



**SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
**KEVIN HALL**

**Strategic Initiatives**  
December 2024 Report



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



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

Hi, I just wanted to reach out and express my appreciation to your officers who responded to the shooting incident in behind the Air B&B my family and I were staying in on Saturday October 19th in the early morning hours. Officers were on scene in less than a minute from the time I called 911.

I would like to share with you a heartwarming experience I had at COPS SE last week. A man, a mentor similar to Big Brothers, brought a young boy to our shop to meet some policemen. The boy is one of three sons to a single mom and a drug addicted dad. The officers took time out of their busy schedules to talk to the boy. The officers spent a good 15 - 20 minutes with this young man. They shook his hand and gave him one of their cookies. The man told the boy, "This is where you come if you need help." [Unknown South Precinct officers.]

Good morning, everyone. I wanted to extend my appreciation to **Sergeant [Greg] Rogan and Officer [Jen] Kerns** for their contributions to yesterday's workshop [Social Integration with Spokane Police at the Manzanita House]. I received excellent feedback from the community, and their presentation was well-aligned with our community's needs. They had a positive experience with our Police department. Additionally, Sergeant Rogan, thank you for all your services. I wish you a wonderful retirement for you and your family.

Good Afternoon. I just wanted to express my gratitude for **Officer Adam Anderson (#1394)** for meeting me at my office to assist me with a police report yesterday. He was very personable, knowledgeable and helpful with this process. I just wanted to pass along the appreciation. Thank you.

I just wanted to give a quick shout out to a couple of your officers, **Officers Chris Lesser and Isobel Luengas**. They brought a runaway dependent youth to our office [Department of Children, Youth & Families] today and did an amazing job! They were professional, had great communication, easy to work with and gracious with their time and the entire situation. I know how busy your officers are and that they have much more important things to take care of – so I wanted to take the time to give them a SHOUT OUT from DCYF! Kudos to these officers!! Keep up the great work!! Thanks for all you do.

**[SPD Volunteer Services Unit and Community Outreach]** I am so glad that SPD once again came and participated in our [American Indian Community Center] Trunk or Treat event. We value your partnership and your friendship!



## Internal Affairs Unit Update

### January 1 through October 31, 2024, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received:   **Total: 159**

Complaints Received:       **Total: 83 (65 from community)**

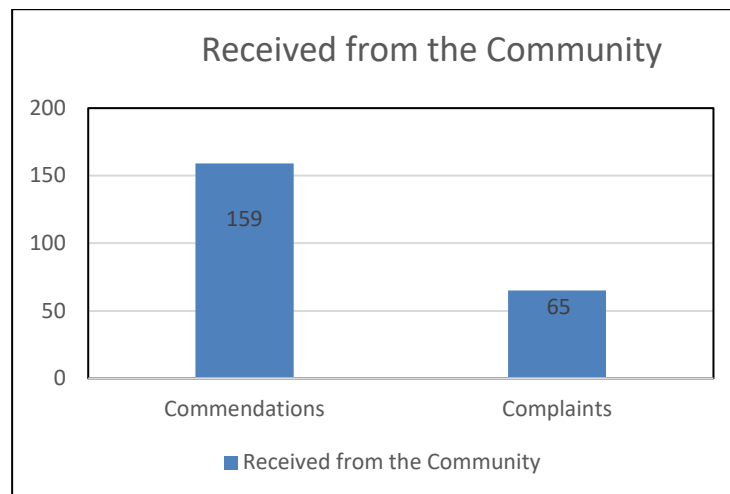
**Closed Complaints: 29** (As of October 31, 2024)

### Source of Complaints—January 1 through October 31, 2024

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 39</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 44</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 18</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 65</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 three times the commendations as complaints. In 2023, SPD saw a 12% increase in commendations compared to 2022.

The chart below shows commendations versus complaints from the community through October 2024.



