



**SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE**  
**JUSTIN C. LUNDGREN**

**Strategic Initiatives**  
**August 2024 Report**



**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**August 2024**



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

I would like to express my sincere thanks to you, your department, and your officers. I had the great opportunity to go on a ride-along with **Officer Ryan Fick** from the South Precinct. I found him to be courteous, professional, and eager to serve his community. I also found Captain Cowles and Sergeant Wilkinson to be very welcoming. I would like to commend Officer Fick's calm demeanor which I think is an incredible asset in policing. One of his peers even said I was riding with one of the most even-tempered officers in the department. We responded to various types of calls including serving papers with Frontier Behavioral Health, looking for a missing child, assisting with evicting trespassers on private land, and investigating a collision that involved a domestic violence relationship between the parties. Officer Fick remained even-tempered but was able to switch gears and control the situation when necessary. I could also tell that Officer Fick shows great care towards his cases. During my ride-along, Officer Fick received an update from a detective on the resolution of one of his cases which was important to him. Additionally, he was considerate of an individual in the back of his police vehicle that we were taking to jail. It was a warm day and the line for jail was long. He was sure to check in on the individual, open the window, give them water, and flip their handcuffs to lessen discomfort. These small acts of kindness in difficult situations recognizes the humanity in others and positively impacts relationships with the community.

Dear Spokane Police Department, I would like to thank you for coming to the Career Fair. In my opinion, you were the best. Also, I have taken interest in becoming an officer. Thank you again for your time.

Spokane Police (and all other involved departments!) Thank you thank you from the bottom of my heart for keeping my kid and the rest of her bandmates safe last night at the parade. Our band was the one stopped right at the shooting location. The first thing my kid texted me was "There is an emergency but the cops say we are safe!" My husband and I and our friends who also had kids marching with that band were of course very worried, but when we found them we could see that you kept them calm and safe and away from the mess. The kids then got to lead the redirected parade with a very cool police escort. We all hope that the people injured in the event will be ok, and again just want to express so much gratitude to you for your swift, kind, and professional response that kept more people from being hurt. My senior girl will never forget her very last Lilac Parade marching band performance! You are heroes!!!

I just wanted to say how impressed I was with the professionalism and kindness of the dispatchers I spoke with today and the two officers who arrived on the scene to take an incident report for a hit and run that occurred in our business parking lot last night. In the big scheme of things, a hit and run is not the end of the world but I am so appreciative of the information I received about the process and the courtesy and professionalism of all involved has been stellar. **[Officers Dan Morley and Tuan Nguyen.]**

As Co-Presidents of Spokane Lilac Festival, we are extremely grateful and proud of the actions of SPD Saturday night during the parade. By all accounts they did a phenomenal job.



## Internal Affairs Unit Update

### January 1 through June 30, 2024, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received:   **Total: 98**

Complaints Received:       **Total: 51 (40 from community)**

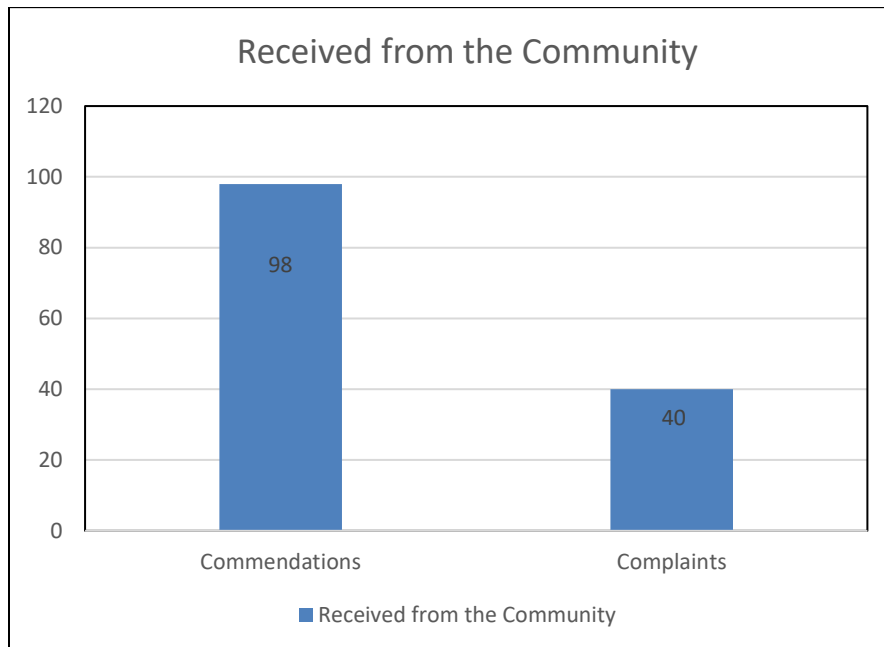
**Closed Complaints: 17 (As of June 30, 2024)**

