



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
November 2022 Report



Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
November 7, 2022



Excerpts of Commendations
(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)

Dear Chief Meidl, I am writing this note to you just to let you know what a great guy the officer that was dispatched to help my sister and myself locate what we thought was my stolen car. Actually, we misplaced the car about a block north of [illegible]. **Corporal [Shane] Oien** is the right man with the right stuff in the right job! He was very professional and kind. We thank him so much.

I wanted to let you know that **Officer [Seth] Berrow** stopped by today and did a walk around the property. We chatted about the theft and some of his recommendations. He said he will follow up with his recommendation in writing. I appreciate his follow up and wanted to let someone know. If there is anyone else in his chain of command that would be appropriate to give feedback on his attentiveness, please let me know so I can do that. I enjoy it when I can give positive feedback as most people only share the negative.

Dear Sergeant Eckersley, Hope this email finds you well. I wanted to contact you regarding the service that **Detective Lydia Taylor** provided recently. I am beyond grateful for her dedication to helping recover my refund from a contractor who was no longer honoring their agreement to provide service. This contractor was not communicating or accepting calls from me or the claims against them with Angie's List and the Better Business Bureau. I wasn't sure that filing a police report was the correct thing to do but I am so happy that I did. I appreciate her service in this case and wanted to let you know.

I would like to commend the WSP troopers who arrested me for impaired driving. They were thoroughly professional, kind, considerate - and also quite correct in getting me off the road that morning... The troopers placed me under arrest, with minimal restraints, took me to the WSP district office, where mercifully, they didn't put me behind bars, but had DRE **Officer [John] Yen** of the Spokane Police Department talk to me about all of the prescription drugs I was taking. He was completely professional and I believe all four of these individuals were trying to assist me, the best they could and to the extent they could. So, my heartfelt thanks to them. They were awesome - and I admire each one of them.

I just wanted to express my deepest thanks to an officer who pulled over my 16-year-old son last night. **Officer [Ben] Maplethorpe**, badge number 1216, was the officer who pulled him over. He got off work downtown and was pulled over for expired tabs in my truck. After further investigation, the plates did not match my truck and were from an older model Ford sedan. After asking a few questions and phone calls with me, the officer figured that the plates on my truck had been stolen and replaced with the expired Ford plates. All the officers that were there were very professional and courteous to my son, who you can only imagine was pretty shaken up. They could have easily cuffed him and put him in the backseat and chose not to and as a father I am very appreciative that he wasn't subjected to that. Thank you again and please pass this along to his commanding officer.



Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through September 30, 2022, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 190**

Complaints Received: **Total: 63 (51 from community)**

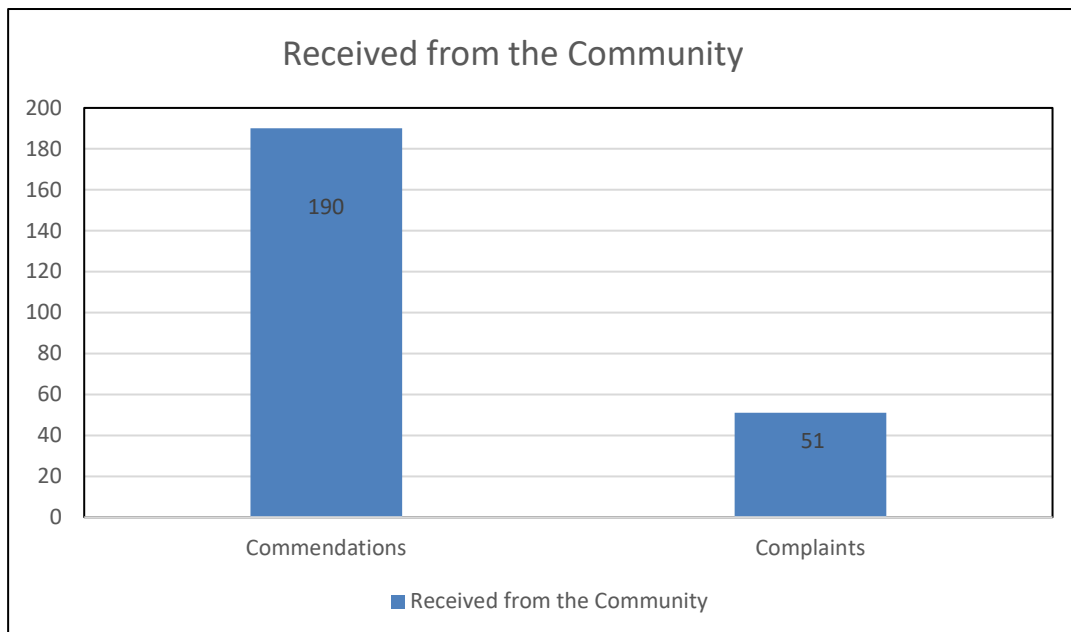
Closed Out as Inquiries: 6 (As of September 30, 2022)

