



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
September 2022 Report



Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
August 29, 2022



Excerpts of Commendations
(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)

[Officer Christopher LeQuire] I was pulling up behind a police patrol car at the intersection of Sprague and Havana today, and the police car suddenly turned its lights on and pulled off to the side. There was a man with a white cane on the corner, but the sidewalk was all torn up from construction with a big drop off. The officer got out and gave the man his arm and walked him across Sprague and then across Havana. I just felt like it was worth taking a photo and mentioning this officer taking the time to do a little thing to help someone today. I don't know his name but someone might be able to recognize him from the photo.

I was stopped at the light on Freya. A car hit me very hard from behind. The driver fled after telling me she didn't have insurance. I did get her plate number. Nobody stopped to help me. I was terribly shaken up, but made it home. I have a blood disease and had a treatment appointment that afternoon. I was sitting at home in shock when **Officer Todd Nelson #1462** came to my house to take the report. I have treated Complex PTSD from being a victim of a serious, life-threatening crime. To this day I have had a terrible fear of having to talk to the police. I told officer Nelson about how my PTSD was flaring up and asked for his patience. He was so kind and understanding of me. He took extra time to make sure I was ok, and even volunteered to drive me to my phlebotomy appointment. He listened and stayed so kind while I rambled and stalled alternately in the telling of the event. He just waited so nicely and listened with care and compassion. I am sure he had such a busy day and he could have been impatient with my behavior which probably would have amped me up more. My blood condition thickens my blood and my PTSD response to the events of the day had my normal blood pressure up to 188/105, a very dangerous combination. So when I say that Mr. Todd handled the situation with me in the best possible way, I truly mean he could have helped me in preventing a stroke or heart attack. I wanted to let someone know how deeply and profoundly I valued his professionalism and humanity on what was a terrible day for me. He was and remains a bright spot in my memory and shall have my eternal gratitude. For him it may have been just a routine call, but for me it was far more significant. I remain indebted to his kindness. Could you please tell him so.

Officer [Tyson] Setzler, Thank you for taking the time to help me and keeping my son and I safe. I truly felt that you cared and were understanding to my situation. Our community is blessed to have you.

I wanted to reach out to say thank you to the gentleman from Crime Check, who was so kind, the dispatcher **Tanya [Hauenstein]**, and **Officer [Daniel] Rhine**. My co-worker's roommate went on a blind date last night and never came home. And is not answering her phone, so I went with my co-worker to look for her, after no luck, I called Crime Check to see what we should do, the gentleman from Crime Check was kind and very helpful. Took the information and passed it on to dispatch. Dispatch called me back, and stated an officer was on his way to assist us. Officer Rhine was very kind and assisted us as much as he could. I just wanted to reach out to say THANK YOU!



Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through July 31, 2022, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 153**

Complaints Received: **Total: 49 (40 from community)**

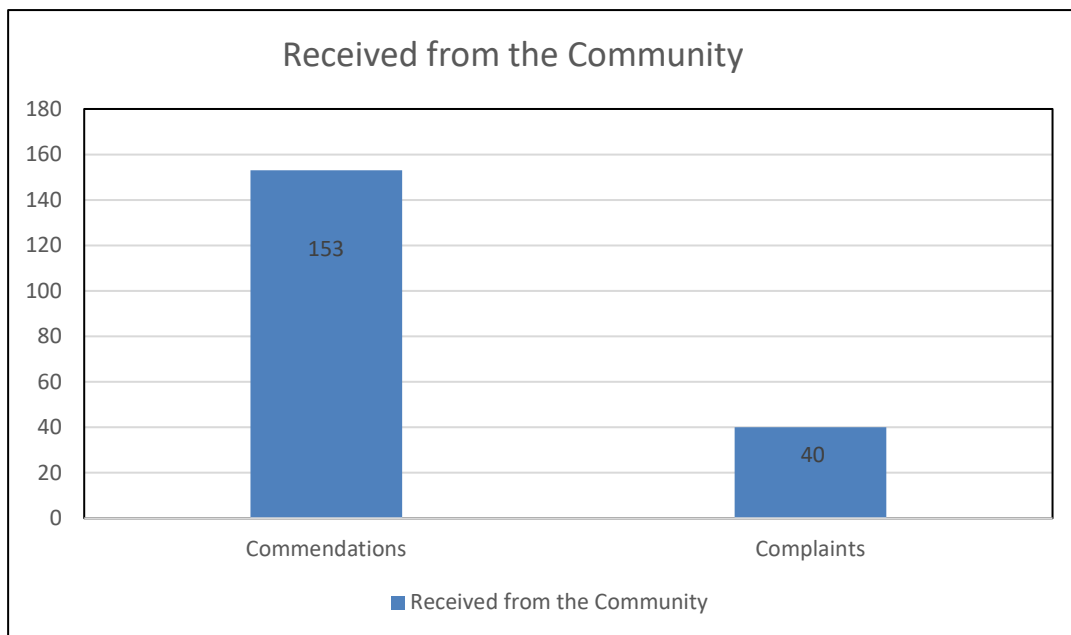
Closed Out as Inquiries: 2 (As of July 31, 2022)