### Source of Complaints—January 1 through June 30, 2024

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 27</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 24</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 11</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 40</b>

SPD maintains a process that allows us to assess the actions of our employees with the ultimate objective of improving service and holding our employees accountable. Complaints sometimes reveal the need to modify a policy or procedure or reveal a need for training. In 2023, complaints to SPD decreased 12% compared to 2022. Additionally, SPD continues to receive 3 times the commendations as complaints. In 2023, SPD saw a 12% increase in commendations compared to 2022.

It's important to note that calls for service and arrests have increased, and yet commendations are up. The call for service volume through Quarter 1 of 2024 is remaining very high at about 57,000. Arrests are up about 10% from the Q1 year prior. The chart below shows commendations versus complaints from the community through June 2024.



## Deadly Force (Officer-Involved Shootings) Update

### 2024

From January 1 – June 30, 2024, there were five deadly force incidents.

- **Incident 2024-20019659 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2024-20019659 took place on January 31, 2024, in the area of Stevens and Cliff. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.
- **Incident 2024-20027093 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2024-20027093 took place on February 12, 2024, in the 1100 block of East Wellesley. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.
- **Incident 2024-20027307 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2024-20027307 took place on February 12, 2024, in the area of Howard and Riverside. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.
- **Incident 2024-20060204 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2024-20060204 took place on March 31, 2024, in the 1800 block of West Dean. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.
- **Incident 2024-20073072 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2024-20073072 took place on April 18, 2024, in the 2000 block of W Longfellow. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

### 2023

From January 1 – December 31, 2023, there were two deadly force incidents.

- **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.
- **Incident 2023-20238146 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2023-20238146 took place on December 3, 2023, in the 9200 block of Colton Street. 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 Administrative Investigation):** 2022-20134271 took place on August 3, 2022, in the area of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sheridan. SIIR completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor's Office rules the use of deadly force justified.
- **Incident 2022-20156670 (Pending Administrative Investigation):** 2022-20156670 took place on September 4, 2022, in the area of 2900 E. Wabash Avenue. SIIR completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor's Office rules the use of deadly force justified.
- **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 Administrative Investigation):** 2022-20214924 took place on December 4, 2022, in the area of Morton and Illinois. SIIR completed the criminal investigation. The case is with the Prosecutor's Office. SPD is conducting an administrative investigation.



### Adam Sector (Northwest)

#### **Recent News: Assault call in West Spokane results in multiple felony warrant arrests.**

On June 18th, 2024, just before 9:30am, Spokane Police responded to the area of 1500 North Maple Street after 911 received a call of an assault. A community member reported a female armed with a weapon, possibly assaulting a male. Officers were on scene within 6 minutes where they detained multiple subjects attempting to run from the area. Two were found to have outstanding felony warrants and were taken into custody.

Judy C. Kirchoff (33) was wanted by the Department Of Corrections (DOC) for violations stemming from a 1st Degree Kidnapping charge. Kirchoff has prior felony convictions for 2nd Degree Taking Motor Vehicle Without Permission and Possession of a Controlled Substance. Darryl J. Weathermon (38) was also wanted by DOC for violating conditions from an arrest for Residential Burglary. Weathermon has prior felony convictions for Theft of a Motor Vehicle and 1st Degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm. Kirchoff and Weathermon are currently being held in the Spokane County Jail. Officers determined that no assault had taken place prior to their arrival.

