



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
April 2023 Report



Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
April 3, 2023



Excerpts of Commendations
(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)

Our 12-year-old grandson ran away. Our daughter-in-law reported it and you responded quickly. When our grandson was located and brought home, we did not have a chance to properly thank the officers involved. Because of your prompt response, our grandson did not end up another statistic but is instead at home and we are working to get him the help he needs. When we finally crawled into bed that evening, we thanked our Lord for the fine men and women who brought our boy home. Thank you for a job well done, **[Officer Nathan Thompson.]** You made a difference that night. Please know that you are appreciated.

Thank you to the Spokane Police Officer who pulled me over for expired tabs. Thank you for being so patient and kind with me. I was so nervous and had a hard time getting my paperwork together. You gave me a verbal warning. Just wanted to say thank you. You never get enough kudos for the good things you do. I have my tabs now.

I wanted to provide my appreciation particularly to **Officer [Adam] Anderson** who showed tremendous initiative and compassion. On Wednesday night, a teen walked into the COPS NW Shop and requested mental health help. He said a mental health professional from the SPD had helped him "a couple of nights ago" and he was again in need of assistance. He said he was suffering from deep depression. We called Crime Check and put the call in for assignment (as there was quite a bit going on in the sector). When the call came up on his computer, Officer Anderson (who was in the back room eating dinner), immediately came out front and spoke to the young man. He arranged for an SPD mental health professional to come from speak with him. Then the officer took the young man back home presumably to intervene with his foster father and determine if it was safe for him to stay there. I was impressed with this officer. The compassion he showed to the young man was above and beyond.

I wanted to reach out and let you know how impressed I was with two of your officers last night. We had an unfortunate death with some delicate circumstances surrounding it. The two officers responding, **[Tiffany Austin and Tyler Heiman]** were top notch. They were professional, yet very kind and "human" in dealing with what we were facing. Thank you for employing such great people.

I observed a wreck and subsequent driving while impaired arrest. I gotta say that the officers were the most professional cops I've ever seen. They did their jobs without all the mouth and intimidation tactics I often see back home in South Carolina. Great job.



Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through February 28, 2023, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: Total: 36

Complaints Received: Total: 18 (15 from community)

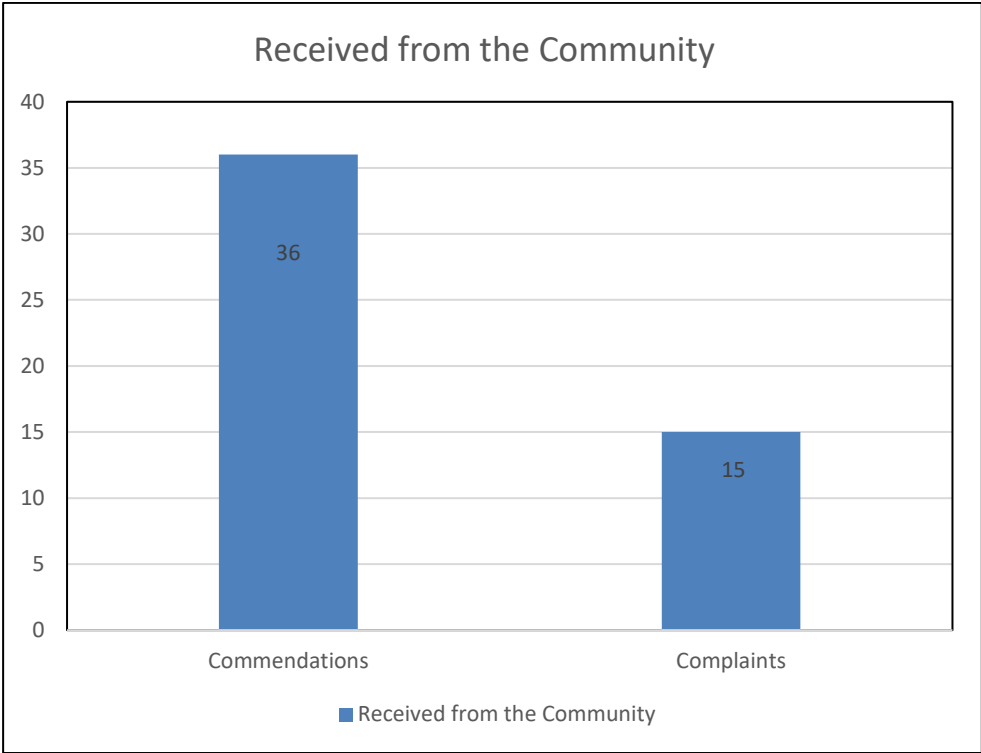
Closed Out as Inquiries: 0 (As of February 28, 2023)

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 February 28, 2023

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 8
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 10
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 3
Generated by the Community	Total: 15

The department consistently receives more commendations from the community than complaints. In 2023, SPD received double the number of commendations compared to complaints.



