



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE
JUSTIN C. LUNDGREN

Strategic Initiatives
March 2024 Report



Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
March 2024



Excerpts of Commendations
(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)

I'm wondering if you can relay a message to **Lt. [Steve] Braun**. He pulled me over back in July and said something to me. Just tell him, he put out a fire in me. I'm coming up on 60 days clean and sober. I have to say that without him, I would never have done it. Please let him know thank you for what he said to me.

Congratulations are in order for Peter Van Akin, Andi Duggan, and the amazing DV team that assisted in this trial! This was Peter's case and involved a defendant with a lengthy and violent history in Spokane. The assigned detective was **Dave Dunkin** and an integral patrol officer was **Austin Neale**. Special thanks to SPD Det. Dunkin. He performed exceptionally well on the stand and provided valuable testimony about the domestic violence paradigm as well as specifics about this case. Many hours and emails were exchanged about follow up and jail phone calls in this case. Tireless efforts brought forth great results. The team in this case did a fantastic job of educating the jury on the nuances of the case and also presenting the evidence in an impactful way. The testimony of Det. Dunkin especially was critical. Our city is safer for their efforts, and we are so very thankful for their contributions.

I did a police ride along with **Officer Will Mitchell**, who has been with SPD for two years. I was impressed by how this team worked to intervene and prevent fatal injury in a chaotic situation. He graciously explained everything he did, including what equipment would have been helpful in different scenarios. It was helpful to have a fresh perspective from someone relatively new to the SPD. I was encouraged by his ability to make sense of and navigate different scenarios. His dedication to his work was apparent.

Today, my sister, with the help of The Spokane Police Department, was hopefully (fingers crossed) able to get my cousin the help that he needed. I feel that whatever happens now is in God's hands. I pray for him every day, and I will continue to pray for him. I know it likely wasn't easy doing what you guys did today, but for what it's worth, I am so very grateful! Thank you, a million times over, THANK YOU! I am so forever grateful.

Hi Lieutenant Schneider, Thank you again for coordinating the ride-along! It was a good experience. **Officer Makalia McKitrick** is very knowledgeable and professional. I learned a lot about how calls are prioritized and the variety of calls your team deals with on a daily basis. I also observed great teamwork in action. The 4-hour ride-along went by fast. I hope to participate again in the future if the opportunity arises. Best regards and thank you for your service!



Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through January 31, 2024, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 16**

Complaints Received: **Total: 10 (6 from community)**

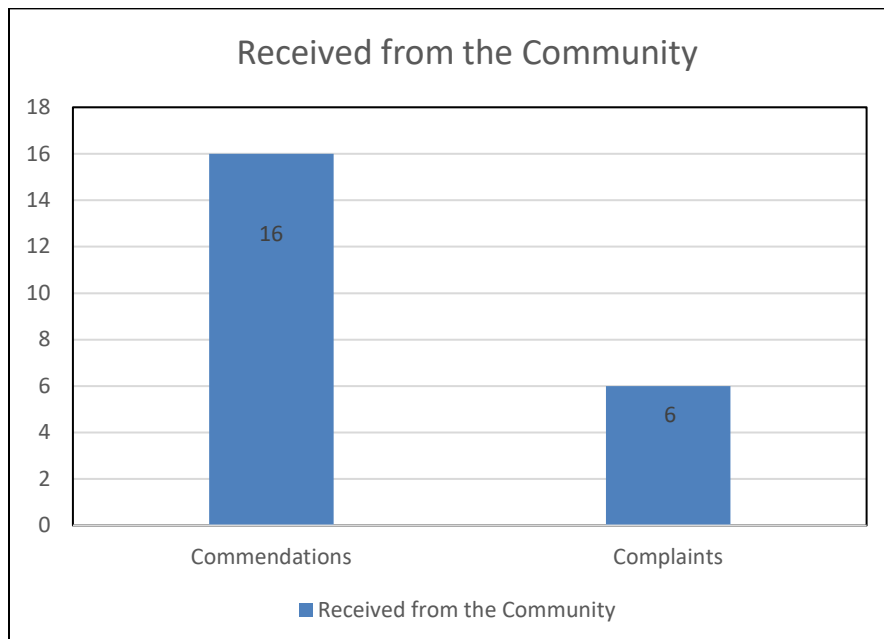
Closed Out as Inquiries: 0 (As of January 31, 2024)

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 January 31, 2024

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 2
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 8
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 4
Generated by the Community	Total: 6

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. The chart below shows commendations versus complaints from the community in January 2024.



