



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE
JUSTIN C. LUNDGREN

Strategic Initiatives
July 2024 Report
The Community Engagement Edition



Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
July 2024

Community Engagement Goals

Engage with Youth in Local Schools

In 2024, Spokane Police Department is focusing on school connections with activities like Safety Talks, Career Fairs, Job Shadow Experiences, Drug Education (especially Fentanyl), College Career Learning Readiness, and Police Academy tours and demonstrations. Participating schools include both public and private schools.

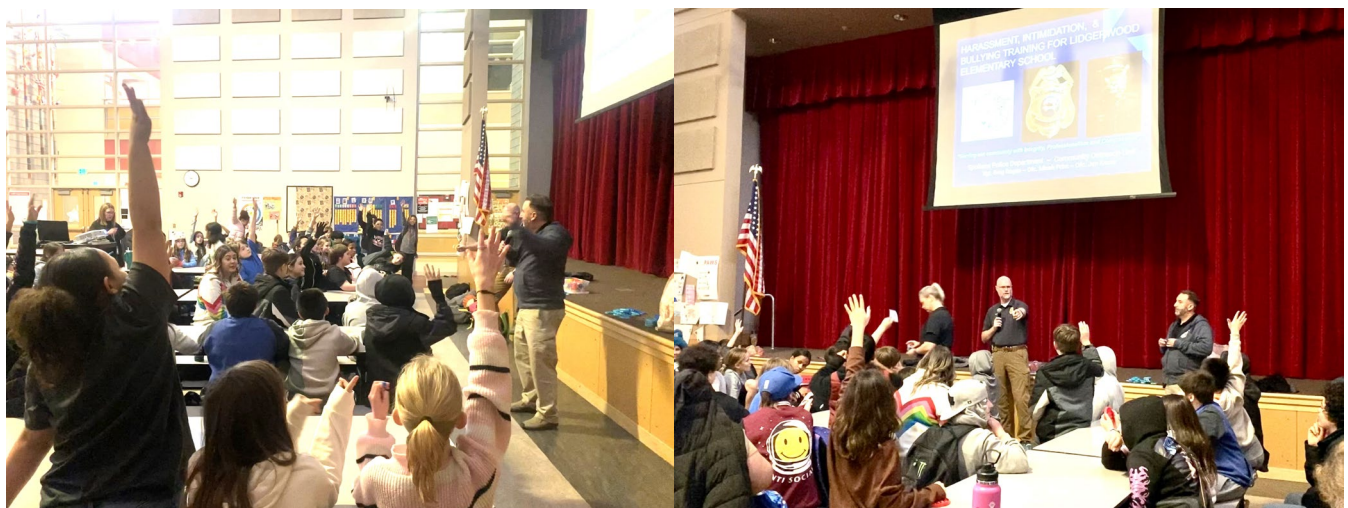


In the last year, SPD has facilitated activities at Scott Elementary, Stevens Elementary, All Saints School, Trinity Catholic School, East Valley High School, Highland Middle School, Northwest Christian School, Woodland Montessori School, Rogers High School, North Central High School, Lewis and Clark High School, Salk Middle School, Glover Middle School, and Shaw Middle School, as well as various preschools.

Community Outreach officers are working with City of Spokane youth with behavioral and/or attendance issues who are in City of Spokane schools (Arlington, Jefferson, Lidgerwood, Shaw) and those attending school outside of the city limits. In several cases, counselors have asked officers to meet with the students as they make progress.

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Below, SPD officers conduct anti-bullying education at Lidgerwood Elementary School.



Below, Lieutenant Steve Braun reads to a kindergarten class at Indian Trail Elementary.



Below, officers talking to students at the Spokane School District 5th Grade Career Fair.



Below, bike safety education for students at All Saints School.



Serve Youth through Partner Organizations

Spokane Police Department will continue to partner with organizations that serve youth such as Junior League, Boys and Girls Club, Scouts, YMCA of the Inland Northwest, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, West Central Community Center, Northeast Community Center, Emmanuel Fitness, Northeast Youth Center, Spokane County Juvenile Justice, and Crosswalk Youth Shelter.

Below, reading to children and discussing safety at the Martin Luther King Center Head Start Program.



SPD is engaging with Embrace Washington and Lutheran Community Services Northwest to meet youth in foster care and provide good experiences with law enforcement. Below, SPD volunteers participate in Embrace Washington's Shoe Shopping Party for foster children.



SPD officers and volunteers participate in Joya's Donut Dash to raise funds for children with developmental delays and disabilities.



Increase SPD Youth Outreach Programs

The Spokane Police Foundation sponsors multiple youth outreach programs.

Police Activities League (PAL)

SPD's flagship youth outreach program, the Police Activities League (PAL), began in 2013 and continues to serve hundreds of young people each summer. PAL engages youth with activities such as flag football, basketball, soccer, and lawn games. Officers and community volunteers serve as mentors for the young participants, provide positive role modeling, and teach core values. The program is held at neighborhood parks in Northwest, Southeast, and Northeast Spokane. The Spokane Parks Foundation and other partners support the PAL program. Martial arts and drug prevention education are provided, thanks to the DEA Foundation.