## Deadly Force (Officer-Involved Shootings) Update

### 2024

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

- **Incident 2024-20019659 (Pending Prosecutor Review):** Incident 2024-20019659 took place on January 31, 2024, near Stevens and Cliff. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) conducted the criminal investigation. The case is with the prosecutor.
- **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 Prosecutor Review):** Incident 2024-20027307 took place on February 12, 2024, near Howard and Riverside. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) conducted the criminal investigation. The case is with the prosecutor.
- **Incident 2024-20060204 (Pending Prosecutor Review):** Incident 2024-20060204 took place on March 31, 2024, in the 1800 block of West Dean. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) conducted the criminal investigation. The case is with the prosecutor.
- **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 Administrative Panel Review):** Incident 2023-20088146 took place on May 10, 2023, near 5<sup>th</sup> and Browne. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) conducted the criminal investigation. The prosecutor ruled the use of deadly force was justified. Internal Affairs conducted an administrative investigation. The investigation is being reviewed by the Admin Panel Review, prior to the Chief's review.
- **Incident 2023-20238146 (Pending Administrative Investigation):** Incident 2023-20238146 took place on December 3, 2023, in the 9200 block of Colton Street. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) conducted the criminal investigation. The prosecutor ruled the use of deadly force was justified. Internal Affairs will conduct an administrative investigation.

### 2022

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

- **Incident 2022-20012711 (Closed)**
- **Incident 2022-20134271 (Pending Administrative Review Panel):** 2022-20134271 took place on August 3, 2022, near 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sheridan. SIIR completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor's Office ruled the use of deadly force justified. Internal Affairs conducted an administrative investigation. The investigation is being reviewed by the Admin Panel Review, prior to the Chief's review.
- **Incident 2022-20156670 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board):** 2022-20156670 took place on September 4, 2022, near 2900 E. Wabash Avenue. SIIR completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor's Office ruled the use of deadly force justified. SPD completed the administrative investigation.



- **Incident 2022-20184192 (Pending Prosecutor Review):** 2022-20184192 took place on October 16, 2022, near 100 S Cedar. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) conducted the criminal investigation. The case is with the prosecutor.
- **Incident 2022-20214924 (Closed)**

### Chief Hall Connecting with the Community

Since his swearing in on August 26, 2024, Chief Hall has met with multiple community groups:

- Adult and Teen Challenge
- AHANA Multi-Ethnic Business Association
- Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF)
- Business Roundtable
- Carl Maxey Center
- Catholic Charities
- Community Colleges of Spokane
- Compassionate Addiction Treatment
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Downtown Spokane Partnership
- Empire Health Foundation
- Gonzaga University
- Innovia Foundation
- International Rescue Committee
- Jewel's Helping Hands
- Joint Terrorism Task Force - FBI
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Latinos En Spokane
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest
- Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center
- Mujeres in Action
- NAACP Spokane
- NATIVE Project
- Northeast Community Center
- Nuestras Raices/Hispanic Professional and Business Association
- Office of Police Ombuds
- Peace and Justice League of Spokane
- Providence
- Rayce Rudeen Foundation
- Refugee and Immigrant Connections
- Spokane C.O.P.S.
- Spokane Independent Metro Business Alliance (SIMBA)
- Southside Senior and Community Center
- Spokane Business Association
- Spokane County Sheriff's Office
- Spokane Homeless Coalition



- Spokane Human Rights Commission
- Spokane Police Foundation
- Spokane Pride
- Spokane Public Facilities
- Spokane Public Schools
- Spokane Tribe Business Council
- Take All Coalition
- Temple Beth Shalom
- The Way to Justice
- Thrive International
- U.S. Attorney's Office
- West Central Community Center
- YWCA



**Sector Updates**

Adam Sector (Northwest)

**Adam Sector officers participated in several community Trunk or Treat events.**  
 Trunk or Treat with the Garland District, NATIVE Project, and with Spokane Pride at Corbin Senior Center.



Baker Sector (Northeast)

**Coffee with a Cop with the Northeast Sector**  
 The Hillyard McDonald's at 3416 N. Market Street has been an amazing partner in these outreach events.





**Trunk or Treat with Hillyard Built at the Northeast Precinct**

Hillyard Built, a nonprofit organization in Hillyard, organized a community trick or treating event. As families traveled on Market Street, they interacted with many businesses and community members, including officers at the precinct.



