



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Strategic Initiatives
December 2023 Report



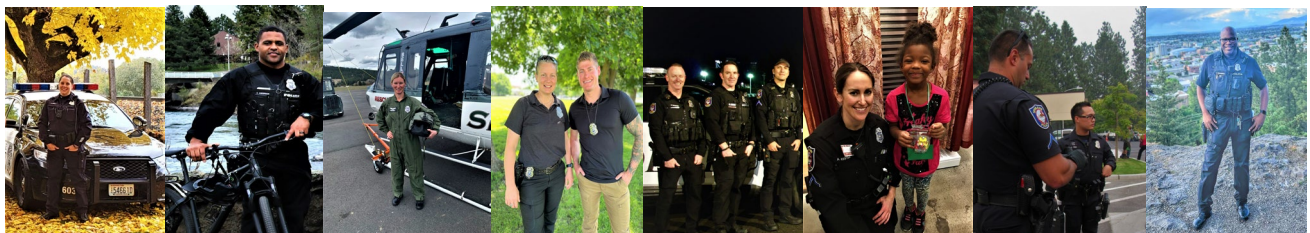
Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
December 4, 2023



Excerpts of Commendations
(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)

I had the opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Officer Kelly Mongan**. Officer Mongan handled several situations during this shift to include: a failure to stop/eluding situation without a pursuit on a motorcycle without a license plate and a rider who did not present as a comfortable rider; a suspicious person with a machete; surveillance regarding a domestic violence and burglary subject; a crisis intervention call with a homeless person on top of a clinic's roof; a domestic altercation without physical violence between a parent and an adult son; as well as an assault with a pipe with a subject at large call. I was impressed with the depth Officer Mongan went to as he handled these sensitive situations while on scene and how he provided significant attention to investigation and follow up. Officer Mongan's experience and dedication to his profession was clear to see and his assessments and due care to follow-up investigation is laudatory. Officer Mongan consistently displayed a strategic outlook towards his duties as he was constantly in communication with his team and using his systems to proactively investigate situations as they unfolded between calls for service.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to you and **Officer [Lee] Barker** for allowing me to ride along and experience an afternoon in the life of a police officer. The first call was definitely the highlight of my week or perhaps my year. I would be remiss if I did not express the profound impact the experience had on me. While I have never had a negative encounter with police, quite the contrary, the barrage of negativity is overwhelming and well I went in somewhat guarded. I did not know if to expect a confirmation of the negativity we are exposed in the media or the community policing that academia holds as the gold standard. I had a genuine interest in what I would take away from this ride-along. I asked many questions of Officer Barker and appreciated his patience with me. His positive attitude was contagious. His humor was appreciated. Suffice it to say, Officer Barker and all other officers who joined on calls, in my opinion, represented the gold standard - community policing at its finest. Officer Barker consistently treated homeless people with respect and the respect was reciprocated. One homeless individual even approached him for advice. I was moved by the genuine compassion shown by officers who did a welfare check on a man who expressed he wanted to overdose. I was impressed by the professionalism and restraint exhibited by the officers handling the hostile individual who was intentionally provoking them. I understand they are all trained professionals, and it is their job, but they do their job exceedingly well and in the event you have not heard it in a while, from this average citizen, your officers are commendable. My perception has shifted. Thank you all for your service and thank you for sharing your time with me.



January 1 through October 31, 2023, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 158**