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 September 30, 2022

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 19
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 44
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 12
Generated by the Community	Total: 51

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- September 30, 2022, there were 63 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 15 K9 contacts and 48 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- September 30, 2022, there were three deadly force incidents.

Incident 2022-20012711 (Pending Prosecutor Review)

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

Incident 2022-20134271 (Pending Criminal Investigation)

2022-20134271 took place on August 3, 2022, in the area of 2nd and Sheridan. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

Incident 2022-20156670 (Pending Criminal Investigation)

2022-20156670 took place on September 4, 2022, in the area of 2900 E. Wabash Avenue. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

Items of Interest – SPD Volunteers

Spotlight on SPD Reserve Officers

The Reserve Officer Class of 2022 has been working hard to complete their five-month 290-hour Reserve Academy. These hardworking individuals attend the Academy on evenings and weekends. The program culminates with a certification examination administered by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission prior to graduation.

After graduation from the Reserve Officer Academy, Reserve Officers continue monthly training and volunteering to maintain their status. Reserve Officers can continue their training with a mentoring program allowing them to progress to a Level II Reserve Officer, able to respond to calls as a solo officer.

Prior to attending the Reserve Academy, applicants must pass a background check, physical ability test, a polygraph, oral board, psychological testing, medical screening, and a review by the Chief of Police.

The 2022 Reserve Academy is a diverse group of individuals, consisting of three females and six males. Racial/ethnic backgrounds include North African, Middle Eastern, Black, and White. They will be graduating from the Reserve Academy this November.

These volunteers from our community provide incredible support to the department. A Reserve Officer is fully commissioned while on duty.



Here are the Reserve students celebrating completing 12 weeks in the Academy.



SPD Reserve Officers are active in community outreach.



Below left, Reserve Officer applicants honor Lieutenant J. D. Anderson. Below right and center, applicants in traffic stop safety training.



Reminder from Traffic Sergeant Teresa Fuller

After a month-long warning period for three new School Zone Safety Cameras, ticket issuance starts November 1st, 2022. The three cameras, one on Bernard, one on Regal and one on Ray, will issue tickets to the registered owner of a vehicle that exceeds the posted speeds in the 20mph school zones at Ferris High School, as well as Adams and Roosevelt Elementary schools. Cameras will operate during school hours when the school beacons are flashing to capture images of every vehicle exceeding the school zone speed limit.

Speeding is a deadly and costly problem, especially in school zones. A national survey found two-thirds of drivers exceed the posted speed limit in school zones during the 30-minute periods before and after classes. School zone speed safety cameras provide a constant enforcement presence that changes driver behavior for improved community road safety.

In 2021, speed-related crashes killed 206 people in Washington. Children are especially vulnerable. A pedestrian struck by a car at 20 mph has a 90 percent chance of survival, but the survival rate drops to 50 percent at 30 mph and 10-15 percent at 40 mph.

Several years ago, members of Spokane's City Council voted in support of School Zone Speed Safety Cameras after a student was critically injured by a speeding vehicle just blocks from an elementary school in 2014. City leadership was determined to find a solution to the growing problem of pedestrian safety and speeding in school zones. A resolution passed in December 2014 called for the placement of Speed Safety Cameras in school zones and the installation of flashing signals to remind drivers of the posted speed limit.