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 July 31, 2022

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 14
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 26
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 9
Generated by the Community	Total: 40

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- July 31, 2022, there were 47 non-deadly use of force incidents, including 14 K9 contacts and 33 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 3, 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's Stolen Property Enforcement and Recovery (SPEAR) Unit makes arrest of prolific identity thief

43-year-old Azariah Hulsey was arrested on 7-14-22 for charges relating to an extensive scheme of identity theft and the use of fraudulent checks. In total, Hulsey purchased over \$30,000.00 in property from retail establishments using stolen or forged checks from a variety of individuals. Hulsey would use fraudulent IDs and other pieces of a victim's identity to verify the checks authenticity.

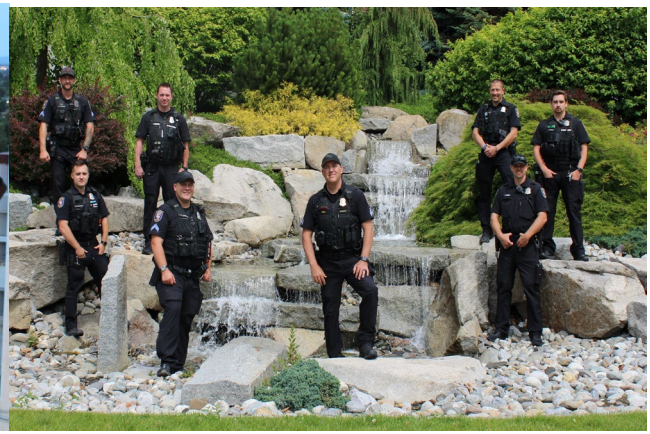
SPD's Stolen Property Enforcement and Recovery (SPEAR) unit began investigating after the pattern of criminal activity was discovered. A SPD SPEAR unit supervisor reviewed surveillance footage from one of the mercantile establishments which had been defrauded by Hulsey and immediately recognized him based on previous investigations.

The investigator began contacting various businesses, reviewing financial transactions, and combing through security camera footage which uncovered a spree of criminal activity. In a 9-week period, Hulsey utilized 25 forged checks, in the names of four victims, at 18 different business locations. The total monetary loss exceeded thirty-thousand dollars.

The scheme was particularly sophisticated as Hulsey would obtain victims' identities through a variety of means and would then manufacture realistic looking IDs using the victim's identifying information, and his (Hulsey's) photograph.

Hulsey was arrested when he arrived at a local business to pick-up property previously purchased with a forged check. Hulsey was booked into the Spokane County Jail for 47 criminal charges including identity theft, forgery, theft, and criminal impersonation. Hulsey is six-time convicted felon with a history of forgery, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, and theft.





Behavioral Health Unit (BHU)

The BHU continued to respond to calls involving people in crisis and successfully divert them from emergency rooms and jail.

BHU TOTALS JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022

TOTAL GRANT PERIOD	TOTALS	NOTES
Total Persons Reached	4,413 Total for grant period.	** Time saved usually does not include report writing time.
Total Patrol Time Saved**	2,988 hours, total for the grant period.	
Refused Assistance	676 people were contacted but refused services.	
Total Referrals	2,394 referrals were made or resources offered.	
Arrest	47 arrests have been made since	***Diversion means PC exists or there is criteria for ITA
Use of Force	0 use of force beyond handcuffing	
Diversions***	257 Diversions from hospital or jail	

SPD Volunteers

SPD Volunteer units, totaling 47 individuals, donated 19,485 hours of service to the community in 2021.