Complaints Received: **Total: 72 (63 from community)**

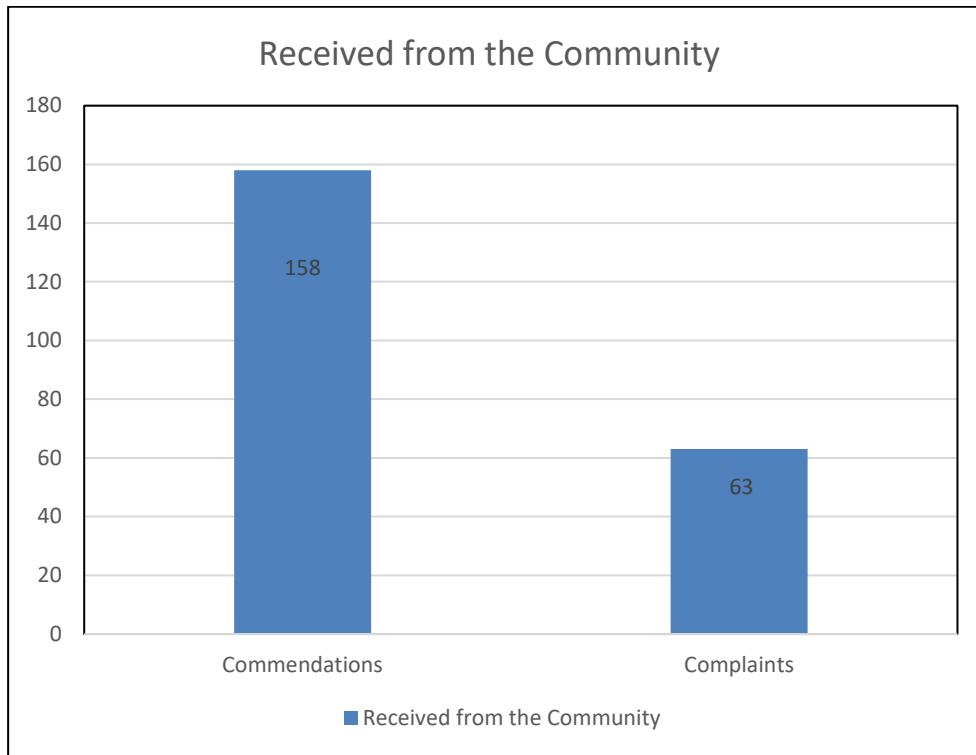
Closed Out as Inquiries: 2 (As of October 31, 2023)

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 October 31, 2023

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 34
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 38
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 9
Generated by the Community	Total: 63

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



Deadly Force Incidents (Officer-Involved Shootings)

2023

From January 1 - September 30, 2023, there was one deadly force incident.

Incident 2023-20088146 (Pending Criminal Investigation)

Incident 2023-20088146 took place on May 10, 2023, in the area of 5th and Browne. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

2022

From January 1- December 31, 2022, there were five deadly force incidents.

Incident 2022-20012711 (Closed)

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.



Reserve Officer Graduation

The 2023 Reserve Officer Academy graduation took place on November 11, 2023. Our graduates complete the 370-plus hour program on evenings and weekends. They pass a certification examination administered by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission prior to graduation. We are grateful for the time that our dedicated community members have volunteered to become Reserve Officers.



These volunteers are unpaid, but they still complete a rigorous hiring process. 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.

Reserve Officer Thomas Jimeno, far left, also serves as a volunteer Chaplain with SPD, in addition to his full-time job.



Drug Education for the Community at the DEA Citizens Academy



The Drug Enforcement Administration - DEA/SPD Joint Citizens Academy, took place throughout October and November 2023. Its purpose was to educate community members about the fentanyl epidemic as part of Operation Engage Spokane. Operation Engage Spokane is a comprehensive community-level approach to address the drug epidemic through prevention strategies, facilitating conversations and collaboration with local partners. At left, the graduates.

Sector Updates

David Sector (Downtown)

Captain Wohl reports, "The Spokane Police Department, along with a Victim Advocate, recently conducted a human trafficking operation in the Downtown corridor to identify both those being trafficked, as well as those responsible for it. Officers made several arrests that night for patronizing a prostitute, as well as for outstanding warrants. Our goal is to provide resources to those in need of them, as well as hold those people responsible who are promoting human trafficking."

The Downtown Precinct is also working with Downtown Spokane Partnership in obtaining some mobile crime cameras. Captain Wohl and Lieutenant Dan Waters recently met with Women's Health Director Angela Amos to answer questions, and she will be attending our roll call briefing to provide some information on the organization.

Noteworthy Arrests

On October 20, 2023, Spokane Police officers responded to a call of a shooting outside of a food and beverage establishment located in the 2400 block of East Sprague Ave. When officers arrived, they found a male victim suffering critical injuries from a gunshot. The victim was treated on scene by medics and transported to an area hospital.

Major Crimes detectives were called to the scene and began an investigation. Over the next several days, they identified a suspect and developed probable cause for his arrest. On Monday 10/23/23, detectives issued a warrant for the suspect's arrest, and he was picked up the next day, 10/24/23, in Lewiston Idaho. Dumont Whitt (47) was booked into the Nez Perce County Detention Center for 1st Degree Assault and two new Idaho charges. Whitt had a stolen gun in his possession when arrested and now faces charges for unlawful possession of a firearm and possession of a stolen firearm in Idaho, in addition to the assault charge related to the shooting.

