



**SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
**CRAIG N. MEIDL**

**Strategic Initiatives**  
June 2023 Report



**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**June 5, 2023**



**Excerpts of Commendations**  
**(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)**

**Detective [Tim] Schwering**, I cannot begin to convey the heartfelt gratitude I feel toward you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your hard work and all of the time and effort you put into making the Cedar neighborhood a safer place. It means so, so much. I am incredibly grateful to have someone like you working for our city. As it's been quoted "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Thank you for standing up and doing something. Thank you!

Many thanks to **Detective Kelsey Walker** for helping my wife and I and dog. We were hit by the tow truck that took out 4 cars on the freeway. It was a flash of your life moment. Detective Walker was first on scene and helped the car most destroyed. Your finest. We appreciate SPD!

Good evening. I just wanted to extend a "thank you" to your officers for a prompt response to our person with a gun near campus. It turned out to be nothing, but we were reassured by such a quick response. Please pass along my thanks.

To Everyone, I wanted to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication. I am sure some days are challenging. Know you are all in my thoughts and prayers for God to protect you and bring you home safely every day. Know that each day you show up for work, you are helping someone in need. As someone who has needed help in the past, I wanted to let you know it hasn't gone unnoticed or unappreciated.

I wanted to record my thanks for how **Officer Justin Druitt** handled a situation last week. He helped respond to a CPS child abuse case we had. He was calm, patient, and helped my student feel safe, even in uniform and that can be hard for some kids. He answered all my questions. I know you guys probably don't get a lot of thank you calls but I wanted to make sure he was thanked, and I appreciated the work that he did. I really appreciated him and the way he handled the situation.

I just wanted to thank you again for terrific evening your team gave our Youth Leadership Spokane group yesterday. Our youth learned a lot and had such a great time. We just want you to know how much we appreciate all you put into welcoming them and educating them. In addition, please accept our gratitude for all your team does to keep our city safe.



## Internal Affairs Unit Update

### January 1 through April 30, 2023, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received:   **Total: 44**

Complaints Received:       **Total: 31 (26 from community)**

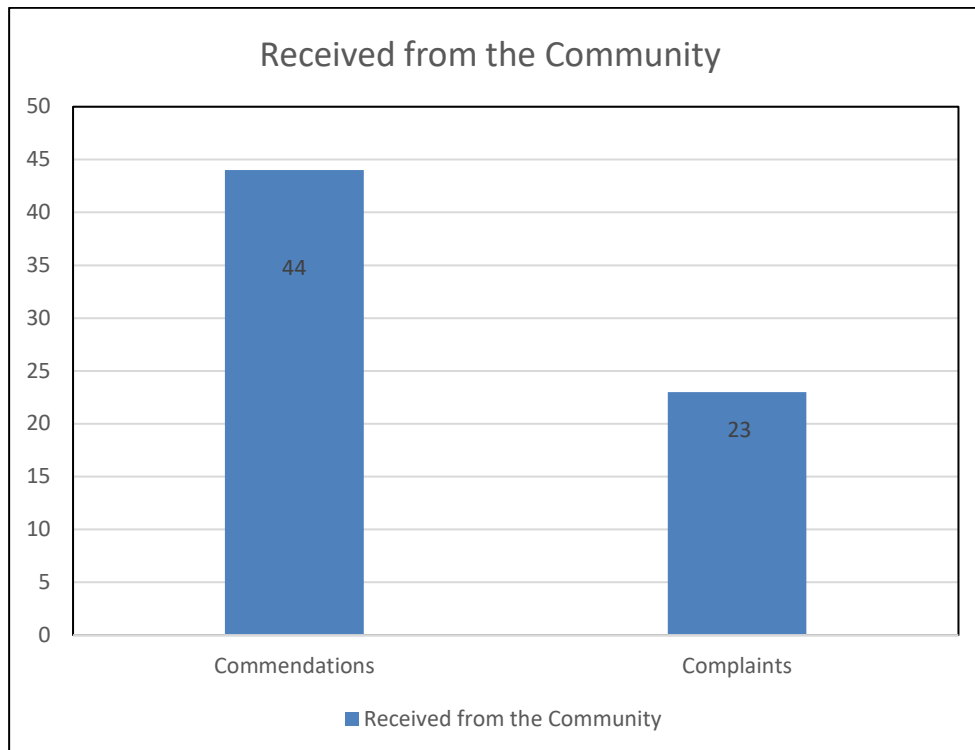
**Closed Out as Inquiries: 0 (As of April 30, 2023)**