**Cub Scout Visit at the Northeast Precinct**

On November 7, 2024, a group of Scouts enjoyed a Patrol, Drone, SWAT, and K9 Show and Tell event.

**Juvenile in custody after bringing weapon to school**

On October 15th, 2024, at 11:30am SPD responded to 4106 N Cook (Shaw Middle School) after school officials contacted 911 advising a student had a weapon in their possession. The information was brought forward to school staff by another student. Once aware of the safety concerns, District 81 Resource Officers quickly contacted the student, taking his backpack away. He fled campus subsequent to 911 being called.

District 81 located a loaded handgun inside the backpack. Patrol officers quickly responded and located the student a short distance away from the campus, detaining him without incident. Additional information was obtained that the student showed the gun to another classmate, telling him not to say anything.

At the conclusion of the incident, the student (12-year-old male) was taken into custody for Possession of Dangerous Weapons on School Facilities and 2nd Degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm. He was then booked into the Spokane County Juvenile Detention Center.



This is a great reminder for students to say something if they see something. SPD applauds the student in this instance for coming forward.

### Charlie Sector (South)

#### **Recent News: Suspect in East Spokane homicide in custody**

On October 22nd, 2024, at 2:29pm SPD responded to the area of Thor and 1st Avenue in East Spokane on a report of a stabbing. Upon arriving, a male victim was located with stab wounds. Despite lifesaving efforts by medical professionals, the victim succumbed to his injuries at the scene.

As officers began the investigation, information was obtained that indicated the suspect was the son of the victim. Detectives with SPD's Major Crimes Unit (MCU) responded to the scene to assist with the investigation. Leads/tips on the suspect's whereabouts came into 911, but officers were unable to locate him. With the information and evidence obtained at that time, an arrest warrant was issued in the event the suspect was contacted outside of Spokane County.

Washington State Patrol (WSP) came upon a vehicle that appeared disabled on I90 westbound near Cheney. Upon checking the license plates, the vehicle was reported as stolen. There was a single male occupant in the vehicle later identified as Damian C. Eiffert (38). Eiffert is the son of the victim and the primary suspect in the homicide investigation. Eiffert was uncooperative with WSP and stated he had a gun on his person, while reaching for his waistband area. Due to the extreme safety concerns, I90 was closed in both directions. Multiple specialty units from the Spokane County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) responded to assist WSP. SCSO SWAT, Crisis Negotiations, Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) and the Regional Air Support Unit (SRASU) arrived on the scene.

County Negotiators communicated with Eiffert in an effort to facilitate his surrender. He continued to be uncooperative making comments that someone from law enforcement was going to die. Eiffert was observed getting in and out of the vehicle with items in his hands. At just after 9am, he fled the vehicle on foot but was detained a short distance away.

Damian C. Eiffert was taken into custody for 2nd Degree Murder. The name of the deceased and specific cause of death will be released by the Spokane County Medical Examiner's Office.

If you have information about this investigation, contact Crime Check at 509 456-2233. Reference 2024-20219669.





## **Crisis Outreach, Response and Engagement (CORE) Pilot Program Uses Multiple Evidence-Based Proactive Approaches**

In October 2024, Spokane Police Chief Kevin Hall, Spokane Fire Chief Julie O’Berg, and Mayor Lisa Brown developed and instituted a pilot program aimed at addressing challenges in the downtown core. The “Crisis Outreach, Response and Engagement” (CORE) program was a 30-day, short-term pilot that included law enforcement, alternative response, and outreach agencies. SPD deployed additional officers to the downtown precinct to increase visibility and engagement through bike and foot patrols. These officers assisted in increased implementation of place-based policing, an approach that identifies areas and times with higher risk of crime. Simultaneously, the City increased alternative response through the expansion of co-deployment teams (first responders and behavioral health providers), including the Behavioral Health Unit, Behavioral Response Unit, and CARES Team. Two additional BHU officers were deployed to the downtown precinct and SPD worked closely with Spokane Fire to provide increased response to fit various needs. The City of Spokane additionally leveraged partnerships with i2 Strategies and Revive Reentry to navigate individuals to appropriate resources through increased outreach. Members of the Revive team joined Code Enforcement to engage in outreach, coordinate encampment resolution, and navigate individuals to treatment and housing.

