



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE
JUSTIN C. LUNDGREN

Strategic Initiatives
February 2024 Report



Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
February 2024



Excerpts of Commendations
(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)

I want to say thank you to all the officers who responded to a call, especially **Officer Arthur Paine, Corporal Ron Van Tassel, and Chaplain Kevin Piatt**. Our great niece died of an overdose in her home. Our great niece's memorial was last Saturday so I was able to speak to her parents. They are so thankful to everyone who responded to help her and to assist them with any needs. The team was professional and compassionate in answering their questions and standing by their side. Thank you for being there with them on one of the worst days of their lives. They were grateful for your attentiveness to them and your calm manner.

I am emailing to express our gratitude for the officers who responded to a trespassing incident in December. Both officers I spoke to, **Officers Jackson Henry and Michael Brunner**, were very polite, calm, and professional. They responded promptly and handled the situation with ease. We greatly appreciate them and their assistance that day, and their service.

[In response to visiting a classroom]

Thank you so much **Lieutenant [Steve] Braun!** You are amazing! So kind, engaging, considerate, and silly. Thank you! We would love for you to come in monthly. Thank you again! Please stay safe!

Hi Sgt. Fuller, I wanted to pass along my appreciation for **Officer [Xenon] Berkeley's** response to a pretty convoluted collision investigation in Stevens County last Tuesday. He called me to get an appraisal of the situation and I mentioned our suspect was hearing impaired. To my delight, Xenon told me he had some experience with [American Sign Language] ASL and could work through it. As this was a vehicular assault case, his expertise was now even more invaluable. When my dispatch called him off due to another [Drug Recognition Expert] DRE being closer, I countermanded that and requested him specifically. He did not hesitate to get back enroute and met my Trooper in Deer Park to speed up the process. This investigation comprised of two separate collisions miles apart where 4 out of the 5 Troopers assigned to it were called from home, including me. I want to thank him and your department for helping us out. Great work!

Hello Ed [**Reserve Officer Ed Richardson**], I just wanted to reach out and thank you for being SO sweet and comforting to my mom, who was involved in the car accident on Ash next to Rosauers on Sunday. She was very thankful for all of the responders. They took good care of her and helped calm her nerves. She especially appreciated you just sitting and chatting with her. You are a true gift to our community and it became personal this time. I appreciate you!



Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through December 31, 2023, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 262**

Complaints Received: **Total: 78 (66 from community)**

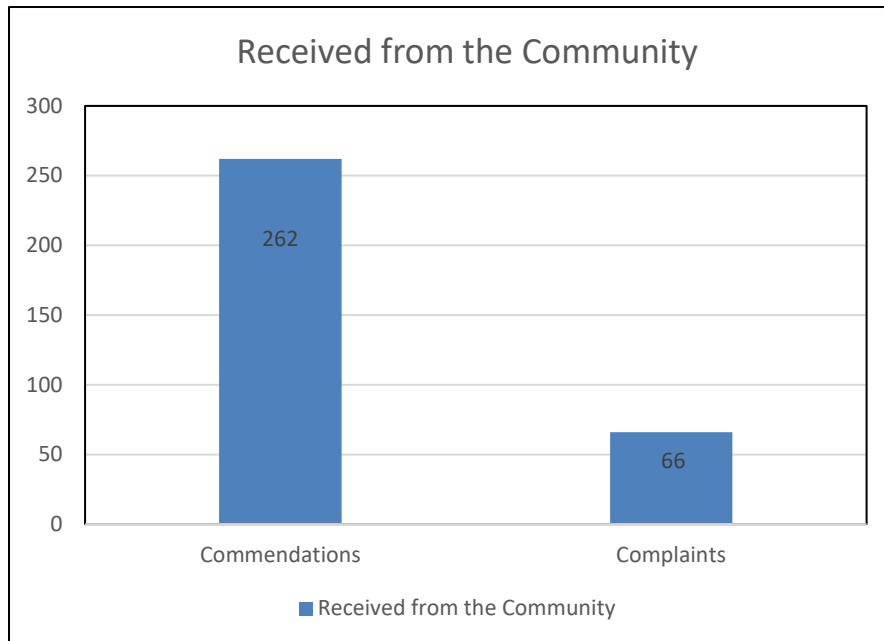
Closed Out as Inquiries: 3 (As of December 31, 2023)

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 December 31, 2023

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 36
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 42
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 12
Generated by the Community	Total: 66

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.



Use of Force Update

Deadly Force Incidents (Officer-Involved Shootings)

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 5th 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 Prosecutor Review)

2022-20134271 took place on August 3, 2022, in the area of 2nd and Sheridan. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) completed the criminal investigation. The case is with the Prosecutor's Office.

Incident 2022-20156670 (Pending Prosecutor Review)

2022-20156670 took place on September 4, 2022, in the area of 2900 E. Wabash Avenue. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) completed 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 Administrative Investigation)

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. SPD is conducting an administrative investigation.