*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 April 30, 2023

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 14</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 17</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 5</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 26</b>

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



## Use of Force Update

### Deadly Force Incidents (Officer-Involved Shootings)

#### **2023**

From January 1- May 15, 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board)**

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 Administrative Investigation is complete and will be scheduled for a Deadly Force Review Board.

#### **Incident 2022-20134271 (Pending Criminal Investigation)**

2022-20134271 took place on August 3, 2022, in the area of 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## Hiring and Recruiting

Spokane Police Department is offering free Public Safety Testing: For a limited time when you submit your scores to the Spokane Police Department your PST test is free. To take advantage of this, you can only submit your scores to Spokane PD for that test.

<https://www.publicsafetytesting.com/career-path/positions/law-enforcement-officer>





**SPOKANE, WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**INVESTIGATIONS**  
 MAJOR CRIMES  
 SPECIAL VICTIMS  
 HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
 GANGS  
 COLLISION INVESTIGATION  
 COMPUTER FORENSICS

**COMMUNITY**  
 POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE  
 YOUTH / POLICE INITIATIVE  
 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT

**TECHNICAL**  
 SWAT  
 TAC (POLICE BICYCLE SPECIALTY)  
 EXPLOSIVE DISPOSAL  
 K-9  
 UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS  
 DIGNITARY PROTECTION

**ENTRY LEVEL CANDIDATES VISIT PUBLIC SAFETY TESTING:**



**LATERAL AND CERTIFIED CANDIDATES VISIT GOVERNMENT JOBS:**



**LATERAL**



**CERTIFIED**

**JOIN US**

**NOW HIRING POLICE OFFICERS**

**ENTRY LEVEL, CERTIFIED, AND LATERAL**

Spokane Police is dedicated to serving the community with Professionalism, Compassion, and Integrity.

**VISIT**  
[WWW.SPOKANEPOLICE.ORG](http://WWW.SPOKANEPOLICE.ORG)

**SPD's New K9**



Congratulations to our very own Corporal Anthony Guzzo and his K9 partner, Ghost on becoming a certified K9 team. They graduated on April 27, 2023.

Thank you to Officer Todd Belitz, Officer Brian Blankenstein, and Deputy Amber Tyler (SCSO), for instructing this 10-week course. Their hard work and dedication to these new handlers and their K9's is greatly appreciated.



### Suspect Arrested for Multiple Downtown Robberies

In the early morning hours of 04-07-23, a downtown business in the zero-hundred block of North Post Street was burglarized when a lone suspect broke a door lock and gained access to the building. Once inside, the suspect noticed a security camera and attempted to disable it. The suspect then proceeded to steal items with a value approaching ten-thousand dollars. Among the items stolen was a credit card, which the suspect promptly began to use at various Spokane businesses.

Downtown officers began investigating, and based on the available information, probable cause was established to arrest 43-year-old Marckus T. Beattiger for the burglary and associated crimes. On 04-24-23, Downtown patrol officers recognized Beattiger and took him into custody.

Beattiger was booked into Spokane County Jail for Burglary 2nd degree as well as theft and malicious mischief. Investigations into multiple burglary incidents are on-going, and additional charges are possible.

Additional investigative efforts linked Beattiger to another burglary of a Downtown business which occurred on 03-15-2023. Officers have forwarded charges of burglary, theft, and malicious mischief to the Prosecutor's Office related to that incident.

Beattiger has a criminal history which includes 8 felony convictions, three of which are for burglary.

### 12-year-old Arrested After Social Media Threats

In the afternoon of 04-18-23, SPD responded to Yasuhara Middle School (2701 N Perry St) regarding a threat call. School staff learned a juvenile had threatened another student via social media. The threat included a depiction of a firearm and text indicating the suspect's intent to harm a specific student.

