



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE
JUSTIN C. LUNDGREN

Strategic Initiatives
June 2024 Report



Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
June 2024



Excerpts of Commendations
(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)

Last night one of the members of my congregation was taken into custody after an hours-long standoff. He was inebriated, suicidal, belligerent, and irrational. The sergeant even said to me after he was finally in custody, "Is he always this difficult?" To which I promptly replied, "Yes, unfortunately." I know you don't likely receive as many encouraging emails as you do critical ones, so I wanted to say thank you for how this was handled. It was done respectfully and with care, especially considering he asked the officers multiple times to please kill him. The officers treated him with dignity and an extreme amount of patience despite the situation. I know that police work is difficult for a variety of reasons, which is why I wanted to say that I am thankful for the commendable actions of the SPD last night. I want to express my gratitude to all of you as a pastor, community member, lifelong Spokane resident, and as a friend of the person taken into custody. Thank you for protecting all involved in the best ways. **[Sergeants Tafoya, Fairbanks, and D. Lesser; Corporals Busch and Guzzo; Officers Braten, Edwards, English, LaBelle, M. McKitrick, and Medellin.]**

It's like I've gone to heaven! Thank you and all of the SPD for your hard work! I know you were all working on it and it did take time, but it was done right. We are thrilled to have our neighborhood back. **[Detective Tim Schwering.]**

You guys are amazing! Thanks so much! You guys have such great customer service! If citizens don't tell you that, they should. **[Police Records concealed pistol license team: Renee McCoy, Dawn Biehl, Barbara Barber, and Brandi Belcher.]**

I wanted to leave a little thank you message for **Officer Christopher Bruner**. I didn't have a chance to say much to him at the scene of the accident. I just wanted to say thank you. I'm sorry for getting emotional. Just thank you for coming to the scene and coming to the hospital. It was really kind. I really did appreciate it.

I want to thank you for patrolling around 2nd and Division near our program where men are working to turn their lives around. I know there are so many people that are in need of help on the streets. Some are searching for help, some not, but I pray your officers are kept safe and remain compassionate yet serious about keeping our city safe. It is sad to see it dwindling, but there is hope. Please know that you are appreciated and there are people holding you up in prayer.

As Block Watch captain, I want to extend my sincerest appreciation for whatever efforts led to the recent reduction in street racing around Emerson-Garfield Ruby-Division area. We live on the corner of Stevens and Jackson. This weekend was one of the quietest, most peaceful weekend nights of sleeping we've experienced in months. Coincidentally, we had family visiting and it was a pleasure hosting them in a relaxing environment. Keep up the great work.



Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through April 30, 2024, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 68**

Complaints Received: **Total: 38 (27 from community)**

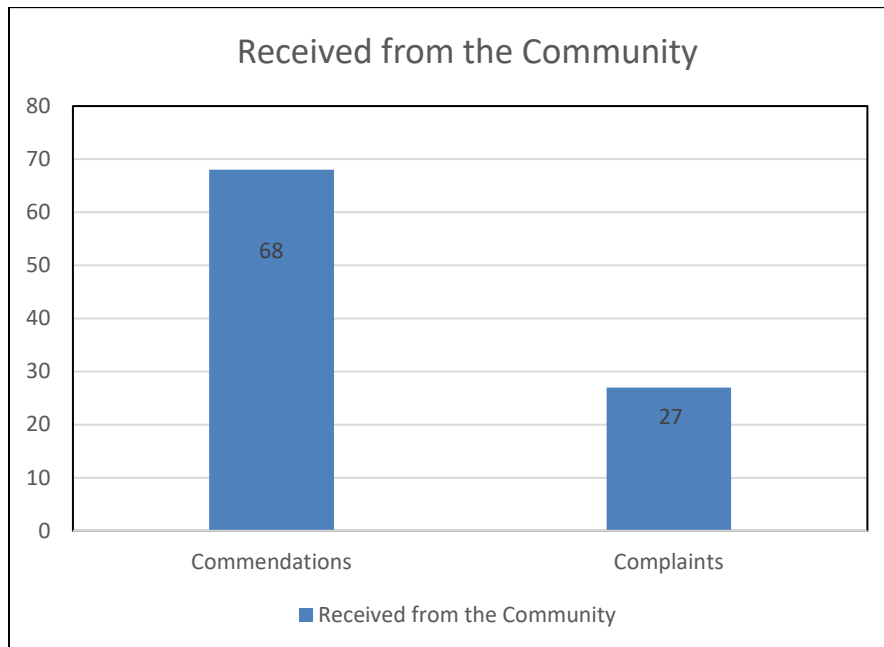
Closed Complaints: 8 (As of April 30, 2024)

Source of Complaints—January 1 through April 30, 2024

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 18
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 20
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 11
Generated by the Community	Total: 27

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 April 2024.