Whitt is a three-time convicted felon with convictions including 2nd Degree Manslaughter, 2nd Degree Assault, and 1st Degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm. Whitt also has five prior gross misdemeanor convictions to include 4th Degree Assault and 2nd Degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm.



Behavioral Health Unit Update

During September 2023, the BHU took 304 calls for service. 143 unduplicated individuals were contacted.

BHU Sergeant Jason Hartman was just selected as a new board member for the Co-Response Outreach Alliance of Washington. The organization was created in 2018 and represents police and fire agencies from across Washington State. CROA has a three-part mission:

- (1) To enhance the understanding of co-response programs and co-response best practices in Washington State
- (2) To promote the use of co-response to assist individuals with behavioral health issues
- (3) To advocate for laws and policies that support co-response where appropriate—and other programs and approaches when not. CROA is nonpartisan and nonideological. Members support practical, real-world approaches and opportunities to collaborate.

<https://croawa.com/>

Letter of appreciation for BHU:

I will reach out to the Chief, but **[Officer] Ben [Manning]** has been such a huge help to my family. I can't even put into words how he's been there for my son, more than anyone in his entire family or the police field because they thought it was out of jurisdiction. My son now wants to be a police officer. He has learned so much from Officer Manning. He asked for him on his worst days. I never had hope with the Behavioral Health until I met Ben. He should be the head of the BHU. He has touched me and my family more than you know... I finally have hope because of him. He stands for his word for my son. He will be there for us not only us but just for my son. He's amazing and I finally now believe in the system. I could not have done this mental health without Ben. He has understood and watched as we have maneuvered through this life and has given us guidance when needed, and never judgmental. The Chief should be so proud of him. I can't explain how I would have made it without his support. He's a gift and he shows my son daily how he could be better. We love the Spokane Police, but we will forever cherish Ben Manning... please let us know how we could recognize him in our community and if I could go up the chain, he deserves it so much. You have no idea what he's done for my family. THANK YOU, BEN! Even though you have your own family, you have made my son feel like family. Hats off to you!!!! He will never forget you nor will I. Again, I would love to recognize him as well as so many people who have been a part of this and watched Ben be a huge part of my son's life. This is how we stay connected because of Ben. You know it's hard out there with the stigma. Hats off to Ben Manning. You mean a lot to our family. Go BHU! Spokane police, you are loved!!!!

Community Outreach

Trunk or Treat Events

Community Outreach officers and SPD volunteers attended multiple Trunk or Treat events in Spokane, at community centers, elementary schools, and the American Indian Community Center. They also attended the Day of the Dead Celebration, put on by Hispanic Business and Professional Organization (HBPA) / Nuestras Raices.



Outreach in the Schools

Community Outreach officers have been busy teaching CCLR classes at Shaw and Glover Middle Schools. CCLR stands for College, Career, and Life Readiness. This curriculum helps kids learn about careers, explore their interests, prepare, and train for their next steps, and end with being ready to transition to life after high school or graduation. Community Outreach is also teaching CCLR to students outside of School District 81, including an afterschool program in Millwood.

SPD Community Outreach officers attended Rogers High School Trades & Pathways Night. This is an opportunity for the entire student body, along with their families, to explore what is possible after high school. It gives students a chance to explore, ask questions, and get connected to a potential pathway.

Officers also visited the Secondary Transition Employment Program (STEP) School program. STEP is designed for adult students with significant cognitive and adaptive delays who need substantial support and supervision throughout the day. Emphasis is on instruction in life skills, community inclusion, pre-vocational activities, and volunteering or work in local businesses and organizations.

Officers enjoyed a pizza lunch with youth at Crosswalk Youth Shelter.

Drug Take Back Event



SPD participated in the local Drug Take Back Event, in partnership with ESD 101 and the DEA, at the Northeast Community Center and West Central Community Center locations. Drug Take Back events are organized to prevent unused prescription drugs finding their way into the wrong hands. It allows people to clean out their medicine cabinets and safely and anonymously dispose of prescription drugs.

At left, Reserve Officer Mat Allen and Sergeant Greg Rogan with Sarah McNew of the West Spokane Wellness Partnership.