Several community organizations partner with SPD to have their youth participate. A few examples are YMCA of the Inland Northwest, Spokane Slavic Association, Thrive International, World Relief, and CASA.

In 2023, SPD served 900+ total participants over 15 sessions (405 unduplicated children).



Thrive Nation Soccer Camp

Thanks to the Spokane Police Foundation, SPD partners with Thrive International on Thrive Nation Soccer Camp. The soccer participants are immigrant and refugee youth. Over 100 youth participated in 2023, and we expect more to participate in 2024.



Youth & Police Initiative (YPI)

SPD hosts the Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) with NEWTech Prep students. YPI is a prevention program for at-risk high 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. Photos below are from the May 2024 YPI graduation at NEWTech Prep.



Increase Drug Education in the Community

The Spokane community was identified by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as a hot spot for fentanyl. SPD is addressing the drug epidemic through prevention strategies, facilitating conversations, and collaboration with local partners.

SPD is involved in an art education program with the DEA for elementary and middle school youth. The DEA supplies an art teacher and supplies so that youth in Boys and Girls Clubs can experience art education. During the art education, SPD officers interact with the youth, providing information about safety and drugs, especially the dangers of fentanyl and other opioids. SPD's partners at ESD101 are helping teach as well.



- SPD Community Outreach Officers work with Wellness Coalitions such as West Spokane Wellness Partnership, Shadle Prevention & Wellness Coalition, and Northeast Support Team. The coalitions are part of the Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative (CPWI) and deliver much needed prevention programs and strategies focused on reducing underage use of alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, and other drugs. The coalitions also educate parents about signs of drug use and signs of human trafficking, behavioral health issues, and unhealthy relationships. SPD is a partner for community presentations such as “Fentanyl – What You Need to Know” at Northeast Community Center and events such as Drug Take-Back Events.
- SPD’s certified Drug Recognition Experts regularly present on drug trends to various community partners: e.g., Educational Service District 101, Home and Community Services, Adult Protective Services, WSU School of Nursing, Deaconess Medical Center nursing staff, New Horizon treatment center.
- SPD is involved with the Greater Spokane Community Safety Initiative. This organization has supported drug education activities in SPD youth programs like the Police Activities League.



Provide Crime Prevention Education

Scam Prevention

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 (e.g., LinkedIn, Facebook) and dating sites. Detective Schwering explains how scammers try to gain trust and then victimize people, and how scammers try to get them to mail prepaid cards or invest in cryptocurrency. He explains what to do if you are a victim. SPD has reached out to several

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community groups and all the neighborhood councils to see if they are interested in hosting a presentation. More than 50 presentations have been held during 2023-2024 at various locations such as senior centers, senior living residences, community centers, and social service agencies. Below, at Lutheran Community Services Northwest.



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. Detective Schwering is also working with Mujeres in Action and the Hispanic Business and Professional Association to create a presentation in Spanish that focuses on a wide range of online scams targeting Spanish speakers. If you are interested in having Detective Schwering present to your group, please contact him at tschwering@spokanepolice.org.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

SPD conducts Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Evaluations with schools, businesses, and agencies. CPTED evaluations provide guidelines for property owners to use to lower or prevent environmental factors from creating an opportunity for crime. Recently SPD has completed evaluations with agencies such as the American Indian Community Center, West Central Community Center, Thrive International, and Northeast Youth Center. SPD brought CPTED



training to Spokane to train more employees, community partners, and volunteers on the CPTED program. Above right, SPD staff with All Saints School employees after completing a CPTED evaluation.

Increase Services and Education to Vulnerable Populations

The Community Outreach Unit regularly partners with humanitarian organizations. Officers meet with new refugees to Spokane to help them get to know their police and to inform them about what police services are available. SPD holds workshops where they educate participants about the Spokane Police Department's language card and how to use it as a non-English speaker. Knowing what language is needed helps officers when they contact the Language Line. Community Outreach officers teach classes and workshops on laws, driving, drugs, and safety.

Below, SPD with World Relief for a scam prevention presentation, and at World Refugee Day.



SPD is expanding the Safe Place Program for Victims. Safe Place is an agreement between businesses, the police department, and the community to report crimes (especially hate crimes) and provide a place for victims to safely wait for police. Business owners display a decal near their front door, agree to report crimes, and train employees, volunteers, and staff on the reporting of crimes. Our community currently has 50+ Safe Place locations. This program is based on Seattle PD's program and began in 2020.

SPD officers and volunteers will help people by connecting them to resources, such as Salvation Army, LCSNW, and MiA – Mujeres in Action. SPD will also utilize the Crisis Assistance Program (through the Spokane Police Foundation) to help individuals and families in crisis. SPD partners with the Salvation Army on a program that allows officers to pick up "To Go" food bags for distribution to vulnerable populations, housed or unhoused.