Deadly Force (Officer-Involved Shootings) Update

2024

From January 1 – January 31, 2024, there was one deadly force incident.

- **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.

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

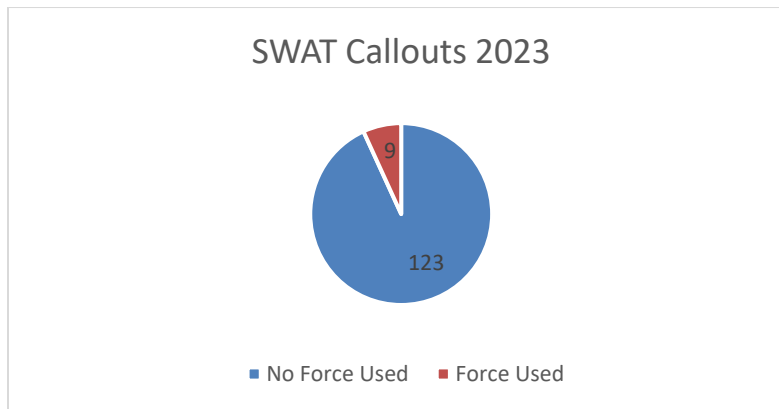
From January 1- December 31, 2022, there were five deadly force incidents.

- **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.



Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team Update

In 2023, there were 132 SWAT callouts compared to 108 in 2022. SWAT is often utilized for situations involving armed barricaded subjects and high-risk arrests. Of the 132 SWAT activations, only 9 resulted in the necessity to deploy less lethal force for safe outcomes. (Force was only used in 7% of all SWAT callouts.)



A major contributor to these low levels of force is the routine co-deployment of our Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) with SWAT. HNT is often integrated with SWAT so they can handle the majority of our communication and de-escalation efforts. Their expertise in negotiations is a great contributor to these peaceful outcomes. The Air Support Unit (ASU) and Explosive Disposal Unit (EDU) are also routinely deployed with SWAT. The technology they bring to these critical events allow SWAT personnel to utilize distance and communication ability without placing officers in harm's way.

The presence of SWAT can make a huge difference in compliance. Often the arrival of SWAT to an event prompts peaceful surrender. The increased training and tools provided to our SWAT team allows them to overwhelmingly end most situations peacefully and effectively.

