



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
October 2022 Report



Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
October 3, 2022



Excerpts of Commendations
(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)

I'd like to give three thumbs up to the Police Activities League and **Officer [Jen] Kerns**. I saw her and PAL in action just the other week. Officer Kerns did a great job of talking to the kids about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Although I wish these issues didn't need to be addressed with young kids, I'm glad Officer Kerns and PAL are on the front lines to connect with and inform the kids. I'm a big fan of PAL and Officer Kerns.

I am very happy to let my son participate in such a meaningful activity in his first year here [Police Activities League]. Thank you very much for your efforts. We will always support the police!

Downtown Spokane has always been a rough place for any officer to handle. I personally have only one officer be able to handle that area better than anyone else and that would be **Officer [Casey] Jones**. Officer Jones definitely knows how control and keep things under wraps especially at the 7-11 on Second and Division. Yet I have seen him have compassion when need be too. I do believe that there is no other officer better than Jones to patrol downtown Spokane. If he could permanently be the downtown patrol officer, I believe whole heartedly and as God as my witness that downtown would be a better and safer place for all. Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

A police officer by the name of **Tim Schwering**, in the beginning of 2020, caught me getting high and driving on a suspended license two days in a row. Instead of sending me to jail, he offered me treatment. Thanks to him I was able to get into Detox, and this was right in the beginning of COVID when everyone was scared of this thing, I got into treatment. Here we are a couple years down the line, and I got my family back, I just got a new place, and things are, thanks to this police officer, things are completely different. I've met a lot of police officers before and no one has cared like he did for me. No one cared to ask how I was doing, no one wanted to see past my addition. But Officer Tim, I think, is the best cop you guys have in town. He deserves a reward. I believe that what he did for me was truly one in a million. Thanks to him, it's a completely different life.

I am just writing to say thanks for whatever has been done to produce the remarkable difference seen these past few days [in Browne's Addition]! The 2nd and 4th Ave rail underpasses near Sunset are CLEAN and unpopulated, with graffiti covered. 3rd Ave is still encamped, but less than before. Not surprisingly we have seen a corresponding uptick of activity in Coeur d'Alene Park. Last night we witnessed Park Rangers checking the park after the 10pm closing time, which is bound to help if the available law enforcement tools are used. We appreciate these efforts, and also those of our excellent new **NRO Mark Brownell**. We will continue neighborhood cleanup walks, reporting and being active in our neighborhood council.

[Officers Daniel Rhine, Randy Burnworth, and C.J. Pavlischak]

Please make an effort to pass my gratitude to all the officers on the scene of the accident. I appreciate the service and sacrifice that each of you make every day. Thank you for taking care of all the parties involved.



Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through August 31, 2022, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 168**

Complaints Received: **Total: 56 (46 from community)**

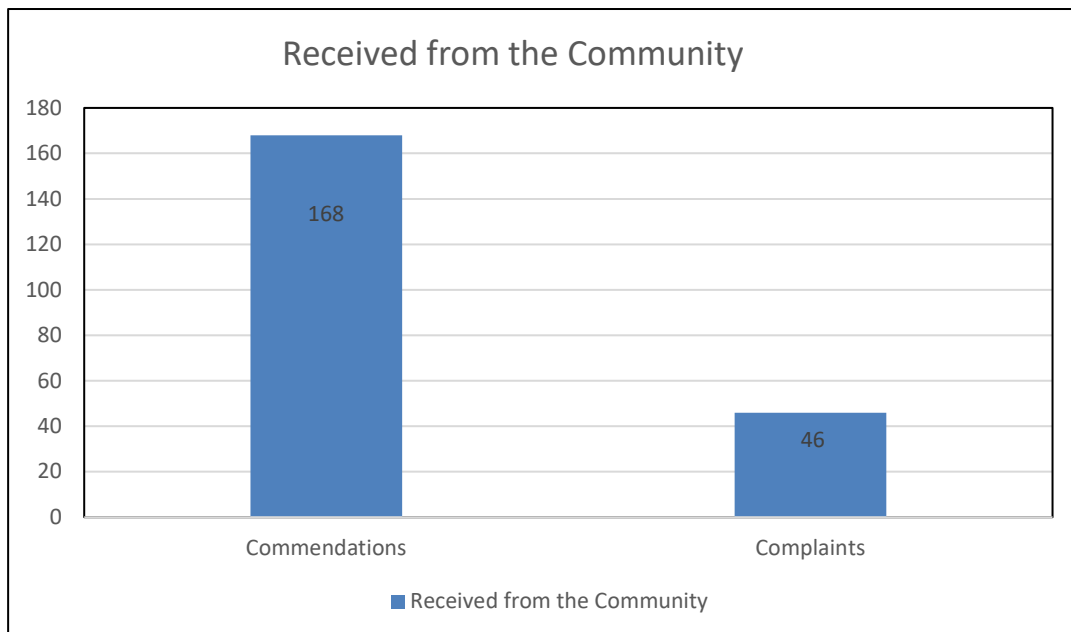
Closed Out as Inquiries: 3 (As of August 31, 2022)