School staff immediately worked to protect the school by placing the building in lockdown and notifying SPD. Officers arrived and ensured the victim was safe, and began conducting the investigation. Based on the evidence available, officers established probable cause to arrest a 12-year-old male for felony harassment (threats to kill) and threats to bomb or injure property (for classification, this is a legal statute that includes a variety of threat types, not just bomb threats).

Officers went to the suspect's residence where a parent was contacted and the suspect was taken into custody without incident. The juvenile was booked into Spokane County Juvenile Detention on the aforementioned charges.

SPD is committed to working with our partners to ensure schools remain safe and secure for students. Classmates, school staff, and parents often provide crucial information which allows SPD to investigate threatening behavior, protect students, and hold those responsible for making the threats accountable.

## Sector Updates

### Charlie Sector Community Outreach – Roll Call with a Cop

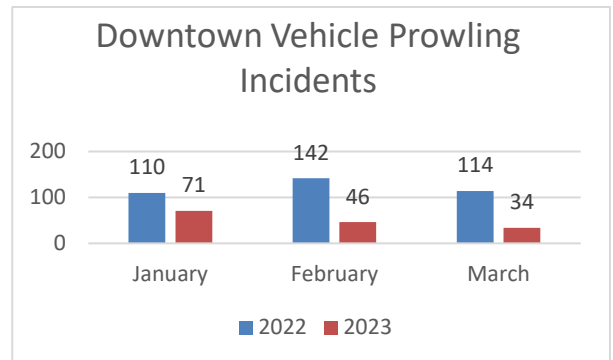
South Precinct Captain Matt Cowles held an outreach event in the East Central Neighborhood, in partnership with Fresh Soul, Spokane Eastside Reunion Association (SERA), and Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Coalition. The “Roll Call with a Cop” event allowed East Central residents and businesses to meet officers assigned to their sector and enjoy delicious food from Fresh Soul, with the cost donated by GSSAC. The event took place on April 21, 2023, with Mid-Shift roll call.



### David Sector Crime Prevention Mission

#### Vehicle Prowling Incidents are Down

Last year, the Downtown sector was absolutely inundated with vehicle prowling incidents. So far this year they have dropped significantly due in large part to officers’ hard work and visibility. January, February, and March were much lower than the corresponding months in 2022.



## SPD Chaplaincy Update



Chaplains are known for responding for DOA and critical incident calls; Chaplains responded to 661 calls for service in 2022, donating 8643 hours. Chaplains support SPD employees and their families in many other ways. The Chaplains like to visit various SPD departments. Recently, they brought baby goats to Dispatch.

In April, the Chaplains held a painting event for employees and their families. They also brought retired officers together for pizza.

The Chaplains and Lieutenant Bart Stevens met with Quilts for Cops, a group that makes quilts for officers who have been injured in the line of duty. They donated several quilts to our officers.



**Behavioral Health Unit Update**

During April 2023, the Behavioral Health Unit responded to 503 calls that would be routed to patrol. 328 of those were grant contacts. 75% of contacts had an outcome other than jail or the hospital. 20% were emergently detained. 2% were arrested. No contacts involved a use of force beyond handcuffing.

**Lifesaving Awards**

The first Lifesaving Award medals were awarded to Officers Jared Meyer, Justin Drutt, and Corey Miller.



Officers Meyer, Drutt and Miller arrived on scene where they found the victim who was bleeding heavily from a gunshot wound to her left leg and was in and out of consciousness. They immediately recognized the severity of the injury and put on two tourniquets. Due to the large amount of blood on the floor, clothing and skin, it was not initially apparent just how effective they were. Very shortly after that, medics arrived and transported the victim to the hospital.

At the hospital, her condition was identified as life-threatening due to the large amount of blood loss, and it was discovered that there was an entry wound on the upper thigh and an exit wound on the lower leg. While in the trauma room I watched as the doctor started to loosen one of the tourniquets. As he started to loosen it, blood began rapidly squirting out of the lower exit wound, indicating that a major artery had been damaged. The doctor quickly reapplied the tourniquet stopping the blood flow.