Deadly Force (Officer-Involved Shootings) Update

2024

From January 1 – April 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 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 Administrative Investigation):** 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. 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. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.



Response (SIIR) completed the criminal investigation. The case is with the Prosecutor's Office. SPD is conducting an administrative investigation.



Sector Updates

Adam Sector (Northwest)

SPD Arrests Long Time Convicted Felon After Brief Standoff

On 5/1/24, SPD's Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) was seeking a suspect for robbery after he entered a woman's garage, threatened her with a firearm and stole her purse on 4/27/24. Officers located the suspect in a vehicle which pulled into a restaurant in the 1800 block of N. Monroe where he quickly barricaded himself in his car and refused to comply with orders to surrender. SPD began the process of calling in additional resources to de-escalate the situation including on-duty SWAT officers. About 20 minutes later, with still no compliance, officers breached one of the vehicle windows and deployed a pepper ball gun. The suspect exited his car and police arrested him without further incident.

Tevan T. Williams (34) was booked into the Spokane County Jail on one count of 1st Degree Robbery and an outstanding warrant for 3rd Degree Assault. Williams is a 17-time convicted felon with convictions to include felony assault, robbery, riot with a deadly weapon, extortion, and forgery.

The VCTF exists to identify and arrest the most active and dangerous offenders committing the most violent crimes including murder, rape, and robbery. So far in the first four months of this year, the VCTF has arrested 16 individuals for violent felonies and has seized 10 firearms.

Baker Sector (Northeast)

SPD Arrests Two in Park Shooting

On 4/30/24, Spokane Police officers responded to reports of a shooting at Chief Garry Park on Sinto Ave. around 5:30pm. Officers arrived to find a park busy with people gathered for baseball games and otherwise. Multiple witnesses on scene were helpful in providing information about, and pictures of, what happened. Officers learned that an argument involving a number of young people took place near the southwest part of the park. A car pulled up with two males who exited the vehicle and headed toward where the argument was heard. Shots were fired and the males from the vehicle returned to it and drove away. Shell casings were located in the grass.

Patrol officers were able to determine the registered owner of the car and learned from cooperative parents that their teenage son had the car. Officers located the vehicle at E. Euclid Ave. and N. Crestline

St., pinned the car and detained the two males inside the vehicle without incident. At least one firearm was found inside the vehicle. Officers developed probable cause to arrest Hunter T. Simmons (18) and a 17-year-old male. Both face charges of Drive-By Shooting. At this point, no shooting victims have been located. Anyone with additional information on this incident who has not already spoken with police is encouraged to call Crime Check at 509-456-2233. Police continue to investigate whether other persons were involved in this incident. With warmer weather, more daylight hours, and more people out and about, SPD has increased patrol efforts around our area parks. We continue to encourage community members to report suspicious activity in and around parks as we all work to keep our parks safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Charlie Sector (South)

Spokane Police Arrest a Woman for Murder After Running a Man Over

On 04/09/24, SPD officers responded to the area of West Sunset Frontage Road and South Grove Road on a possible deceased person on the side of the road. Officers arrived to find a partially clothed deceased male who appeared to have been hit by a vehicle with the impact throwing him into a nearby fence. Major Crimes collision investigators and detectives were called to the scene and began an investigation. Shortly after the discovery of the deceased male, a number of witnesses called 911 reporting a truck driving erratically nearby on Highway 2 in Airway Heights. Witness reports allowed detectives to identify the reckless vehicle, and through subsequent investigation it was determined that the deceased male was the owner of that vehicle. However, officers were not able to locate the vehicle at that time. Major Crimes investigators determined that it was likely the driver had intentionally hit the man on Sunset Frontage Road.

While investigators were still on scene, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office deputies were alerted to the same truck by a concerned citizen reporting a possible impaired driver. At that time, the association with the death investigation was not known. The vehicle fled from deputies and after a short pursuit, the driver, Alyssa K. Bray (27), was taken into custody. Bray was booked into the Lincoln County Jail for DUI and Attempting to Elude a Police Vehicle.

Through further investigation, it was learned that on the evening of April 9th, Bray was walking on Sunset Highway when she accepted a ride in the truck with the male. Investigators believe that shortly thereafter, Bray took possession of the vehicle from the victim and intentionally struck him with his vehicle. Today, 04/16/24, detectives traveled to Lincoln County and arrested Bray for 1st Degree Murder. She was transported to Spokane and booked into the Spokane County Jail. The deceased has been identified by the Spokane County Medical Examiner's Office as Gerald R. Fox (70).

This was a complex investigation that unfolded rapidly over a large geographical area. The willingness of concerned citizens to report dangerous and suspicious behavior was critical in allowing investigators to make a timely arrest on this incident.