Use of Force Update

Deadly Force Incidents (Officer-Involved Shootings)

From January 1- February 28, 2023, there were no deadly force incidents. From January 1- December 31, 2022, there were five deadly force incidents.

Incident 2022-20012711 (Pending Administrative Investigation)

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's Office completed their review and found the shooting to be justified. The case is with Internal Affairs for the administrative 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.

Incident 2022-20184192 (Pending Criminal Investigation)

2022-20184192 took place on October 16, 2022, in the area of 100 S Cedar. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

Incident 2022-20214924 (Pending Prosecutor Review)

2022-20214924 took place on December 4, 2022, in the area of Morton and Illinois. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) completed the criminal investigation. The case is with the Prosecutor's Office.

Items of Interest – Hiring and Recruiting

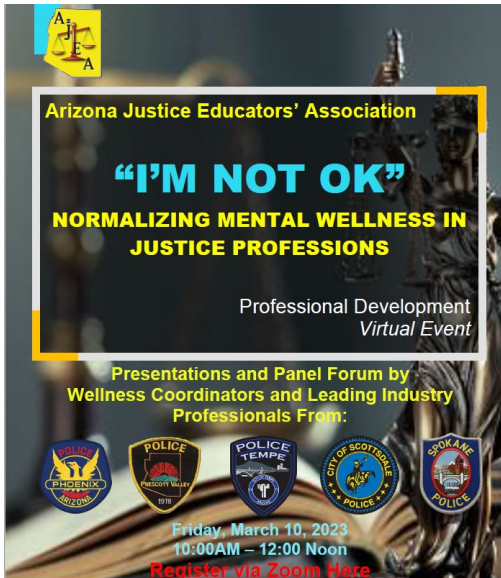
Grant Recruiting Trips



Thanks to a recruiting grant from the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, the SPD Recruiting Cadre recently traveled to Public Safety Tests in Olympia and Ridgeview, Washington. While there, recruiters connected with diverse candidates and promoted SPD.

Recruiters also attended a law enforcement career fair in Denver, Colorado and enjoyed the opportunity to showcase Spokane's lower cost of living compared to Denver and our beautiful geography.

Wellness Training



SPD Training Director Steve Wohl has participated in several panel discussions with Northern Arizona University on a variety of topics.

This is led to greater recognition of our department in Arizona which led to Lieutenant Jay Kernkamp and Lieutenant Steve Wohl participating in an Arizona Justice Educator’s Association’s Professional Development Session, “I’m Not OK:” Normalizing Mental Wellness in Justice Professions.

Noteworthy Arrests

Successful Arrest after Standoff in West Central

On March 6, 2023, around 3:30 pm, officers were dispatched to a threat report. The victim called 911 saying Ryan Shaules (32) was threatening to kill her. Prior to law enforcement arriving, Shaules went to victim’s residence, damaged the victim’s property, and fled. Witnesses told law enforcement that Shaules had a gun with him when he arrived. Shaules also made threats to kill a law enforcement officer. Probable cause was established to arrest Shaules for two counts of felony harassment and malicious mischief in the 3rd degree as well as unlawful possession of a firearm (Shaules is prohibited from possessing firearms due to his criminal history). Shaules has three prior felony convictions which includes assault in the 3rd degree on two prior incidents and unlawful possession of a firearm.

Around 4:30 am on March 7, 2023, patrol officers located Shaules near the 800 block of N. Summit Blvd. Shaules went into a nearby apartment complex and patrol contained the area until more resources arrived. Because Shaules was wanted for multiple felony offenses, was reportedly armed, made explicit threats to kill law enforcement, and was barricaded in an apartment, additional resources including SPD’s SWAT team were utilized. Numerous commands over several hours directing Shaules to surrender went unheeded, and SPD obtained a search warrant for the residence. Around 9:00 am, SPD SWAT introduced a chemical agent into the apartment which caused Shaules and another male to surrender. The other male was identified as Tikere Adams (23). Adams had voluntarily remained in the apartment during the incident, failing to obey lawful orders to exit from law enforcement. They were both placed under arrest without incident.

Shaules was transported to the Spokane County Jail and booked for two counts of felony harassment, malicious mischief in the 3rd degree and unlawful possession of a firearm. Adams was also booked into Spokane County Jail for obstruction, resisting arrest and an unrelated out-of-county arrest warrant.

Charlie Sector Community Outreach

Captain Matt Cowles provided a safety briefing for students at the Mukogawa U.S. Campus in February. This was a bilingual (English/Japanese) presentation to prepare students for using U.S. public transportation and safety while out and about in our community.