Dr. Mueller, the ER doctor, said applying the tourniquets “100% saved her life.” The correct application of the tourniquets allowed her to arrive at the hospital with a fighting chance and gave hospital staff the opportunity to save her life. He said he had to give her a rapid transfusion because she had lost so much blood. If not for the rapid and quick actions of the officers putting on not one but two tourniquets, that the victim would have died from blood loss before getting in the ambulance. Their actions bought her the time and opportunity to get to the hospital where she could receive further care.

The second award was awarded to Officer Jackson Henry.



Officer Henry was writing his reports and having lunch when he heard a medical call a short distance from his location. He is not trained as a medic; however, his dedication, character, and calling as a Police Officer made it such that he could not look the other way. He responded to the medical call without request. What he found was a female in shock on the phone with 911. The female opened the door to her residence and pointed to a bedroom. Officer Henry found a 54-year-old male lying on his stomach on the

floor. After turning the male over, he saw he was blue in the face, his arms were red and, above all, he was not breathing. Knowing the female was in shock, Officer Henry began giving her directions to go outside and direct fire personnel into the location. At the same time, he began chest compressions on the patient. After one minute, the male began breathing on his own; however, his breathing was extremely labored. He paused his chest compressions just as medics walked into the room.

Fire Lt. Knapp assessed the scene and saw the patient was in agonal breathing and advised Officer Henry to continue chest compressions as medics set up their equipment. Once medics were set, they took over chest compressions with advanced life support. Medics continued advanced life support for approximately 30 minutes before stabilizing the patient for transport.

Lt. Knapp stated Officer Henry’s actions demonstrated a high level of initiative when he recognized he was the closest resource to a citizen in cardiac arrest and self-dispatched to arrive before any EMS. When Lt. Knapp arrived on the scene, he saw Officer Henry “had the patient on the floor and was performing excellent quality chest compressions.” After EMS’s arrival, he continued to use Officer Henry as a member of the cardiac arrest “pit crew,” freeing up the rest of the crew to perform additional life-saving tasks. He felt “Officer Henry’s actions directly contributed to a positive outcome for this patient.”

The 911 distress call was made at 11:41 am. Officer Henry was on scene and beginning CPR at about 11:46 am. The patient had been down for about 5 minutes. For every minute a patient is down, their chance of survival decreases by 10%. At the time of Officer Henry’s arrival, the patient lost 50% chance of survival. Officer Henry began CPR one minute prior to medics arriving on scene and then continued CPR as medics set up advanced lifesaving equipment for over another minute before Advanced Life Support took over. In such emergencies, seconds count. The patient was blue in the face with no respiration when Officer Henry found him and began CPR. Officer Henry’s selfless decision of setting his lunch aside, going to his car, driving to the location, and entering the residence on his own, gave a cardiac patient an added 10% chance of survival. Another 10% was added as he continued CPR while medics set up to take over ALS, precious time

for a patient in cardiac arrest. This small amount of time allowed Advanced Life Support medical responders the time they needed to continue what he started to save the patient. Lt. Knapp advised the patient spent 3 days in the hospital before being discharged. He is scheduled for a defibrillator and is expected to make a full recovery.

The third award went to Officer Xenon Berkeley.



Spokane Fire Chief Brian Schaeffer sent an email commending Officer Xenon Berkeley for his off-duty response to an individual suffering from what would have been a life-ending heart attack had it not been for his efforts. At Gonzaga University event, Chief Schaeffer was one of the paramedics who responded to the call only to discover that Officer Berkeley had successfully performed CPR and used an AED to great success.

In his letter to the Department, Chief Schaeffer said, “When I arrived, the victim was lying supine in the walkway, and Officer Berkeley cared for him. Despite being off duty, the officer remained with the patient and passed the pre-arrival information to our responders. Officer Berkeley executed CPR, utilized an AED, and managed the devices’ defibrillation when recommended, and his performance was outstanding.”