#### **Police responded to a call of a carjacking where a female victim reported a man got into her car, after she stepped out, and took off dragging her behind.**

On June 23, 2024, about 3pm, police responded to a call of a carjacking at a park in the 2900 block of N West Oval St. where a female victim reported a man got into her car, after she stepped out, and took off dragging her as she was holding onto the vehicle. The victim relayed she did not know the man and that her dog was still in the vehicle. Patrol officers responded immediately and located the vehicle driving in the area of E. Empire Ave. and N. Regal St. The suspect drove away from police, who approached the vehicle with their emergency equipment activated, at a high rate of speed through city streets. At one point during the pursuit the suspect rammed a patrol vehicle and continued fleeing. The suspect also hit several traffic cones as he drove through a construction area and also hit two parked vehicles. Officers were eventually able to stop the fleeing vehicle by conducting a PIT maneuver, but the suspect ran from the vehicle and directly at officers. Officers attempted to apprehend the suspect to prevent him from continuing to put police and the public at risk. Officers successfully took the suspect into custody even as he fought and assaulted police.

Police arrested Austin L. Hayes (24) and booked him into the Spokane County Jail. Probable cause was developed to charge Hayes with Robbery 1st Degree Carjacking, Assault 2nd Degree – Intention to Commit Felony, Attempting to Elude Police Vehicle, Assault 3rd Degree, Resisting Arrest, Obstructing a Law Enforcement Officer, Operating a Vehicle with License Suspended, and 2 counts of Hit and Run Unattended Vehicle. Hayes appeared in a Spokane Superior Courtroom this afternoon where a judge set his bond at \$100,000. Hayes has an extensive criminal history which the judge noted in referencing his 17 prior convictions and ongoing threat to the community. His most recent felony convictions are for 2nd Degree Possession of Stolen Property, and Eluding.

#### **Coffee with a Cop**

The Adam Sector held a Coffee with a Cop event on July 20, 2024. Below, Adam Sector Captain Tom Hendren engaging with Spokane residents.





Baker Sector (Northeast)

**Coffee with a Cop**

SPD employees and volunteers enjoyed meeting Northeast residents at the Coffee with a Cop on June 28, 2024. Below, youth receive stickers from Baker Captain Shawn Kendall and Lieutenant Steve Braun.



## **Enforcement in City Parks**

Our parks have rules and hours that need to be enforced so that everyone in our city can safely utilize them. SPD's goals are to reduce violent crime and criminal activity, such as camping, drug usage and hazardous waste left in parks. Baker Sector officers are using high visibility patrols during all hours and are issuing citations where needed. Officers have been assigned to specific parks.

## **Chronic Nuisance Properties**

Baker leaders are working on seven chronic nuisance properties.

## **Recent News: Suspect in custody after assaulting family member with a firearm, brief pursuit safely ends with PIT maneuver.**

On June 4th, 2024, just before 8 pm, 911 received a call from an address in the 6100 block of North Smith Street advising someone was going to be shot. Screaming could be heard by the call takers. 911 was advised that a male was armed with a gun and had struck someone in the head with the weapon inside the residence. There was also information that the suspect was pointing the gun at himself at one point.

As officers were responding, 911 was advised the suspect had left the residence in a blue sedan and was still armed. Officers quickly located the suspect vehicle in the area of Crestline and Rowan. The suspect refused to stop for officers and a brief pursuit took place. Based on the information that the suspect had already assaulted someone with a firearm, was still armed and failing to stop when commanded, officers initiated a PIT maneuver to quickly end the pursuit. The suspect vehicle was stopped, but the suspect continued to be uncooperative and would not exit the vehicle.

Due to the dangers associated with this incident and the fact the suspect was refusing to exit the vehicle when commanded, SWAT officers were requested to assist. Officers communicated with the suspect in an effort to have him exit the vehicle and surrender. The male finally exited the car and was taken into custody without incident. Officers recovered a handgun during the arrest. The investigation revealed two victims were assaulted at the residence before the suspect fled.