Adam Sector Burglary Mission

Burglaries in Northwest Spokane were up significantly over the first month of the year. In February, Adam sector assigned a mission to the day and mid shift teams to address the rise of residential burglary, mostly in the North Hill neighborhood. At the same time, the night teams were assigned a mission to address a recent string of overnight commercial burglaries. The result of the missions was a reduction in burglaries from 20 the prior week to 5. During the missions, a couple of different burglary arrests were made by patrol teams.

During the State B Tournament, SPD conducted a mission to monitor the playground area near the Arena as there has been issues with assaults in the past at that location. Captain Hendren also directed night teams to prowl check area hotels where we have historically observed vehicle prowls during State B. There were no reported vehicle prowls at these hotels during State B.

Baker Sector Traffic Emphasis near Shiloh Hills Elementary School

The Baker Sector deployed a traffic enforcement at the intersection of N Standard Street and E St Thomas Moore Way. That intersection is a bus pickup and drop off for children who go to Mead School District 354's Mt. Spokane High and Mountainside Middle Schools and is a crossing for young children going to Shiloh Hills Elementary. After the traffic enforcement, SPD received a letter from the Shiloh Hills Neighborhood Council.

Chief Meidl,

Shiloh Hills Neighborhood thanks you and your force for increasing safety in our neighborhood near Shiloh Hills Elementary School. Additionally, our neighborhood has reported (very thankfully) the increased number of police vehicles seen in our neighborhood. Lt. Bart Stevens has been a very welcome presence at our neighborhood council meetings.

The Spokane neighborhoods are grateful for the hard work of the women and men of our police force who make our City a safe place for us to live in. Please share our thanks to our officers in the field. Wishing you and our police force the best,

The Executive Committee of the Shiloh Hills Neighborhood Council

Employee Awards

Officer Aaron Ames – Medal of Merit



Officer Ames has been instrumental in supporting the mission of the DV Unit. He has contacted thousands of defendants in jail as part of the focused deterrence model. When the Covid lock down came, he started reviewing every DV call for service and reaching out to the victims. With his dedication and determination in looking at every call for service, he often found victims that needed service and referred them to advocates. Officer Ames became an expert in strangulation investigation, jail phone calls, order violations, interpreting criminal histories and maintained positive

working relationships with prosecutors, advocates and staff.

After seeing defendants released from jail after probable cause was developed for a DV crime, he was inspirational in creating the PC Alert, ensuring that DV defendants would be held accountable. When it was possible, he searched for and arrested hundreds of outstanding DV defendants including one that we searched for and arrested a dozen times with more than 50 DV charges. Officer Ames was instrumental in this trial, having to memorize hours of jail phone calls in order to obtain the convictions of felony order violations, witness tampering and witness intimidation. As Deputy Prosecutor Matthew Welde wrote:

“The exceptional work done by Officer Ames was a primary reason that the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office could successfully hold him accountable and have his case brought to justice. The contents of our office’s case file depict an extensive domestic violence follow up investigation that included additional field work, court appearances, testimony preparation, and extensive screening and review of jail call recordings. Officer Ames’ follow up work proved to be pivotal because the contents of jail call recordings and evidence produced against two accomplices left the defendant with no viable defense to the charges. As a result, the defendant was brought to justice. It is due to such exceptional efforts that the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office can achieve successes such as this in the fight against domestic violence. Therefore, I want to commend Officer Ames for his efforts and commend the Spokane Police Department for its support in our continuing fight against domestic violence.”

Outreach Update

In March, the Community Outreach Unit attended meetings and events with the following organizations:

- American Indian Community Center
- World Relief
- Thrive International
- Boys and Girls Club
- New Tech Skills Center
- Shadle Prevention and Wellness Coalition

- Child Protective Services
- DEA Spokane Fentanyl Awareness
- Shaw Junior High
- STEP Secondary Transition Education Program School
- Numerica Community Investment Conversation
- ESD 101 Northeast Support Team Coalition
- PAL Boxing
- Embrace Washington (foster care)
- 8th Grade Job Shadow
- St. Patrick's Day Parade
- PACERS Special Olympics Basketball



SPD Volunteer Awards

We are so proud of our volunteers at Spokane Police Department. These dedicated people devoted 26, 330 hours in 2022. Whether assisting at the front desk, assisting on calls, or conducting community outreach, our volunteers made a difference. Congratulation to those recipients of our awards:

Explorer of the Year: Emma La Rue Cadet of the Year: Deon Prescott



Reserve Officer of the Year: Ed Richardson Chaplain of the Year: Sandy Alderson



Citizen of the Year: John Case

Volunteer of the Year: Ed Richardson



John Case has been volunteering for SPD for more than 30 years.

Below, SPD volunteers at the St. Patrick's Day Parade