Citizens	17 individuals	4,044 hours
Explorers	1 individual	182 hours
Reserves	11 individuals	5,559 hours
Co-Ops	13 individuals	3,276 hours
Chaplains	17 individuals	6,424 hours

Chaplains

The Spokane Police Chaplaincy exists to provide a ministry of presence, support, and counsel to the law enforcement personnel of the Spokane Police Department, their families, and the citizens of Spokane when tragedy occurs. Chaplains respond to all Death on Arrival (DOA) calls, to be a resource to the decedent's loved ones and the first responders on the call. In 2021, Police chaplains responded to 459 DOA calls and 16 SWAT calls. Chaplains assist families and can relieve patrol officers on DOA calls who are waiting for funeral home or family response in order to get officers back in service.

Chaplains also respond to homicides, Officer-Involved Shootings, and serious critical incidents involving officers. They help with death notifications, standoffs, and provide food and water during large events. They help with counseling for SPD employees and their families. The Chaplaincy is an organization built on Biblical principles serving all people, regardless of religion, race, age, gender or sexual preference. The Chaplaincy is comprised of faith-based individuals, but Chaplains do not push their beliefs on anyone.

The Chaplaincy is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, with two full-time paid Chaplains and 16 volunteer Chaplains. Volunteer chaplains donated 6,424 hours of service in 2021.

Community members often share their appreciation of Chaplain response on difficult calls. SPD has received several recent compliments.

~ “Dear Chinelle, Thanks to you and the SPD officers who came when my brother passed away. Your caring and thoughtfulness were greatly appreciated at that sad time.”

“Chaplain Kevin Piatt was very kind and helpful when my loved one passed on. He was present, appropriate and gentle. Thank You, Kevin, and Many Blessings.”



~ “Chaplain Mickey, I wanted to say thank you! You helped my niece and I after my sister’s death. I just wanted to let you know how much we appreciated your help that very tragic and hard day.”

~ “My wife and I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to Officers Paulie Mead, Makalia McKittrick, and Chaplain Chinelle Flood for their professionalism in carrying out their duties; to notify us of the sudden and tragic death

of our twenty-year-old daughter, as the result of an automobile accident in Helena, Montana. It was shocking and devastating news to our family... Although the memory of that morning will forever be seared into our minds, the compassion and human decency extended to us by these outstanding representatives of the Spokane Police Department during the worst moment of our lives, will never be forgotten. Thank you for sending them to us.

~ “Dear Chaplain Klaja, Thank you for your kindness and support as we learn to navigate life without our sweet Rosalie in it. We appreciate the time you spent with us and the follow up note that you sent.”



Internal Recognition – Chaplain Pat Hogan

Chaplain Pat Hogan brings a wealth of experience and wisdom to our chaplaincy. Recently, while on a call, Pat went above and beyond by assisting two young men who had recently experienced the death of their father, leaving them completely alone. His efforts included networking with multiple agencies to identify and locate local resources to assist the young men with acquiring the basic necessities and maintaining their current living situation, which was in jeopardy after the death of their father. Pat took the time to reach out to any and all family members who might also be able to assist and was able to identify a continuum of care to help ensure they had every opportunity to succeed.



Precinct Highlights

North Precinct

Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents and Businesses

- Neighborhood Resource Officer Todd Brownlee has been focusing on Mission Park and surrounding areas. SPD has continual and frequent prowler checks in the park. It was recently listed as a patrol Hot Spot/Prowler Check for patrol. Mission Park (including Whitter Pool) continue to be one of NRO Brownlee's highest priorities. Recent issues include sleeping/drug use in the vicinity of the bathrooms overnight. Cleaning crews are showing up in the mornings to transients camped out in the bathrooms, surrounded by drug paraphernalia, blood on the walls and vomit on the floors. Vast improvements have been made, but it continues to be a real challenge. There were 17 calls for service in Mission Park in July. This reflects a significant increase, given there were 12 CFS for May and June combined. It is also to be expected due to the warmer weather and increased attendance.
- NRO Brownlee is also working with staff at Safeway on Mission to enforce the No Loitering/No Parking areas. Calls for service had declined in May and June from a high in the spring but ramped up again during July. He is continuing frequent prowler checks.