K9 Zeus's Retirement



On October 3, 2022, K9 Zeus retired, after seven years of service to the City of Spokane. He worked faithfully with his handler, Officer Todd Belitz. His keen nose was a huge help to the department. Zeus was skilled at catching suspects; he assisted with apprehending almost 400 suspects during his tenure. He also performed in over 100 community demonstrations at various schools and events. He was wonderful meeting community members, especially kids, and was a huge hit at the Police Activities League and Spokane County Fair. Good job, Zeus! You'll be missed.

Retiring Employee Celebrates 25 Years of Service

Records Specialist Jeff Weinfurter retired from SPD after 25 years. Here are photos of his retirement celebration.



Items of Interest – Behavioral Health Unit

BHU continues to take crisis calls and divert behavioral health calls from general patrol response. In August, the BHU responded to 609 calls for service, contacting 360 individuals in crisis. The unit is still in search of four clinicians to pair with law enforcement, due to the workforce shortages that are within the clinical career field.

BHU shared a recent example of a successful diversion in August. A young woman contacted the BHU for help. Earlier, her family had called in reporting that she was suicidal and planned to jump off a bridge. Her boyfriend contacted her as she was walking to the bridge and only a couple blocks away and convinced her to return home. The woman told the BHU she was suicidal due to severe anxiety. She had not been sleeping or eating in several days and was disoriented. She had a history of PTSD and suicidal ideation, which resulted in an involuntary hospitalization in 2020. The experience was traumatic for her.

The BHU was able to work with her and her family to set up a safety plan. This plan included her boyfriend staying with her to monitor her for safety and follow up from Mobile Crisis Response (MCR), diverting her from the hospital. BHU discussed outpatient treatment options with her, and she was agreeable to getting help enrolling in treatment. MCR provided follow up and continued safety assessments and connected her to a peer through Frontier Behavioral Health. The young woman is doing well and following the safety plan. She is continuing outpatient treatment and is continuing to work with the assigned peer.

Items of Interest – In-Service Training

Fall In-Service Training

Fall In-Service is 10 hours of mandatory training provided to all officers, beginning in October 2022 and continuing through November. Reality Based Training (RBT) is a big part of the training. RBT allows officers to run through many scenarios and links with recent Field In-Service Trainings. The RBTs incorporate policy (De-escalation and Use of Force) review in instruction. Criminal Procedures training (focusing on Terry Stops and Use of Force) is provided, along with an update from Executive staff. The second half of the day is dedicated to Defensive Tactics (DT) and Firearms. DT training encompasses Less-lethal Recertifications: 40 mm (blue nose foam munitions), TASER, OC (pepper spray), Baton, Pepper Ball. Officers receive instruction on policies involving the weapons as well as recertification. The range portion includes shooting with shields, general firearms, and low light “shoot-no shoot” decision making.

Note: Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) Accreditation standards require yearly instruction on use of force policies. SPD always provides instruction on the use of force policy at In-Service. WASPC also requires officers to receive training on less-lethal weapons (e.g., TASER, pepper spray) every two years. SPD has been providing this training/recertification annually.

Other In-Service Training in 2022

- During March and April 2022, SPD held a mandatory 10-hour training that included legal updates, officer wellness, critical incidents, firearms training, defensive tactics (Level 1 recertification, ground survival tactics, weapon retention, de-escalation) and reality-based training.