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 August 31, 2022

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 17
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 39
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 10
Generated by the Community	Total: 46

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



2022 Non-Deadly Reportable Use of Force Incidents

From January 1- August 31, 2022, there were 55 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 15 K9 contacts and 40 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- August 31, 2022, there were two deadly force incidents.

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.

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.

Items of Interest – SPD Volunteers

Spotlight on SPD Explorers



SPD Explorers are youth volunteers aged 15-18. These young people are required to complete the six-day Academy and commit to volunteering regularly for SPD.

Eight Spokane area teens completed the Explorer Academy from August 7-12, 2022. The goal of the Academy is to introduce young members of the community to the world of law enforcement. Youth from all areas of Washington State come together for a myriad of learning and development activities.

Explorers help SPD with a variety of events in the community, such as Hoopfest, Bloomsday, and Lilac Parade.

Explorer Emma LaRue volunteered 27 hours at the Police Activities League (PAL) in July and August and helped with the back-to-school shopping events. At left, Emma is pictured with a youth from PAL and Officers Fernandez and Clark. At right, she is pictured at the Salvation Army Shop with a Cop event with Explorer Dylan Finnerty.



SPD Volunteers at PAL

Citizen Volunteer Keith Campbell and Volunteer Chaplain Sandy Alderson helped with PAL and shopping events. Below, Sandy is with Chaplain Kevin Piatt at the shopping event with the Salvation Army. Reserve Officer Mat Allen also joined the volunteers at the Salvation Army shopping event.



SPD Volunteers at Liberty Lake Police Department Special Olympics Car Show

The Spokane Police Volunteer Unit participated in the 2022 Liberty Lake Police Department Special Olympics Car Show. It was a great time for volunteers to come together to support an outstanding event.



North Precinct

Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents and Businesses

- Neighborhood Resource Officers are working with several grocery stores on improving safety and security. Transients are causing numerous problems fighting with security, stealing items and camping on site.
- Multiple abandoned vehicles have been towed out of the West Central area.
- In the Nevawood area, a Chronic Nuisance property was resolved recently. Neighbors complained of stolen property (including catalytic converters) and drug trafficking. It was a hot spot for criminal activity in the neighborhood. The tenants were evicted in early August, and the owner is cleaning up the property. Another nearby property with stolen property and drug issues is also in the works; a signed abatement agreement was returned by the owner, who plans to sell the property. The property has not generated any more calls for service since the agreement was signed.
- Neighborhood Resource Officer Deanna Storch is teaming up with Spokane C.O.P.S. and the Behavioral Health Unit to deal with a problematic property in Nevawood. The resident of the property has been generating many complaints. Spokane C.O.P.S. is working with the victim to file an anti-harassment order with the courts against the perpetrator.

Outreach

North Precinct NRO Deanna Storch and Crime Analyst Jaime Lamanna assisted with Salvation Army's Shop with a Cop.



South Precinct

Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents and Businesses

- The South Precinct has been focusing on crime in and around Coeur d'Alene Park and Browne's Addition. This area has been plagued with vehicle thefts, vehicle prowling incidents, burglaries, and more serious assaults and shootings.

- In the last two weeks of August, there were 157 calls for service (CFS) incidents of all types. 65 of the incidents were officer responses. There were 10 arrests, including 14 Part 1 crimes. 26 incidents were self-initiated by officers on proactive patrols. Officers helped a family who was living out of their vehicle and needed resources.
- The September mission is 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. Results from this mission will be reported in an upcoming report.

The South Precinct Welcomes Captain Matt Cowles



Captain Matt Cowles was recently promoted from the rank of lieutenant. He is replacing Brad Arleth, who retired, to lead the South Precinct. Captain Cowles has 24 years of experience with SPD and has worked in a variety of assignments – patrol, Community Outreach, and most recently, Internal Affairs. He looks forward to joining the South Precinct staff.