In addition to being a Police Officer, Officer Berkeley still maintains his EMT credentials and will periodically volunteer as an EMT for AMR or the Deer Park Ambulance service. Officer Berkeley is very passionate about serving his community whether as a Spokane Police Officer or as an EMT. There is no doubt in anyone’s mind that without decisive intervention by Officer Berkeley this individual would have succumbed to his heart attack.

### Crisis Assistance Program

The Crisis Assistance Program, made possible by Spokane Police Foundation, allowed officers to make an impact on their community.

#### CRISIS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**#1:** 88 year old Korean War Veteran, USMC, had vehicle stolen and later recovered by SPD. Could not afford the few hundred dollars to pay a locksmith to have a new key made. SPF immediately stepped in to cover the cost. \$239.00

**#2:** Family with financial hardships was identified. Les Schwab donated & put new tires on their vehicle. Community Outreach used the Crisis Assistance Program to fill the gas tank before the family got their vehicle back.

**#3:** 7 year old was victim to strong armed robbery and had her bicycle stolen. Officer replaced the bicycle using the Crisis Assistance Program. \$85.02

**#4:** Family fell victim, along with others, to local burglars. They woke to find their bicycle and attached child trailer missing. Although the suspect was arrested, the bike and trailer were not located. Using the Crisis Assistance Program, officers surprised the family with a new bike and trailer. \$653.41 (thanks to the Bike Hub providing a discount) – video on Spokane Police Foundation’s website of surprising the family with the bike

**#5:** Provided safe place to stay and food for a family displaced due to a crime. \$389.58

**#6:** Provided a safe place to stay for an elderly couple displaced due to a homicide having occurred at their residence. \$165.42

**#7:** Victim had no money, clothing, food or shelter due to being displaced from her home due to safety concerns. Officer was able to get her a safe place for the night. \$131.79



## Outreach Update

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

- American Indian Community Center – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Assessment.
- World Relief
- Thrive International
- Boys and Girls Club in Spokane
- Boys and Girls Club in Wellpinit
- New Tech Skills Center
- Shadle Prevention and Wellness Coalition
- PAL Boxing
- Shaw Middle School
- Lewis and Clark High School Visit to the Academy
- Career Day at East Valley High School
- Homeschool Students Tour of Public Safety Building
- Spokane Regional Health District’s Hidden in Plain Sight
- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Apple School Tour
- Junior League of Spokane
- Pauline Flett Pow Wow



### Outreach with the Boys and Girls Club in Wellpinit

Officer Jen Kerns met with teens at Teen Night in Wellpinit. Officer Jen started out with talking about her experience playing basketball abroad and about making good decisions, but the discussion grew from there. The teens asked questions for more than an hour. It was a heartwarming outreach event with great discussions. Officer Jen will be facilitating more discussions with the group. See photo at left.

### Collaboration with World Relief

Chief Meidl recently received a thank you greeting from World Relief staff, thanking him for the collaboration between the organization and Community Outreach officers.

*Chief Meidl, I was away last week, but I heard your officers visited World Relief Spokane and gave a great presentation – 3 hours to a packed room with people from multiple different countries with lots of interaction and questions.*



*As you know, the police are often not a welcome presence in our clients' countries of origin, so to have your officers visit and be so kind and approachable was a real gift.*

*Thank you for allowing the time for your officers to come and engage with our clients in this way. I think it really made a difference to these people who are working to make a new home in our city.*

Photo of SPD staff and World Relief staff at left.

SPD Officers at Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (ANHPI) Heritage Days.



Volunteers at Bloomsday and Junior Lilac Parade



Volunteers Provide Safety Talks



Members of the SPD Reserve Unit and Cadet Program were asked to speak to residents of a mobile park community about safety and security. The Spokane Police Department provides ways for neighbors to watch out for each other and take pride in their community.

To learn more about the SPD Reserve Officer and Explorer/Cadet programs, see:



Reserve Police Officers – <https://my.spokanecity.org/.../volunteers/reserve-officers/>

Police Explorer & Police Cadet Programs – <https://my.spokanecity.org/.../volunteers/explorers-cadets/>