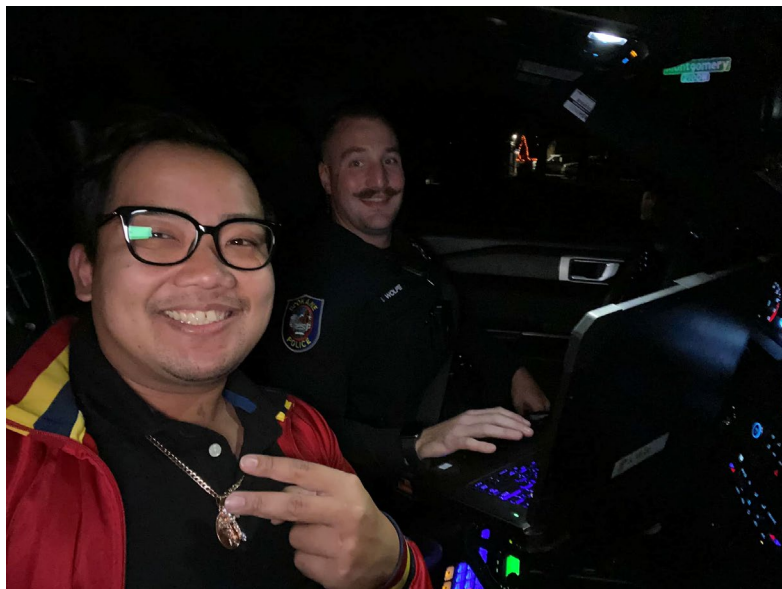


- During May and June 2022, SPD held a mandatory 8-hour in-service training on the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project. The ABLE Project is Georgetown University Law Center’s national training and support initiative for U.S. law enforcement agencies committed to building a culture of peer intervention that prevents harm.

Patrol Team 11



City Council Legislative Assistant Mark Carlos on Ride-Along with Officer Seth Wolfe
“He was very kind and knowledgeable. I truly feel like I learned a lot!”



North Precinct

Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents and Businesses

- Neighborhood Resource Officer J. Howe arrested a prolific property crime suspect, thanks to the video a neighborhood resident provided. The resident emailed a video of a burglary and theft from her property. The video clearly depicted the suspect. The next day, NRO J. Howe was driving around Hayes Park and saw the suspect walking through the park. When NRO J. Howe went to contact the suspect, he took off running. Other SPD units in the area responded and located the suspect. He admitted to the crimes and was arrested.
- Officer J. Howe also reported he recently towed 14 abandoned vehicles.
- NRO J. Pavlischak has been focusing on Cannon Park, and the Maple Street Bridge, as both generate many calls for service. He has also towed multiple abandoned vehicles. There are several properties with Chronic Nuisance Notices (CNN) pending.

Coffee with a Cop at Christ Kitchen

North Precinct staff held a “Coffee with a Cop” outreach event on October 4, 2022, at Christ Kitchen – A Place of Hope for Women in Poverty. Officers enjoyed learning about the services Christ Kitchen offers to our community. The goal of Christ Kitchen is to offer a nurturing, healthy, caring environment where women learn work skills and life skills and meet relational needs. It provides a community within which to grow, learn, give, and be supported. Women are able to grow vegetables and flowers onsite as well as work in the production and sales of gourmet dried food products and full-service catering services. Mixes for soups and breads and cookies are sold at Yoke’s and Rosauers grocery stores and many other locations around Spokane.



South Precinct

Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents and Businesses

- The September mission was East Central, near the DOT camp, with the goals of reducing Part I crimes and calls for service. Officers are employing business checks around the camp. During the first two weeks of September, there were 64 CFS incidents of all types, 16 officer-initiated and 37 officer responses to 911 calls. There were three arrests with six Part I crimes.

- The South Precinct also focused on Cliff Drive, as neighbors complained about drug dealing and speeding. During the mission, it was quiet. Although there were multiple patrol checks, there were only 8 calls for service, zero arrests and zero Part I crimes.

Precinct Outreach

- On September 17th, South Precinct staff ran a BBQ for the Cannon Hill Street Fair.
- Precinct Captain Matt Cowles also delivered a presentation on safety and situational awareness to the Mukogawa University - U.S. Campus.
- Captain Cowles is also helping the 2nd Harvest Food Bank at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center.