Anthony C. Deligt (41) was arrested and booked into the Spokane County Jail on the following charges: 2nd Degree Assault- Domestic Violence; Attempting to Elude a Police Vehicle; 2nd Degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm; and 4th Degree Assault- Domestic Violence. Deligt has extensive criminal history with prior felony convictions for Possession of a Controlled Substance with intent to distribute and 2nd Degree Possession of Stolen Property. The quick actions of officers when locating the suspect vehicle, brought an end to a dangerous, rapidly evolving incident.

## **SPD arrests man for drive-by shooting and assault after firing at a home in a domestic violence incident.**

On Saturday June 29, 2024, just before midnight, Spokane Police responded to a call of a shooting in the 3000 block of E. Jackson St. Upon arrival, officers learned that an argument had taken place between family members of a boyfriend and girlfriend after the boyfriend assaulted her. The victim's father arrived at the house where his daughter was and confronted the boyfriend, who was in his vehicle outside, telling him to leave. The boyfriend got out of the vehicle and argued with the father, holding a gun and pointing it at the father. The boyfriend's mother and a brother arrived and all were arguing and exchanging words when the boyfriend fired at the father before fleeing in his vehicle. The father was not hit but two young children were in the house - which was in the direction the shots were fired. Officers recovered shell casings and live rounds at the scene.



Police developed probable cause to arrest Harlen N. Cariss (23) for Drive-by Shooting, 1st Degree Assault, 4th Degree Assault, Interfering with Reporting of Domestic Violence, and Reckless Endangerment. Officers continued their investigation on Sunday June 30, 2024, and at 2:30pm were able to locate Cariss as he drove from a residence. SWAT members contacted the vehicle and took Cariss into custody. He was booked into the Spokane County Jail and appeared in court this afternoon where a judge set his bail at \$250,000.

Charlie Sector (South)

**Coffee with a Cop on the South Hill**



**Recent News: SPD arrests man who assaulted a woman who got out of her car to help him.**

On June 8, 2024, at around 7:00 in the morning, SPD responded to a trouble unknown/possible assault report at Napa St. and Trent Ave. Upon arrival officers learned a woman was driving northbound on Napa St. at Trent Ave. where she stopped for a red light. She relayed that she saw a man stumble across the roadway and fall in the middle of traffic. The woman called 911 seeking assistance for the man. The man managed to stand up and approached the woman's vehicle and she asked him if he was alright. He stated he needed some water. The woman exited her car as another vehicle arrived with a male driver who handed the woman a bottle of water to give to the man.

Responding officers learned that the woman gave the man the water and he ran from the road and straight into a concrete wall and fell to the ground. The woman walked over to the man and offered to help him when he pulled her to the ground and began strangling her causing her to fear for her life. The other driver ran over and pulled the suspect off the woman who ran to her car with the suspect right behind her. He continued to try and pull her from her car while the male driver tried to pull him away from the woman in her vehicle, eventually succeeding. The woman was able to drive off and stop away from the scene where the male driver who helped her joined her. Officers noted injuries on the woman's neck consistent with strangulation. The suspect was still at the scene when patrol officers arrived at that





location. They were able to confirm the identity of the suspect and establish probable cause to arrest him for 2nd Degree Assault. Robert M. Fisher (28) was taken to a local hospital and later booked into the Spokane County Jail where he remains at the time of this writing.

### **Attempted kidnapping on the South Hill – linked with a crime spree.**

On June 5, 2024, just after 6pm, Spokane Police responded to a reported carjacking at a restaurant downtown in the 700 block of W. 3rd Ave. A woman reported she was in the drive-thru of the restaurant when a man threw a rock into her car, striking her, and demanded she get out of the vehicle. Officers learned the woman complied out of fear for her safety. During the investigation officers were able to determine a suspect description, which was put out to other officers. The carjacked vehicle was spotted by police a short time later on the South Hill near Southeast Blvd and 17th Ave. Patrol officers began to follow the suspect who was driving recklessly at a high rate of speed, several times almost colliding with other vehicles including several marked police cars - one which narrowly missed being hit head-on by the suspect. Officers terminated the pursuit due to the risk the suspect driver posed to others.