Drug Education

Community Outreach has shared our Narcan training with our partners:

- Spokane Tribal Police
- American Indian Community Center (AICC)
- Northeast Youth Center (NEYC)
- Children of the Sun Coalition
- WSU

Whitworth Student Wellbeing Day

This event allowed officers to talk with students about all kind of topics, but especially campus safety and situational awareness. Officers used inert pepper spray and a dummy to demonstrate how to properly use pepper spray.

Leadership Spokane Police Demonstration at the SPD Academy

Community Outreach facilitated a demo night for Leadership Spokane, where participants learn about police practices up-close.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Training

The rest of the Community Outreach team completed CPTED training. Officer Micah Prim has had the CPTED training for several years, and has completed dozens of assessments for schools, community centers, supportive living housing facilities, nonprofits, and businesses.

Crime Prevention Education

Detective Tim Schwering created a presentation about what he's seeing as he's investigating fraud cases, with people being victimized by crypto currency scams. Recent scamming methods often start out as a "wrong number" text or call, where the scammer tries to connect, or victims are targeted through social media and LinkedIn and dating sites. Detective Schwering explains how the scammers try to gain trust and then victimize people, how scammers try to get them to mail prepaid cards or invest in cryptocurrency, as well as what to do you if you are a victim. SPD has reached out to several community groups and all the neighborhood councils to see if they are interested in hosting a presentation. Many of the neighborhood councils are interested in future dates.

Presentations so far have included:

- Regional Special Investigation Unit Teams
- Spokane C.O.P.S.
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest
- City of Spokane Public Safety and Community Health Committee
- Spokane Aurora Northwest Rotary Club
- Spokane Area Jewish Family Services
- Spokane United We Stand (Asian communities)
- West Hills Neighborhood Council
- Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council
- World Relief
- Later in Life and Vulnerable Adult Task Force
- Carl Maxey Center
- East Central Neighborhood Council
- Nevada Heights Neighborhood Council
- Hillyard Senior Center
- Mujeres in Action



If you are interested in having Detective Schwering present to your group, please contact him at tschwering@spokanepolice.org.

SPD Dispatchers Recognized



Our SPD Dispatchers were honored at the Police Officers Ball with the Resiliency Award, presented by Phoenix Protective Corporation and Spokane Police Chaplaincy.

The award read, “For extraordinary courage and perseverance through very challenging incidents during the course of your service to our community and in the performance of your team’s dispatch duties. This award is presented to our SPD Communications team who continues to exemplify service above self and embodies integrity, professionalism, and compassion.”

Spokane Police Dispatch took over emergency call receiving as of Jan 2nd, 2023. The initial 9-1-1 call is answered by Spokane Regional Emergency Communications, then immediately transferred to SPD.

This change created a significant increase in workload and was made with very little notice. The increased workload has forced periods of mandated overtime, temporarily paused elective time off, and caused some work weeks for dispatchers and supervisors to last up to 13 days in a row. As we continue to hire additional staff and begin each person’s training process, the training staff is also feeling the constant strain of added duties.

From the start of the year, through the first week of August 2023, our dispatch team has made or received over 131,000 phone calls; over 47,000 of which were emergency calls. The call receivers spend an average of 2 mins 59 seconds on each emergency call, and our center averages 25 calls per hour. This average bumps up in the early afternoon for a 5-hour window in which phone calls average 34.8 per hour. This additional call receiving work for 2023 is on top of the almost 200,000 police incidents generated to date- most of which require dispatching or information gathering on the part of the communications team. In this time, the training team has been able to make successful 7 new hires with two more having just started their training.

Despite the enormous addition of work for the communications team, they have far exceeded the national standards for an emergency call receiving center. The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) requires call centers to answer 90% of their calls within 10 seconds, and 95% within 20 seconds. Once the call is transferred to SPD, they answer 97% of calls within 10 seconds and 99.8% within 20 seconds.

The Spokane Police dispatchers have tackled a nearly insurmountable transition, playing catch-up on staffing and forgoing their own earned time off to ensure the citizens of Spokane and our officers feel no negative impacts. Their passion and proficiency at this job is second to none.

SPD Volunteers

SPD Volunteers and Chaplains enjoyed providing fun Halloween festivities.



Citizen Volunteer Barbara Richards
Barbara has been volunteering with SPD since 2000. She works at the information booth in the Public Safety Building.

As of 2022, she has donated 6,710 hours to Spokane Police Department. She will be close to 7,000 hours this year.

