. SPD put together a property crimes unit called SPEAR (Stolen Property Enforcement and Recovery) in January of this year specifically to address the increase in property crime. There are three detectives and a Sergeant assigned to the unit which focuses on property crimes, trafficking in stolen property, retail theft, and forgery, identity theft and other fraud related crimes. The unit has been very effective in investigating and arresting thieves and recovering stolen property.

SPD recently issued a media release about an April 6th SPEAR arrest, involving a prolific thief who purchased thousands of dollars' worth of goods on credit cards stolen from vehicles. Charges for the April 6th arrest of Jerrame A. Kimble included 1st Degree Identity Theft, five counts of Money Laundering, and two counts of 2nd Degree Possession of Stolen Property. These charges stemmed from one vehicle prowling in February.

This was not Kimble’s first arrest for similar crimes. On March 3, 2022, a victim parked her car at a Daycare facility and attempted to hide her purse under some items, but her window was broken out and the purse stolen. The victim had parked next to a vehicle occupied by Kimble and a female. The pair used the stolen credit cards to make purchases at Lowes, Walmart, gas stations and other outlets. In that case Kimble was booked into jail for 8 counts of 2nd Degree Theft, 2 counts of Money Laundering, and 1 count of 2nd Degree Identity Theft. Kimble has an extensive history of vehicle prowling and theft of motor vehicles and 13 felony convictions. One prolific offender such as Kimble can cause thousands of dollars in theft from just one vehicle prowling.

<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/news/2022/04/07/spd-arrests-suspect-for-stealing-credit-cards-from-vehicles/>

Hiring and Recruiting Update

On April 18, SPD welcomed new lateral officers Chris Perry, Christoph Addicks, and John Oliveri.



Recruiting at EWU

Spokane Police Department officers and volunteers visited Eastern Washington University campus, recruiting for a variety of positions including officer and cadet. Check out the various opportunities on our website. <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/volunteers/>



March and April Recruiting



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SPD has developed a Recruiting Cadre of 15 individuals, who represent the department’s diversity. The Cadre officers include officers of American Indian/Alaskan Native, Black/African American, Hispanic, and Multi-Racial backgrounds. Several female officers serve on the Cadre.

Newer entry-level and lateral hires as well as experienced officers make up the Cadre. The officers also represent various assignments and specialties, such as FTO, Dignitary Protection Team, SWAT, Tactical Team, Community Outreach, PIO, Academy Instructors, and Investigations.

Officers on the Recruiting Cadre travel to various events, meeting potential applicants and answering questions. It’s important that potential applicants can see themselves in the recruiters and see a future at the Spokane Police Department. Due to a Washington State grant for recruiting, the SPD recruitment team was able to make several recruiting trips to meet with multiple agencies and self-sponsored Academy students.

Events included Career Fairs, Military Fairs, university presentations, and Diversity Hiring Fair. Locations included Central Washington University, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Joint Base Lewis–McChord (JBLM) in Tacoma, and Chicago.



Drug Take Back

SPD took part in the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on April 30th, giving the community the opportunity to get dangerous narcotics out of homes and help prevent drug abuse. Expired, unused, and unwanted drugs were accepted at multiple locations around Spokane including the Northeast Community Center, and C.O.P.S. Northwest on Wellesley, and Northtown Mall. 147 pounds of drugs were discarded. Locking medicine cases were distributed.



Enhancing the Survival Mindset

SPD held a self-defense class for the community on May 7, 2022. The class taught participants how to protect themselves with hands-on training in defensive tactic techniques taught in realistic threat scenarios. Participants also received classroom instruction on crime statistics, situational awareness, and survival mindset.

Lifesaving Award

Officer Xenon Berkeley was off duty at a Gonzaga University event when a community member had a cardiac episode. Officer Berkeley performed life-saving CPR and used an AED until Spokane Fire employees arrived. He remained with the patient and communicated with the first responders. Fire Chief Brian Schaeffer noted that he managed the device's de-fibrillation when recommended, and "his performance was outstanding." SFD Paramedics administered cardiac medications to treat dysrhythmias and quickly controlled the patient's hemodynamic status, which allowed them to transport the patient to a Level 1 Cardiac Center for definitive treatment. As a result, the victim was revived and continues to recover today due to Officer Berkely's actions. Officer Berkely maintains his Emergency Medicine Technician credentials and is passionate about serving his community by volunteering as an EMT and as a Spokane Police officer.



Precinct Highlights

North Precinct

Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents and Businesses

- Neighborhood Resource Officers examine locations with the most calls for service. They look at the activity to see if the calls reflect a mental health issue, where a referral can be made to the Behavioral Health Unit, or if they are calls relating to medical issues (the case at many apartments for older adults), or if the calls reflect nuisance activity.
- In some cases, there are multiple issues in the same location, such as thefts occurring near construction sites and several Medics and Check Welfare calls for vulnerable individuals. NROs have made suggestions to improve security in those areas.
- In other cases, the calls show increased problems related to violence, to include Drugs and Drive-By Shooting calls. The NRO found that one property associated with those calls is very much a candidate for Chronic Nuisance and is coordinating with investigating detectives to complete the process.
- The North Precinct is monitoring dozens of Chronic Nuisance and pre-Chronic Nuisance properties on the North side.
- The North Precinct and SPEAR (Property Crimes Unit) are working on targeting prolific shoplifters developed by Loss Prevention Information and SPD cases.