A very short time later a citizen called in a suspicious vehicle located in the 3000 block of E. 28th Ave. The car was confirmed to be the stolen vehicle, but it was unoccupied. A K9 track was initiated in the area. While the K9 search was on, an attempted kidnapping call was reported in the 3100 block of Mt. Vernon. Callers reported a male, who matched the description of the carjacking suspect, had just tried to kidnap a child who was playing outside with a friend at the location. Fortunately, an alert citizen noticed the suspect grab the young girl from behind and try to drag her away and heard the girl yelling. The man intervened, rescued the victim, and chased the suspect off. The girl relayed she thought she would never see her family again.

As police were talking with the girl and the citizen who helped her, a call came in that a woman had just scared a burglar out of her home in the 2600 block of E. 33rd. The suspect, who matched the carjacking and kidnapping suspect description, fled from the home with a pillowcase of items taken in the burglary. A K9 track was again set up, patrol officers surrounded the area, drones were utilized and instrumental in quickly locating the suspect in the area of 37th and Mt. Vernon. Daniel J. Pajas (38) was taken into custody. But not before striking an officer in the head with a rake with which he had armed himself. Also not before lighting fire to a shed next to a home in the 3500 block of S. Smith. The fire caught the side of the occupied home on fire before being put out.

This crime spree lasted an hour and a half, injured a number of people including officers, terrified several people, put many people in danger, damaged property, and took substantial police resources to contain. This incident could have had a much more tragic outcome if it weren't for the exceptional work of police and the assistance of community members and witnesses. SPD thanks those who assisted.

Additionally, earlier in the day – around noon, a burglary was reported in North Spokane in the 2000 block of North Crescent Ave. Jewelry and cash were stolen. The suspect fit the description of the suspect in the evening crime spree and Pajas was charged for that burglary as well as numerous other crimes related to the crime spree. Pajas was booked into the Spokane County Jail and faces 13 charges, including a number of felonies. Charges include 1st Degree Robbery/Carjacking, 1st Degree Kidnapping, 1st Degree Arson, 2nd Degree Assault, Residential Burglary, 2nd Degree Burglary, Attempt to Elude Police Vehicle, 2nd Degree Theft, and Malicious Mischief. Pajas is being held on a half million-dollar bond.



## David Sector (Downtown)

### **Downtown Teams Keeping the Community Safe During Multiple Events**

Captain Steve Wohl reports, "As we wrap up a very successful EXPO, I'd be remiss if I did not acknowledge the amazing work the Downtown teams did to keep downtown Spokane safe over the past 12 weeks. We saw a HUGE increase of families, out of town folks and citizens descend upon our downtown area and Riverfront Park. Thousands upon thousands of citizens got to enjoy the Opening Ceremonies, Asian American/Pacific Islander festival, both Lilac Parades, the Powwow, Manito Park Arts festival, Pride Parade, Bloomsday, Hoopfest, Fireworks on the 4th, Riverfront Park Carnival, and the Closing ceremonies. Our officers and their presence kept everything safe and running smoothly. Other than one situation that temporarily interrupted the Lilac Parade for a short time and was handled expeditiously, we had no issues for the other events. We have seen shootings, serious assaults and chaos occur in years past during the Hoopfest weekends, Powwows, 4th of July etc. These very successful community events enjoyed by so many are a testament to our dedicated teams. Even with all these events occurring in DT Spokane, along with many others, Part I crimes are down 17.15% for the year. We know crime ebbs and flows, but I would say we are pretty successful this year with major events coming to town. We have officers out on foot, bikes, and the Gator almost daily."

Below, officers at the Lilac Parade.





**Youth Engagement – Thrive International Soccer Camp**

SPD officers and volunteers helped with Thrive International’s soccer camp, June 24-28, 2024. The Spokane Police Foundation is an event sponsor. About 100 youth participated each day, with 576 cumulative participants during the week. Participating youth are refugees, hailing from 26 different countries.

On the first day, Reserve Officer Balinda Kizombo talked with the participants about his experience as a refugee, life lessons, and the character trait integrity.