Addressing Crime - Violent Crimes Task Force and Special Investigative Unit Updates

The Violent Crimes Task Force was formed in spring of 2022 to identify and arrest the most active and dangerous offenders committing the most violent crimes including murder, rape, and robbery. In 2023, the Task Force arrested 57 individuals identified as violent or dangerous on felony charges and 19 individuals identified as violent or dangerous for felony property crimes. In 2023, Violent Crimes Task Force members also seized 44 firearms, executed 15 search warrants, and seized more than \$250,000.00 and 8 vehicles – currency and cars used to facilitate, or profit from, serious criminal activity.

The Special Investigative Unit (SIU) concentrates on investigations into those dealing narcotics, arresting dealers, and removing dangerous drugs from our streets. In 2023, the Unit seized 60,000-plus fentanyl pills, nearly 9,000 individual meth dosage units, more than 23,000 individual heroin dosage units, upwards of 12,000 individual cocaine dosage units, and more than 44,000 individual powdered fentanyl units. \$269,418.00 and 29 firearms were also seized.

Hiring and Recruiting

New Officers

SPD welcomed six new officers on January 2, 2024. The new entry-level officers began the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) on January 9, 2024.

Below, Chief Lundgren with new hires on January 2, 2024.



SPD continues to hire some of the best and brightest men and women to serve in our ranks despite a challenging past three years for police officer recruitment and retention nationwide, including Spokane. In 2023 we hired 34 officers, and today are as close to fully staffing our 352 budgeted positions as we have been in years. We start the new year with only 2 vacancies, which we anticipate will be filled quickly by laterals with a strong desire to work in Spokane. We have made recruiting and training a priority, dedicating a sergeant to both hiring and training.

Despite our successes in hiring, the demand for police services still exceeds our capacity; we are 200 officers short of the national average of officers per thousand residents. And that is during a time when calls for service are up – about 14% in the past 2 years alone. A reorganization plan implemented at the beginning of January has also assisted in having more officers on the streets, reducing call response times, and allowing more pro-active policing activity time for officers. The reorganization included creating sectors with Captains and Lieutenants assigned to sector teams which provides officers increased supervision and accountability in their designated areas of the city.

Behavioral Health Unit Update

People experiencing behavioral health issues make up an extremely large portion of law enforcement calls for service requiring a dedicated team of law enforcement and mental health clinicians to respond to such calls. The Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) has many successes diverting people in crisis away from hospital emergency rooms or jail, thus freeing up space in those overtaxed facilities, while helping to ensure public safety and providing services for those in need with an eye toward long term solutions. In 2023, the BHU contacted 4,321 individuals, or approximately 360 people each month, with 74% of them having an outcome other than jail or hospital. The calls and incidents that BHU team members manage relieve patrol officers, allowing them to respond to other calls for service. In 2023, the BHU relieved an impressive 5,567 calls from patrol.

Sector Updates

David Sector (Downtown Precinct)



Captain Steve Wohl of the Downtown Precinct shared recent apprehensions of suspects causing issues. Downtown officers organized a retail theft special enforcement in response to suspects stealing armloads of merchandise, valued at thousands of dollars. Store managers shared surveillance video of suspects stealing and officers searched for the suspects. Officers located the main suspect downtown. They detained him and showed him the

surveillance video of him carrying the merchandise out of the store. Officers checked with a different store to see if this suspect was the same suspect from their store's large theft incident. Discovering that the suspect had stolen a large amount of merchandise from both businesses, the officers developed probable cause to arrest the suspect for Organized Retail Theft. Officers also apprehended a suspect with a firearm that was being chased by mall security. The suspect, who was a convicted felon and prohibited from carrying a firearm, was booked into jail for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm.

Adam Sector (Northwest) –

Captain Tom Hendren reported a significant arrest in the Indian Trail Area. He believes this suspect is likely responsible for a significant number of our NW burglaries. It was a great investigation by Officer Andrew Chappell. The suspect was arrested for burglary after being found in a stolen car near the location of the burglary. Evidence was located in the stolen car that linked the suspect to the burglary. The burglary occurred overnight, and entry was made by smashing out a window.