Downtown Precinct

Crime Prevention Missions

The Downtown Precinct has been focusing on the area of Pacific-2nd Avenue/Division-Spokane. Cedar to Madison and Sprague to 2nd Avenue. Vehicle prowling is a concern. Emphasis patrols have resulted in officers making many contacts with people (74 incidents in two weeks, up from 44 officer-initiated contacts the previous two weeks). Calls for service at the area remain high, and officers have more than doubled the arrests (31 compared to 12).

Precinct Outreach

- Downtown Community Court triage meeting
- Hot spotters meeting
- Downtown security group meeting
- Business Improvement District Board meeting
- Washington State Public Safety Review Panel meeting
- Riverside Neighborhood Council meeting

“Coffee with a Cop”

“Coffee with a Cop” events resumed, in partnership with Starbucks Coffee at various locations. On May 16, 2022, Downtown Precinct officers enjoyed meeting community members at the Starbucks on 3rd and Walnut.



South Precinct

Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents and Businesses

- The South Precinct has been focusing on the area of Chief Garry Park, responding to complaints with activity and vehicles, and vehicle prowling and theft concerns at the area of 53rd and Regal.
- NROs are helping with parking emphasis around the camp on Thor and 2nd Ave.
- NROs are managing several nuisance properties, at various stages of the Chronic Nuisance Notice/Abatement process. One property that recently came on the radar has been associated with complaints of catalytic converter thefts.
- NRO Jake Willard recently completed a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment for the Southside Community Center.



Outreach Update

Recent Outreach Activities

Spokane Juvenile Court Coordination of Services

PAL Boxing

Refugee Connections

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Northeast Community Center Coalition

Shadle Prevention & Wellness Coalition

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.

First Annual Stevens Elementary Egg Hunt

The Spokane Police Department was happy to attend The First Annual Stevens Elementary Egg Hunt with 3000+ eggs! In addition, there were games, face painting, music, balloon animals, cotton candy, photos with Disney princesses, school mascot Stevie The Eagle and the Easter Bunny. The Community Outreach Unit was happy to meet the many families that showed up in support of their kids and of the school. Thank you to Principal Espindola, of Stevens Elementary, for another great school event!

Sergeant Greg Rogan loves the vibrant community at Stevens, that has the feeling of a true neighborhood school and is woven into the surrounding community. "At Stevens Elementary we are all about promoting positive experiences for our students and the families within our community!"



Outreach at the STEP School

The Secondary Transition Education Program (STEP) provides intensive supported services for access to instructional and vocational activities in the community, supporting the final years of transition ages 18 – 21. Officers spoke at the STEP School about individual safety and about law enforcement.

World Relief Training

On May 10 and 11, the Community Outreach Unit participated in classes with World Relief a about how to report a crime, what to do if stopped, if they are a victim of a crime, and other law enforcement interactions.

The "Interacting with Law Enforcement" Course includes: the various law enforcement agencies and their role: Local, state, and federal (Customs, Homeland Security, FBI, DEA); SPD's duties: Investigate crimes, community caretaking, education; Use of Force; Due Process; How to Report a Crime (911 vs Crime Check), what happens next; What to Do when Police are knocking at your door; and What to Do if you are stopped and detained, or stopped while driving.

Other topics include Domestic Violence (what constitutes a DV relationship, mandatory arrest); No-Contact Orders; Parental Discipline (what is considered assault and abuse); Police Investigations (including our work

with advocacy organizations, translators); Understanding Consent per Washington State law; and introducing individuals to the various units within SPD.

Thrive International

The Community Outreach Unit also met with Thrive International about future partnerships for the immigrant community. Thrive helps immigrants with housing and long-term assistance. They collaborate with World Relief. Thrive is interested in starting a soccer club for youth immigrants in North Spokane or in the Mead area. SPD would like to partner with them on this project.

Youth Leadership Spokane Presentation at the Academy

On April 25, SPD hosted a special training for Youth Leadership Spokane, with a variety of presentations, demonstrations, and activities. Participants learned about the K9 Unit. Pictured below, K9 Officer Blankenstein introduces his K9 partner and gives a classroom presentation to students.



Car Show at the Indian Trail Neighborhood



The Community Outreach Unit was invited to take the Challenger to the Indian Trail Cruisers car show. Officers enjoyed meeting people and answering questions about how to become a police officer with the recruiting decal on the police car.



Police Activities League Summer Program Dates



The Spokane Police Activities League (PAL) engages participating youth in positive athletic and academic programs, including gang and drug intervention and prevention. Join us for the 2022 Season this summer!



PAL bridges the gap between Spokane Police officers and youth in our community through fun and educational summer activities.

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| <p>WEST CENTRAL PAL: July 12 – August 9, 2022 Every Tuesday 12:00pm - 3:00pm AM Cannon Park, 1920 W. Maxwell</p> | <p>HILLYARD NEIGHBORHOOD PAL: July 13 – August 10, 2022 Every Wednesday 12:00pm - 3:00pm Friendship Park, 631 E. Greta Ave.</p> |
| <p>EAST CENTRAL PAL: July 14 – August 11, 2022 Every Thursday 12:00pm - 3:00pm Liberty Park, 1704 E. 4th Ave.</p> | <p>Final Celebration: To be held at each park on the last day of PAL</p> |

Activities offered: Basketball, Track, Baseball, Flag Football, and Soccer
 Spokane Public Schools Summer Meal Program provides lunches each day
This final event is tentative and may be canceled

To register, please contact SPDCommunityOutreach@spokanepolice.org