Downtown Precinct

Crime Prevention Missions

- During August 2022, the Precinct focused on the Cedar Street Viaduct, especially between 1st and 2nd Avenues. The goal is to reduce camping, pedestrian interference, and property crime in the area.
- Officers responded to a call for help from a citizen who complained about the conditions of the area and reported that he was unable to walk down the sidewalk. When they arrived, officers encountered multiple tents, bicycle, shopping carts and trash cans blocking the sidewalk on the east side of the street. Officers observed garbage, food and drug paraphilia strewn around the area. They contacted five people during the interaction. Four of the five people had outstanding warrants and were arrested.
- During an earlier call that day at the Sunset viaducts, officers were informed by employees at Rosauers Grocery that they had recently purchased 100 shopping carts and over 70 of the carts had been stolen. While at the Cedar Street viaducts, officers recovered five of the stolen Rosauers' shopping carts.

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

- Officer McCasland took his patrol vehicle to a summer camp and showed the participants his car and answered questions from the youth.



Outreach Update

Unity in the Community



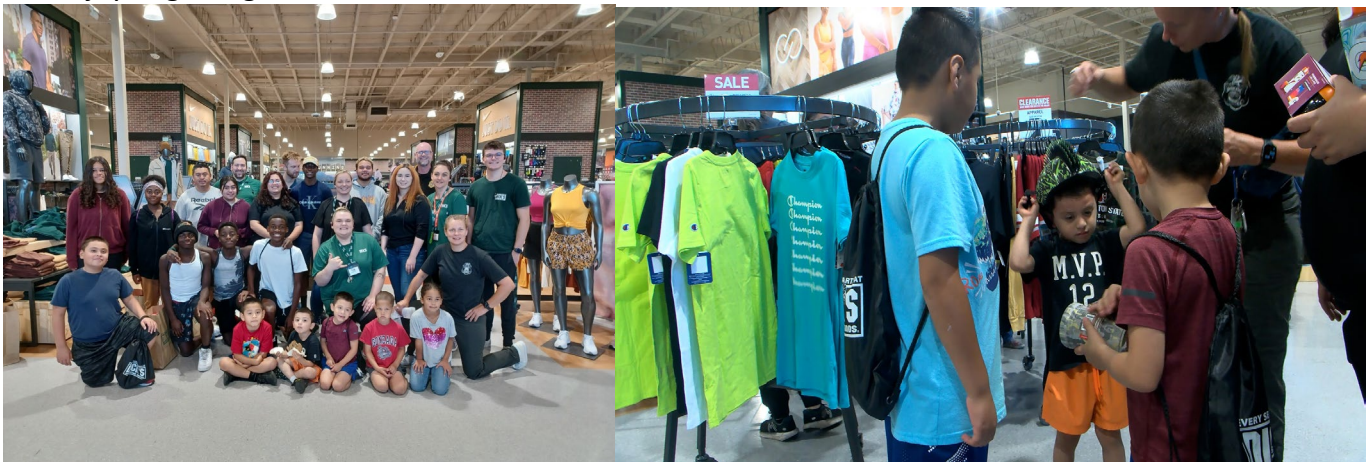
SPD has long participated in Unity in the Community. On August 20, 2022, Chief Meidl, Captain Meidl, Traffic Officer Bill Workman and Community Outreach Officer Jen Kerns continued the tradition, hosting a booth at the event. Officer Kerns reported that they had some great conversations with folks who stopped by their booth and some excellent interactions with families attending.

SPD Back-to-School Shopping

SPD Volunteers (Cadet, Explorer, Reserve Officers, Citizen Volunteers) and Chaplains assisted Community Outreach officers with shopping programs to benefit area youth in need.

Dick's Sporting Goods Shopping Event

Kids enjoyed getting clothes, shoes, and bike helmets at the event.



Target Shopping Event

The Northeast Youth Center received a grant for the children they serve. Youth were eligible for school clothes, shoes, and winter coats. SPD loved helping kids pick out new clothes at Target.

Target employees and Spokane C.O.P.S. made the Target experience fantastic!



Salvation Army Shopping Event at Old Navy

Volunteers from multiple agencies helped at the Salvation Army shopping event. Spokane County Sheriff's Office, Spokane Valley Police Department, SPD Chaplains and SPD Volunteer Services came out to assist families in need. Donations to the Salvation Army allowed 46 children to get new items for the school year.