**Sky Fest 2024**

SPD Volunteers enjoyed interacting with families at Sky Fest.



**Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) Update**

The Behavioral Health Unit is a regional unit staffed with three deputies, three SPD officers, an SPD sergeant, and three co-deployed mental health clinicians.

Example of the BHU helping an individual with behavioral health needs:  
 A BHU Deputy provided this anecdotal success story: “I dispatched myself to a suicidal male call. A female called in to report that she got a call from her friend A.H. A.H. told the complainant he was out driving his motorcycle and was going to kill himself. He told her that he was going to drive his motorcycle into oncoming traffic. A.H.’s phone was tracked, and the location was provided to State Patrol and me. He was located behind a convenience store where we had tracked him to. The State Patrol checked out with him and awaited my arrival. I learned that A.H. was depressed, and drug addicted. He wanted to



get clean but had gone to treatment before and found it difficult to get back in. A.H. had thought that suicide was an option and was strongly considering it. A.H. cited his addiction to fentanyl powder as his drug of choice. I had a conversation with A.H. utilizing motivational interviewing and other communication methods. After around a half hour of talking with him I provided him instant access to detox and mental health resources. A.H. took advantage of my offer for the Spokane Regional Stabilization Center. I transported him to the stabilization center and provided a warm handoff. A little more than a month later A.H. sent a text message to my work phone thanking me for taking him to detox that day. He informed me he had been clean and sober for 32 days now.”

#### May 2024 BHU Stats:

- Calls for service by BHU: 517 (includes Crisis, Suicidal, and Check Welfare.)
- Unique individuals contacted: 182.
- Total time on-scene for calls for service: 17,978 minutes.
- Contacts of a person in crisis: 342.
- Diversions from hospital/booking: 5.
- 1% of contacts resulted in an arrest.
- 18% of calls resulted in Involuntary Detentions.
- 74% of calls resulted in an outcome other than jail or the hospital.

#### SPD Volunteers at Community Events

Spokane Police Department volunteers at the Lilac Parade, Bloomsday, and Hoopfest



## Criminal Justice Student Education

In partnership with Spokane Public Schools, SPD's Reserve Officers provided training to NEWTech Prep Summer Academy Criminal Justice students. Reserve Officers Ed Richardson and Mat Allen provided instruction on fundamentals of officer safety when conducting traffic stops. Students demonstrated practical application in the performance of traffic stops, public speaking, radio communications, and writing/issuing traffic citations. Additionally, Reserve Officers discussed the education, training, and the leadership experiences and development the Spokane Police Explorer program offers. Students discussed many topics with officers on academic performance, career pursuits outside of law enforcement or military, volunteerism, and community engagement.



## Summer Camp Public Safety Building Tour

Participants of Chabad of Spokane's Camp Gan Israel summer camp recently toured the Public Safety Building. SPD Officers and volunteers enjoyed getting to know the kids and loved the opportunity to share the department's history and our mission of serving the community. The kids brought thank you cards to show their appreciation.



## Police Activities League (PAL)

SPD's 2024 Police Activities League (PAL) Season is underway. It takes place at Shadle Park, Friendship Park, and Grant Park in July and August 2024. The PAL program was created in 2013 to help build trusting relationships between at-risk youth and local law enforcement. PAL offers positive programs such as soccer, football, basketball, lawn games, art activities, and educational activities. Youth enjoy presentations from various Spokane Police specialty units (K9, SWAT, Drone Unit), Spokane C.O.P.S.



Mounted Patrol Unit (horses), and nutrition education and fresh fruit. The Drug Enforcement Administration provides martial arts. PAL is made possible by partnerships with many organizations. PAL allows police officers and community leaders the opportunity to mentor youth and provide education (e.g., drug and alcohol education, STEM, safety education).

The PAL program is made possible by the Spokane Police Foundation and a grant from Spokane Parks Foundation.



SPD is grateful for the many community volunteers who help with PAL. Numerica, Providence, Garco, WSU, Acme Concrete, and ESD 101 contribute volunteers, in addition to the many SPD volunteers who participate.



*"Serving our community with Integrity, Professionalism, and Compassion"*