David Sector (Downtown)

SPD Responds to An Armed Robbery Downtown

On 4/10/24, SPD patrol officers responded to a reported robbery at gunpoint near the area of 500 W. Sprague around 10:00 PM. Officers contacted the victim who stated the suspect had placed a handgun in his stomach and demanded his property. The suspect even “racked the slide” of the firearm to prove it was real. The victim gave over his property and the suspect fled on foot.

Officers were able to identify the suspect as Edward F. Ramey (18) and locate him at a youth facility in the 3100 block of E. Augusta. Officers were eventually able to work with staff at the facility and the suspect was taken into custody without incident.

SPD was able to observe video footage confirming the suspect brought the firearm into the facility. At that point officers wrote and executed a search warrant for the suspect’s bag, which was in the facility. Two BB guns which were replicas of actual firearms were located in the suspect’s bag. Ramey was booked into jail for 1st Degree Robbery.



Drug Education with Youth

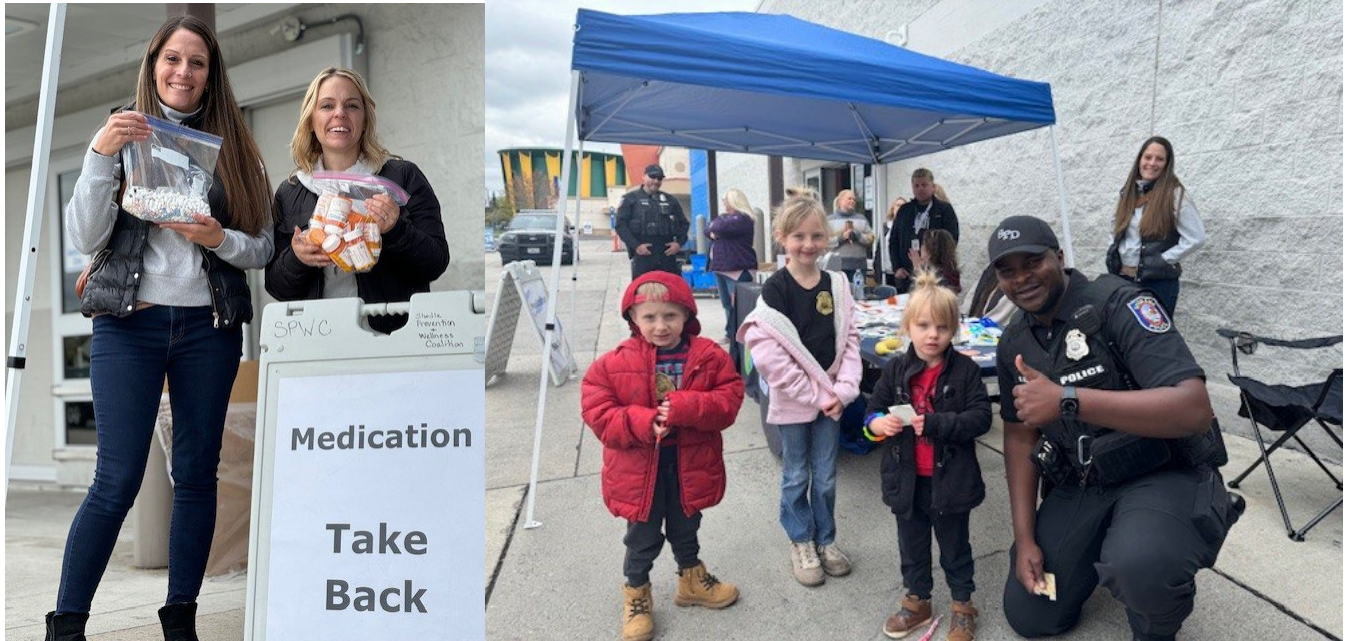
SPD is involved in an art education program with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for elementary and middle school youth. The DEA supplies an art teacher and supplies so that youth in Boys and Girls Clubs can experience art education. During the art education, SPD officers interact with the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

A total of 8 sessions have been held so far at various locations in Spokane County.



Drug Take Back Event

SPD officers and volunteers participated in the Drug Enforcement Administration National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. This event's purpose to fight the drug overdose epidemic by disposing of unneeded prescription medications. We love working with our partners at ESD 101. The event was successful in collecting unused medications and in providing an opportunity for dialogue.



Discussion about Violence – Spokane Children's Theater

Spokane Children's Theater did plays about gun violence. Reserve Officer Ed Richardson was involved with supporting their efforts. He was asked to facilitate a question and answer session with the youth after their play concluded. He loves the opportunity to talk with youth about violence, bullying, drugs, and making good choices.



Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) Update

Two of our BHU officers lead the instruction of a Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC)-certified 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) course for law enforcement officers and other service providers from around eastern Washington. The entire BHU team assisted with mock scenes during one of the training blocks.