SPD continues to support the Challengers Baseball Team and the Special Olympics Pacers Team, attending practices and sending the team off to the state tournament.



Ongoing Relationship with Spokane Tribe of Indians

SPD communicates regularly with the Spokane Tribe of Indians (STOI) to ensure progress toward strengthening the relationship, and to identify meetings, events, and ceremonies where STOI and SPD can collaborate. SPD also coordinates with Spokane Tribal Police for the safety and betterment of our community. SPD partners with STOI to provide training on Spokane Tribe history for new hires. SPD and STOI will continue attending existing events together (e.g., STOI Annual Pow Wow and Celebration) and will consider creating new events and partnerships. SPD coordinates with the American Indian Community Center on training and events, making referrals to Goodheart Behavioral Health, and sponsoring families in need.



Other ways to engage tribal members includes SPD youth programming; Crime Prevention through Environmental Design assessments of properties; active shooter training; and education on issues such as online safety and social media. SPD also participates in the Children of the Sun Community Coalition. SPD will continue to provide outreach such as safety talks to STOI youth at the Wellpinit Boys and Girls Club and Wellpinit Schools.



Engage at Community Events



Community events are a great way for officers and community members to interact and build positive working relationships. The Lunar New Year Celebration, Spokane County Fair, Unity in the Community, World Refugee Day, the Lilac Festival, Hoopfest, Bloomsday, and the Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (ANHPI) Heritage Days are just a few of the events in our community that give officers a chance to provide an engaged and responsive presence in the community.

Events such as Coffee with a Cop and Roll Call with a Cop are crucial to provide opportunities for Spokane residents to meet the officers policing in their communities and neighborhoods. Below, SPD employees and volunteers engage with folks at Coffee with a Cop.



Provide Hands-On Training to Community Members

Training at the Police Academy

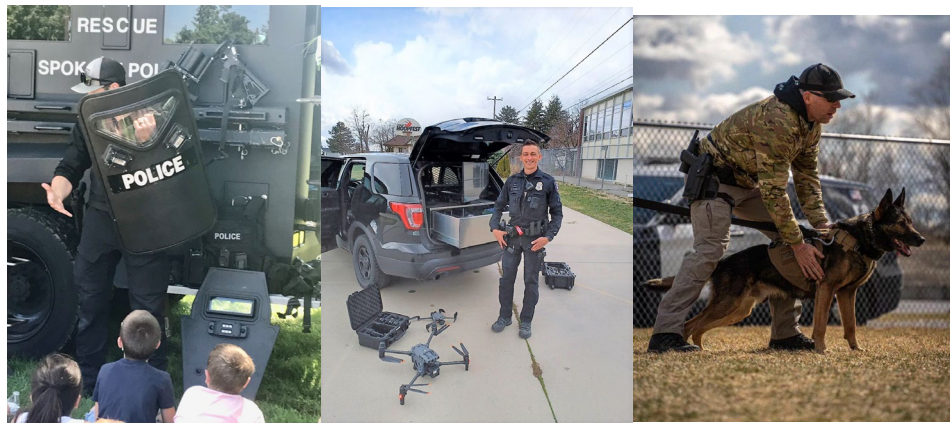
SPD provides hands-on training at the Academy, introducing people to police procedures, defensive tactics, the SWAT team, Drone Unit, and the K9 Unit. At right, students try the VirTra simulator, which provides intense, immersive, and realistic simulation solutions for police officers. These simulations prepare officers for real-life incidents by mimicking stressful scenarios like what they might encounter on duty – where officers must make quick, sometimes life-altering decisions and where officers are provided the opportunity to utilize de-escalation skills.

The scenarios unfold based on the user's decisions. Group demonstrations have included a class from Lewis and Clark High School, NEWTech Prep, Youth Leadership Spokane, and Junior League of Spokane.



Specialty Unit Education

SPD's Drone, SWAT, and K9 Units have provided hands-on training for various locations such as the Boys and Girls Club, multiple parks for the Police Activities League program, and schools such as Wilson Elementary, Willard Elementary, and Roosevelt Elementary.



Enhance Community Policing



SPD works with the community to resolve issues and enhance safety. SPD employees regularly meet and collaborate with dozens of organizations to include nonprofit agencies, government agencies, community centers, schools, universities, businesses, churches, Spokane Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.S.), and neighborhood councils. SPD is committed to our community partnerships and ongoing relationships with them.

Increase SPD Volunteer Program

Volunteers are critical to SPD operations and community engagement. In 2023, SPD focused on growing the Volunteer Services Program, ending the year with 99 volunteers (double the amount from 2021). These volunteers contributed 27,742 hours to the department and community. In 2024, SPD will continue to recruit volunteers for all programs. Below, volunteers at Bloomsday, Shop with a Cop, and St. Patrick’s Day Parade.



“Serving our community with Integrity, Professionalism, and Compassion”