- Place-based policing: CORE was deployed where the most crime and quality of life issues were concentrated. After four weeks of the CORE pilot plan, SPD saw a slight reduction in violent crime, especially assaults.
- Person-focused policing: During the four weeks, officers made almost 200 contacts with 143 unique individuals. These individuals represented over 2000 local arrests over the years; 15% represented over 1100 arrests. SPD is working with partners to address the needs of a very active group of individuals, many of whom are dealing with behavioral health and substance use issues. Officers were looking for individuals who are trafficking Fentanyl. Several active drug trafficking investigations resulted from CORE contacts.
- Problem-oriented policing: SPD collaborated with partners to address social causes of crime, such as drug addiction and homelessness. Our issues in the Downtown core are an all-government agency, all-community issue. Chief Hall believes that the best way to move forward is with a holistic approach.

### **Investigations Update**



SPD Investigations staff members Captain Tracie Meidl, Lieutenant Nate Spiering, Lieutenant Rob Boothe, and Detective Elijah Hayward attended a gala on October 25, 2024, to support This Mission, a local nonprofit we work with. This organization provides grant funding to combat human trafficking. Lieutenant Rob Boothe spoke as part of a panel.

## Reckless Driving Emphasis

On October 12, 2024, SPD conducted an emphasis patrol to address reckless motorcycle operation, funded by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission.

Four motorcyclists were arrested for reckless driving and booked into Spokane County Jail. One of those four was also given a \$395 ticket for driving without a motorcycle endorsement. All of them were safely apprehended thank to assistance from drone operators from the Air Support Unit (ASU). Drone footage of the operation can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/1024518861?share=copy>

So far, in 2024, four motorcyclists have died in crashes in Spokane. Motorcycle crash fatalities have been trending upward in the last decade in the city of Spokane with over half of those crashes (57%) involving speed. These trends have also been seen statewide, with 138 motorcyclists killed in 2023. In the United States in 2022, 35% of all motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes in were speeding, compared to 22% of all passenger car drivers. Motorcycle riders 21 to 24 years old involved in fatal crashes had the highest speeding involvement at 51% in 2022 and of the 2,254 motorcycle riders who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2022, 42% were alcohol-impaired.

SPD plans to deploy these emphasis patrols for the remainder of 2024 and throughout 2025, again utilizing ASU to safely take reckless drivers into custody.

## Training Opportunity for the Community – Impaired Driving and Current Drug Trends

The Spokane Police Department recently secured two separate grants through the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) in order to help curb the number of impaired drivers on our roads. The first grant funded by the WTSC is for a full time DUI enforcement officer.

The second position is funded as a newly created Impaired Driving Training Coordinator. This officer will be in charge of impaired driving detection certifications for SPD as well as providing education to community stakeholders in current drug trends with a focus on reduction in impaired driving. As a resource for our local area, they are available to educate current medical professionals, first responders, schools and other community member groups. The officer will continue to be assigned to our Spokane Municipal DUI Therapeutic Court and available to respond to Fatal and Serious Injury Collision investigations.

Community members may contact Sgt. Teresa Fuller at [tfuller@spokanepolice.org](mailto:tfuller@spokanepolice.org) if you would like an impairment training for your group or organization.