Outreach

The North Precinct staff attended multiple National Night Out Against Crime events.



South Precinct

Collaboration with Neighborhood Residents and Businesses

- The South Precinct has been focusing on crime near Camp Hope. The precinct identified a need for No Parking signs on 1st between Fiske and Ray. The camp was overflowing onto this unposted street. After the Street Department placed the signs, officers cleared the street.
- Officer Brownell assisted the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) in clearing campers from the 2nd and 4th street bridge areas between Browne's Addition and the Downtown Precinct. The area neighborhood councils have praise for Officer Brownell's work.

South Precinct staff at the Police Activities League

Precinct Lieutenant Dave Staben is pictured with Neighborhood Resource Officer Jake Willard and Downtown NRO Micah Prim, with participant Ellie at Liberty Park.



South Precinct Captain Brad Arleth Retirement



Captain Brad Arleth was hired by the Spokane Police Department in 1992. He became a Field Training Officer in 1995, promoted to detective in 1998 and then to sergeant in 1999. As sergeant, he worked as a Patrol Supervisor, then moved to the Spokane Police Regional Training Center as Assistant Training Director and then supervised the Sexual Assault Unit in the Investigations Division. In 2000, Arleth was selected for the Explosive Disposal Unit (EDU). In 2007, he was promoted to lieutenant and served as a patrol shift commander until 2011. He was then assigned to Major Crimes, commanding Homicide/Robbery Unit and Special Victims Unit. From 2007 to 2012, Arleth was the EDU

Commander. In 2012, Lt. Arleth was promoted to Captain. He served as Captain in Patrol, Downtown Precinct, Investigations, and the South Precinct.

Downtown Precinct

Crime Prevention Missions

- During June and July 2022, the Precinct focused on Sprague-2nd Ave/Post-Monroe. From June 16-June 27, there were 79 calls for service and 11 Part 1 crimes. From June 28 to July 6, there were 22 calls for service, zero reports of vehicle prowling, 3 arrests, and zero Part 1 crimes.
- During July, the DTP focused on Sprague-Riverside/Howard-Post to reduce the number of people hanging out on street corners. There have been allegations of assaults and harassment by groups

in this area. As of August 3, 2022, calls for service decreased, from 69 to 59 calls for service. Part I crimes stayed the same, at 4 during the period.

- The newest mission is the Cedar Viaduct (between 1st /2nd), to reduce camping, pedestrian interference, and property crime in the area.

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 July 13, noon-2pm, at the 2nd/Division Starbucks.
- National Night Out events



Outreach Update

Police Activities League (PAL)

The Spokane Police Activities League (PAL) is an outreach program created in 2013 to help build trusting relationships between community youth and local law enforcement. Each summer, the PAL program offers fun, structured activities for youth, with opportunities to make friends and memories at their local parks. Lunch and activities such as flag football, basketball, running, soccer, and lawn games are provided at every session. Officers and community volunteers mentor participating youth, providing positive role modeling and reinforcement of the program's core values of respect, honesty, sportsmanship, integrity, and leadership.

In 2022, 984 participants enjoyed PAL, thanks to PAL's valuable partners: City of Spokane Parks Department, Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Coalition, Martin Luther King Jr. Center, Northeast Youth Center, Numerica Credit Union, RESCU, Spokane C.O.P.S., Spokane Parks Foundation, Spokane Police Foundation, Spokane Public Schools Meal Program, West Central Community Center, WSU Spokane County Extension, and YMCA of the Inland Northwest. Financial support is provided by the Spokane Police Foundation and their donors, which can be found at <https://www.spokanepolicefoundation.org/events/>.



Every session, SPD provides education. Several units (K9, SWAT, Drone, Spokane C.O.P.S. Mounted Patrol) give presentations and take questions.



PAL serves a diverse population of elementary and middle school students. Across demographics, youth consistently report that the program helped them trust police. Youth surveys also show understanding that the effects of substance use on their health. Most importantly, 97% of youth enjoyed the PAL program.