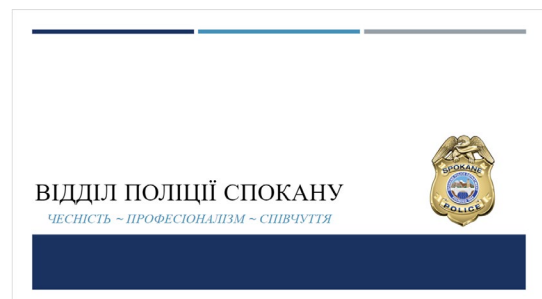
Notable Arrest in the Adam Sector

On January 2, 2024, SPD patrol officers responded to a shooting incident in the 4100 block of W Francis Ave in Northwest Spokane. Initial information was that shots had been fired, a male was potentially injured, and the suspect had retreated into a residence that contained at least one adult woman and several children. Upon arriving, officers promptly entered the residence to protect the potential victims from the reportedly armed assailant. Officers quickly located the suspect, later identified as 44-year-old Torin Harrington, as well as several children and adults who had sought shelter in order to protect themselves from the suspect. A short distance away from the scene, officers located an adult male suffering from an apparent non-life-threatening gunshot wound. Officers immediately rendered aid until care could be transferred to medical personnel who later transported the victim to a local hospital for treatment. Through the course of the investigation, officers learned that the incident had begun the night before (New Years Eve) as a domestic violence incident. Harrington allegedly accosted a female acquaintance, struck her with a firearm, and forced her into a vehicle before driving around the City. The next day Harrington allegedly returned, burst into the residence, and subsequently shot the adult male who was a friend of Harrington’s female acquaintance. Harrington also reportedly threatened and pointed the firearm at other individuals inside the residence. Harrington was arrested for four counts of 2nd Degree Assault, one count of 1st Degree Assault, and 1st Degree Kidnapping. He was booked into the Spokane County Jail.

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.

SPD worked with Thrive International to have presentations with interpreters, with information for Slavic, Arabic, and Afghani communities. Thrive translated the Power Point documents into Ukrainian, Russian, Pashto, Dari/Farsi, and Arabic. These presentations are available to share via email.



ОТДЕЛ ПОЛИЦИИ СПОКАНА
ЧЕСТНОСТЬ – ПРОФЕССИОНАЛИЗМ – СОЧУВСТВИЕ



د سږوڪين پوليسو رياست
INTEGRITY – PROFESSIONALISM – COMPASSION



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
اداره پليس اسپوڪين



قسم شرطة سږوڪان
النزاهة – الاحتراف – الرحمة



Detective Schwering is also working with Mujeres in Action to create a presentation in Spanish that focuses on a wide range of online scams targeting Spanish speakers.

Presentations so far have included:

- SPD Patrol roll call
- Regional Special Investigation Unit Teams
- Spokane C.O.P.S. Staff
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest
- City of Spokane Public Safety and Community Health Committee
- Spokane Aurora Northwest Rotary Club
- Spokane United We Stand (Asian communities)
- West Hills Neighborhood Council
- Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council
- Nevada Heights Neighborhood Council
- East Central Neighborhood Council
- Later in Life and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Task Force
- Carl Maxey Center
- Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Coalition
- Spokane C.O.P.S. Volunteers
- Thrive International
- Mujeres in Action
- Harvard Park
- Cherrywood Place
- Lincoln Heights Terrace
- Hillyard Senior Center
- Park Tower Apartments

DEPARTAMENTO DE POLICÍA DE SPOKANE



INTEGRIDAD – PROFESIONALISMO – COMPASIÓN

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

Drug Education

The Community Outreach Unit is working with the DEA to provide drug education to area youth in programs such as the Boys and Girls Club. Currently, the sessions are in the planning stage, and will be hosted in February and March 2024.

Community Outreach Partnership with NEWTech Prep

The Community Outreach Unit is partnering with Tommy Williams of NEWTech Prep for another Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) program in March 2024. YPI is a prevention program for at-risk high school and middle school youth, designed to meet them where they are and help them prepare for their future. Police officers lead the YPI program, building trust and rapport with students through dialogue, role-play and sharing perspectives. Participants are encouraged to work hard in school, avoid substance use and gangs, and get involved in their communities. Below, Community Outreach Officers with Tommy Williams and a student at the 2023 NEWTech Prep YPI.



Community Outreach

Shop with a Cop



Community Outreach officers were excited to have another Shop with a Cop event at the North Walmart on Colton on January 9, 2024.

Thanks to a \$3000.00 grant from the Walmart Foundation, families shopped for food and supplies for their households. The participating families were recommended by local school counselors, teachers, nonprofit agencies, and patrol officers who encountered families in crisis.



We are grateful to Walmart for a very special shopping experience for the families.



The Community Outreach Unit, along with Volunteer Services, will be supporting the Special Olympics PACERS team again in 2024.



SPD Chaplaincy

SPD Chaplains show up time and time again for Spokane Police Department and for the community. In 2023, our 24 active Chaplains attended 556 calls for service. Many of these calls were critical incidents and deaths, and Chaplains help victims and families as well as officers.

Chaplains also supported SPD employees and volunteers in various ways, like bringing hot coffee and food to officers working long hours in inclement weather, visiting non-commissioned employees with Isaac the Comfort Dog, and organizing events for SPD members and their families.



SPD Volunteers

SPD Volunteers – Explorer Academy

SPD Explorers and Cadets attended the Washington State Law Enforcement Explorer Academy (WLEEA) in December 2023 in Yakima, WA. Explorers are comprised of high school aged individuals 14-18 years old. Cadets are comprised of individuals ages 18-24 years old.



Two of our volunteers, Bethany Olstad and Derek Schweifert, were in the Advanced Platoon.



Derek testing for Advanced Physical Training and an Active Shooter scenario.



Bethany and Derek participating in their respective “downed officer rescue” scenarios after their in-class training on the subject. They also practiced providing medical aid.



Everyone had fun while training at the Academy. We are grateful for our volunteers.



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