## SPD Volunteers at Halloween Events

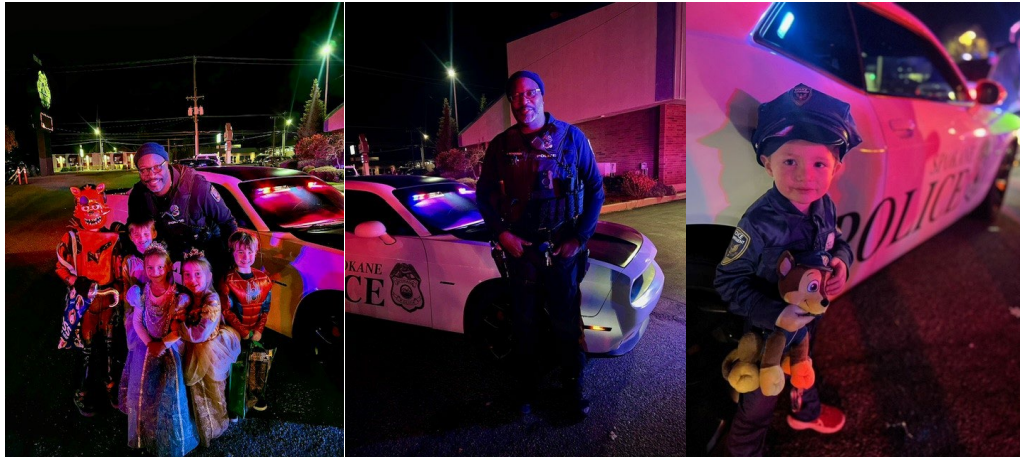
Spokane Police Department Cadets and Explorers enjoyed Halloween outreach at Northtown Mall.



SPD Volunteer Services at the American Indian Community Center Trunk or Treat.



Reserve Officer Ed Richardson also attended a Trunk or Treat event in Spokane Valley.



**SPD Sergeant Receives Award**

Sergeant Richie Plunkett received a Community Impact Award from Light A Lamp, a local non-profit organization, in recognition of his outstanding work with the Behavioral Health Unit. He built strong relationships with community members and providers, and his compassion and dedication have had a significant impact. Congratulations, Sgt. Plunkett!



**Chaplains Support SPD with Chap-toberfest Event**

Each October, the Spokane Police Department Chaplains make lunch for all SPD officers, professional staff, and volunteers to show them they are appreciated. Bratwursts, chili, pretzels, and plenty of candy were shared with SPD on October 24, 2024.

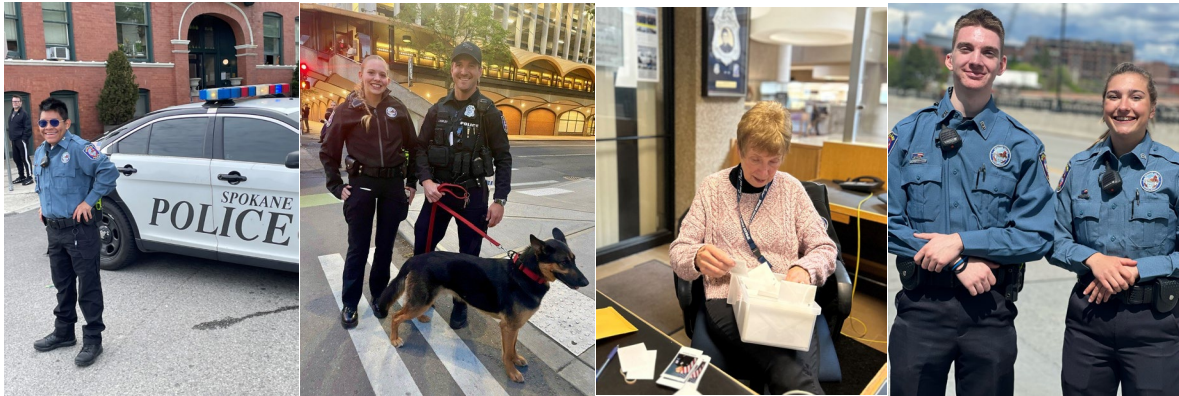


## Volunteering with SPD

One of the main goals of the Spokane Police Department is to engage with the community we serve. There are many ways to engage with the Spokane Police Department.

Interested in becoming a volunteer with SPD? Or learning about an internship experience? Learn more here:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/volunteers/cadets/>  
<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/volunteers/explorers/>  
<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/volunteers/citizen/>  
<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/officer/internships/>



If you are interested in applying or have any questions, please contact the Volunteer Services Unit at 509.363.8283. Email your completed application as an attachment to [volunteer@spokanepolice.org](mailto:volunteer@spokanepolice.org).

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