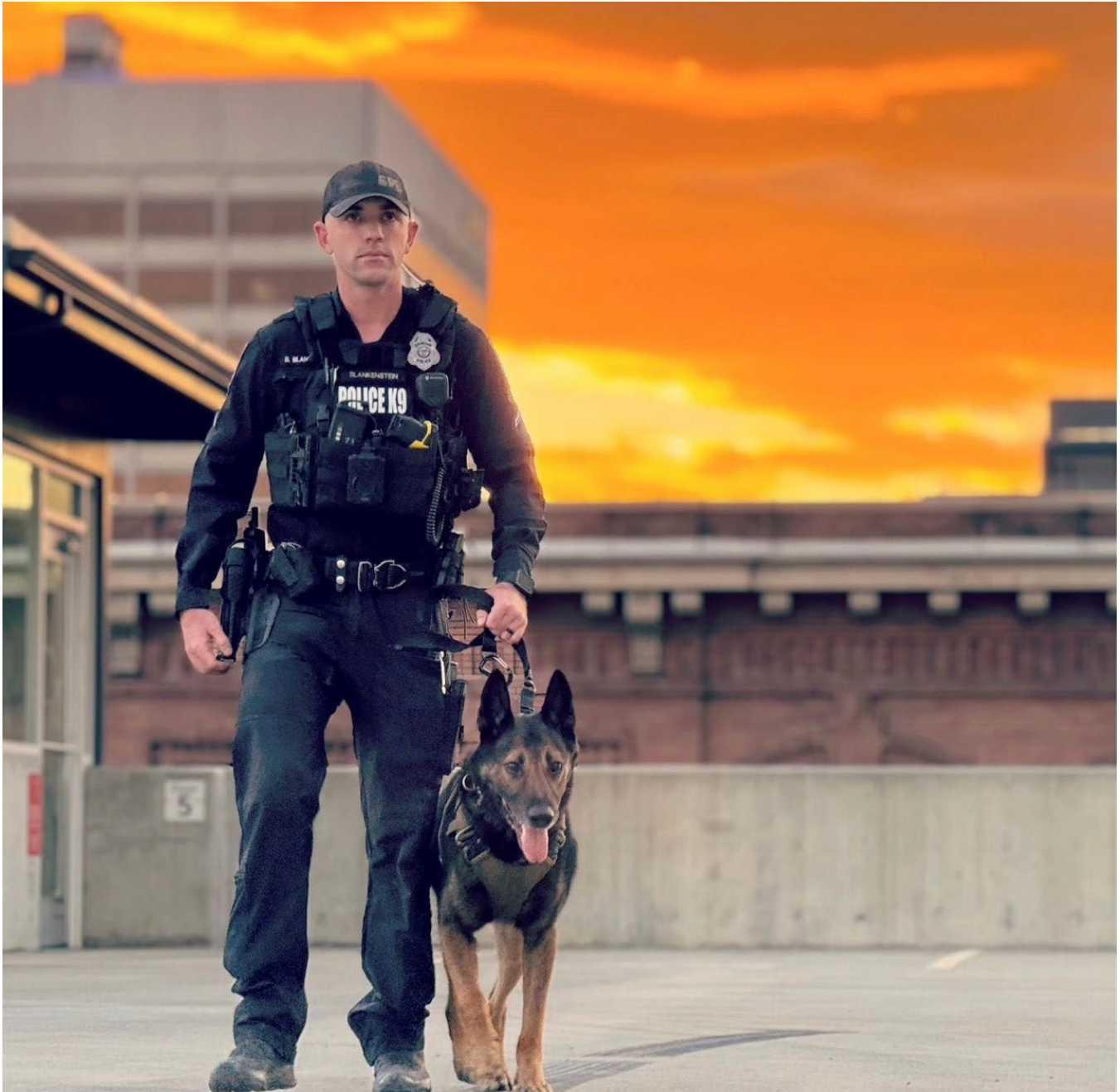
The SWAT team also provided 10 education presentations in Spokane, ranging from Active Shooter to Situational Awareness to organizations such as Partners with Families and Children, Hospice of Spokane, Waste to Energy, and Whitworth University. SWAT provided community outreach for the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, El Katif Shriners First Responders Event, Police Activities League, Faith and Blue, Trunk or Treat, and Spokane Humane Society.



K9 Unit Update

Use of force incidents involving K9 contacts totaled 15 for the year 2023.

The K9 Unit had 573 Patrol deployments in 2023, locating 221 people. To be clear, the instances of the K9s locating people are the “captures” from which the bite ratio is calculated. The K9 Unit does not just count the arrests. In order to be classified as a capture, the dog has to be a factor in the finding or apprehension of the individual — whether the apprehension results in an arrest or not. Of the 221 people located, the K9 Unit had 15 K9 contacts. The unit “bite ratio” for 2022 was 7%. Industry best practices suggest that the contact to apprehension ratio should be below 30%, based on Kerr v City of West Palm Beach.



Notable Arrests

Adam Sector (Northwest)

Lieutenant Steve Braun has reached out to each one of the schools within the sector and has met with administration all of the public schools except for Willard Elementary and a couple of charter schools. He has also gone back to a handful of the schools for outreach efforts to include reading to elementary students at Garfield and Indian Trail. Below, Lieutenant Braun reading with kids.



Baker Sector (Northeast)

Captain Shawn Kendall reports that they had a successful retail theft special enforcement detail. 18 people were charged (5 felonies and 21 misdemeanors). Officers seized two vehicles for search warrants and recovered a stolen handgun. The Northeast is working with the City on several nuisance properties.