CIT training involves working in a team with mental health practitioners, law enforcement, medical personnel, and other first responders. The focus is to provide the best services possible to the individual in a mental health crisis. The Washington CIT programs follow model policies and guidelines brought from using the foundational Memphis CIT Model, Washington State guidelines, and best practice materials from CIT International (CITI). To access the CITI website visit www.citinternational.org.

Example of the BHU helping an individual with behavioral health needs:

Client X was staying at the Cannon Shelter. The Way Out Shelter wanted to move him into their program to start working towards housing; however, he needed to get clean and sober. In November 2023, a BHU officer got him into treatment at the Spokane Regional Stabilization Center for methamphetamine substance use disorder. In January 2024, he was clean and sober, but he was struggling with his mental health. The co-deployed clinician and officer facilitated a warm hand-off with Frontier Behavioral Health's Mobile Crisis Response team in hopes of stabilizing him on mental health meds.

In April 2024, the client was able to get on a housing list, but had an Unlawful Camping warrant, which prohibited him from getting housing. Gerianne from the Salvation Army and the BHU officer used the Pioneer Navigators and worked with the courts. They were successful in getting the client's warrant dropped. As of April 29, 2024, the man was cleared for housing and was ready to move into his new apartment. He is very thankful for the assistance of BHU.

April 2024 BHU Stats:

- Calls for service by BHU: 519 (includes Crisis, Suicidal, and Check Welfare.)
- Unique individuals contacted: 174.
- Total time on-scene for calls for service: 18,007 minutes.
- Contacts of a person in crisis: 318.
- Diversions from hospital/booking: 8.
- 3.1 % of contacts resulted in an arrest.
- 17 % of calls resulted in Involuntary Detentions.

BHU TOTALS JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

TOTAL GRANT PERIOD	TOTALS	NOTES
Total Persons Reached	3,734 Total for grant period.	** Time saved usually does not include report writing time.
Total Patrol Time Saved**	2,764 hours, total for the grant period.	
Refused Assistance	524 people were contacted but refused services.	
Total Referrals	1,151 referrals were made or resources offered.	
Arrest	65 arrests have been made since the beginning of the grant period	***Diversion means PC exists or there is criteria for ITA
Use of Force	0 use of force beyond handcuffing	
Diversions***	42 Diversions from hospital or jail	



Bloomsday

SPD staff and volunteers enjoyed helping with Bloomsday.



Training at the SPD Academy

SPD held several demonstrations for high school students at the SPD Academy. Students learned about police training and procedures, defensive tactics, K9, etc. Below, students try the VirTra simulator. VirTra provides intense, immersive, and realistic simulation solutions for police officers. These simulations prepare officers for real-life incidents by mimicking tense, uncertain, and fast-evolving situations they encounter on duty. The scenarios unfold based on the user's decisions.



5th Grade Career Fair

SPD participated in Spokane Public School's 5th Grade Career Fair. Approximately 2,200 Spokane Public Schools' 5th grade students attend this event in order to expand their career aspirations. Officers were able to talk with youth about careers in law enforcement, volunteering in the community, and answer questions about policing.



Police Activities League (PAL)



SPD is gearing up for the 2024 Police Activities League (PAL) Season. The 11th season of the Police Activities League (PAL) program will take 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.





SPOKANE POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE

The Spokane Police Activities League (PAL) engages participating youth in positive athletic and academic programs, including drug and alcohol intervention and prevention, internet safety and family safety plans. Join us for the 2024 Season this summer!



PAL bridges the gap between Spokane Police officers and youth in our community through fun and educational summer activities.

<p>NORTHWEST PAL: July 9 – August 6, 2024 Every Tuesday 12:00pm - 3:00pm Shadle Park, 4302 N. Belt</p>	<p>NORTHEAST PAL: July 10 – August 7, 2024 Every Wednesday 12:00pm - 3:00pm Friendship Park, 631 E. Greta Ave.</p>
<p>SOUTH PAL: July 11 – August 8, 2024 Every Thursday 12:00pm - 3:00pm Grant Park, 1015 S. Arthur</p>	<p>Final Celebration: To be held at each park on the last day of PAL</p>

Activities offered: Yard Games, Basketball, Running Clinic, Flag Football, Soccer and Martial Arts & Mindfulness.
 Spokane Public Schools Summer Meal Program provides lunches each day.

To register, please contact SPDCommunityOutreach@spokanepolice.org
****REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED ONLY FOR AGES 8 – 15 YEARS OLD****

PAL is offered to our residents in partnership with the Spokane Police Foundation. If you would like to donate to this summer program, visit <https://www.spokanepolicefoundation.org/donate/>



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