Downtown Precinct

Crime Prevention Missions

- During September 2022, the Precinct focused on Division-Pine/Pacific-2nd. NROs use high visibility patrols, voluntary contacts, and enforcement if needed. The Trueblood clinician makes daily check-ins. These tactics are in place to reduce open drug use, make referrals to service providers, and reduce Part 1 Crimes.
- On September 14, 2022, the statistics were 90 calls for service, 40 officer-initiated incidents, 10 arrests, four Part I crimes, and six medics calls (three overdoses). The previous statistics from two weeks before were 102 calls for service, 48 officer-initiated incidents, 10 arrests, seven Part I crimes, and four medics calls. 37 new warnings for Sit and Lie were issued. Nine citations were issued, five individuals were arrested on warrants, and there were five new charges.
- Officers make contacts with people downtown, offering services and resources available to assist with drug addiction, housing, mental health, etc. Officers educate people about the Sit and Lie, Unauthorized Camping, and new shelter options. Officers often offer to provide a courtesy ride to a shelter or treatment facility.

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 at Thomas Hammer Coffee on Wall Street near the Precinct.



New Immigrant Training for Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW):

LCSNW asked the Community Outreach Unit to put on training for juvenile immigrants from Afghanistan and their foster parents in the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Foster Care program. Sergeant Greg Rogan and Officer Micah Prim conducted the training, which covered Washington State laws, driving laws, drugs, and interaction with law enforcement. There were many questions about driving laws and good discussion about vaping, smoking and fentanyl. The class was scheduled for an hour, but the youth had so many questions, it went for about 1 hour and 45 minutes.

LCSNW staff wrote, "Greg and Micah, Thank you for taking the time to speak to our foster parents and youth. I am glad we had a big turnout for this important information, and thank you for your patience in answering all their questions and concerns. We know it's a big deal to the youth to know that you are here to help."

Eli's Birthday



7-year-old Eli wanted to meet with a police officer for his birthday. Eli wants to be a police officer when he grows up. SPD Community Outreach Unit stopped by to talk about police work and give him a tour of a police car.

Drug Take-Back Day Planning with Northeast Community Center

Community Outreach officers attended a meeting with Northeast Community Center members for upcoming community events, including the Drug Take Back Day Oct 29, 2022.

Spokane County Interstate Fair

The Community Outreach Unit set up a table with Washington State Patrol and Spokane County Sheriff's Office. Officers were there to meet the public and answer questions about the police department. Officers also were recruiting for officers and volunteers (Explorers, Cadets, and Reserve Officers). Community Outreach reported fantastic interactions with the public and potential employees and volunteers. Community members enjoyed the photo booth with K9 Zeus who is retiring. K9 Zeus has been involved in countless outreach presentations over the years.



Saint Thomas Moore Elementary Field Day

What a fun day for students to participate in field games and a fun run for prizes! Community Outreach officers brought a police car for students to look at and they handed out stickers during the event.

Junior League of Spokane's Touch-a-Truck

Touch-a-Truck is a family-centric event that offers children a hands-on opportunity to explore all sorts of trucks and vehicles, such as emergency, utility, construction, transportation, and buses. In addition to getting to climb in and on the various trucks and machinery, children also get to meet the people who build, protect and serve the greater Spokane community. Historically, there are usually over 30 local and national companies that proudly participate in the annual Touch-a-Truck event. Community Outreach had the SWAT Bearcat vehicle there for kids and families to get inside and see the equipment that the police use.

Whitworth University Outreach

Sergeant Rogan and Officer Kerns were invited to talk to a Political Science Class at Whitworth University. They gave an overview of the department's mission and different units within the department. They informed the students about Community Outreach events and all the programs run by the unit. The class then had a question and answer session with lots of participation from the students. Students had many questions about our programs and how they are implemented within the community.

Embrace Washington

On September 22, 2022, Chief Craig Meidl and Captain Tracie Meidl attended an event for Embrace Washington. The organization's mission is to fulfill the unique needs of children experiencing foster care to build healthy foundations for a brighter future. The organization offers support services to over 1,400 children experiencing foster care and their families in Eastern Washington. Support services include car seats, new beds, duffel bags, educational tutoring, and therapy equipment for children with disabilities, as well as events for foster families. Learn more at Embracewa.org.