Charlie Sector Notable Arrests

Second suspect in a drive-by shooting last May arrested in Idaho

After months of follow-up on a drive-by shooting at 6th and Division on 5/18/23, SPD's Major Crimes Unit developed probable cause to arrest a second suspect in the shooting. SPD Detectives had a warrant signed by a Superior Court Judge on 1/11/24, and it was only hours later that Idaho State Police picked up 42-year-old Lori M. Thom where she was booked into the Bonneville County Jail. Thom is charged with Attempted 1st Degree Murder and 1st Degree Assault in relation to the shooting at 6th and Division, and with Criminal Conspiracy in relation to an incident in August of 2022 in King County involving a different victim. Thom faces extradition to Spokane for the charges related to the May shooting.

The other suspect in the drive-by shooting is Thom's fiancé, 41-year-old Benjamin J. Hill, who was arrested most recently on 10/20/23 at a home in South Spokane. He is being held on charges of Attempted 1st Degree Murder- DV, 1st Degree Assault-DV, Possession of a Stolen Firearm, and Possession of Another's Identification related to the 6th and Division shooting. Hill has been arrested by SPD a total of three times in recent months for related incidents, involving a total of four victims. In the other incidents, Hill faces charges of (2 counts) Drive-by Shooting, (4 counts) 3rd Degree Malicious Mischief-DV, Attempted 1st Degree Murder-DV, 1st Degree Assault, and 1st Degree Conspiracy to Commit Assault. Hill is being held in the Spokane County Jail on nearly 2 million dollars bond.

Shoplifting Call leads to Multiple Felony Arrests on Spokane South Hill

On February 5, 2024, at approximately 3:30 pm, Spokane Police officers responded to the Target store in the 4900 block of South Regal on the report of a theft. Loss prevention employees contacted 911 to advise several suspects had left the store with two shopping carts of stolen item in the amount of almost two thousand dollars. One of the carts was abandoned in the parking lot. The suspects left the location in an RV along with the other cart of stolen merchandise. Responding officers located the suspect vehicle in the area of 57th and Palouse Highway. The RV had multiple occupants to include the involved theft suspects.

Based on video of the theft, officers were able to positively identify the three suspects involved. Michael D. Stead (37), Monica M. Boggess (23) and Cassandra L. Graves (33) were arrested for 2nd Degree Theft and booked into the Spokane County Jail. Officers recovered the remaining stolen items in the RV and were able to return them to the store. SPD works closely with local retail stores to deter and arrest those responsible for shoplifting which has become a major financial drain on local businesses and costs all of us in the long run.

David Sector (Downtown Precinct)

SPD Locates Shooting Suspect within 4 Minutes

On 1-26-24 at 4:21 pm, 911 received calls of a shooting in the 200 block of S Browne. A victim had been shot and was observed on the ground in the roadway. The suspect fled on foot as more calls came in to 911. The shooting suspect was spotted by officers and detained in the area of 100 S Stevens as officers locked down the area. After speaking with witnesses, the suspect (later identified as Hunter Wood) was placed under arrest in regards to the shooting. The victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to a local hospital. Hunter B. Wood (28) was transported to the Spokane County Jail and booked for 1st Degree Assault.

Man who went on Violent Crime Spree in Downtown Spokane Booked into Jail

On 1/14/24 around 6pm, SPD officers responded to a report of an assault at a building in the 700 block of W. Riverside Ave. The juvenile victim relayed that an unknown male approached him, grabbed and assaulted him before walking off. Officers found the suspect outside of the building and detained him. The suspect was arrested for 4th Degree Assault and booked into the Spokane County Jail.

In the early morning hours the next day – 1/15/24, officers again responded to an assault call, this one at an apartment in the 200 block of S. Post St. The victim reports being punched and kicked multiple times, rendering him unconscious, by a male who pushed his way past the victim and into the building. After the assault, the suspect fled on foot. A little more than an hour later, officers responded to a third related call in the downtown area. An adult female told officers she observed a man standing in the middle of the road at N. Monroe St. and W. 4th Ave. She pulled over to give the man some handwarmers and assist him. The victim reports the man became combative and tried to put her in a headlock, she was able to resist and drive away.

SPD officers were able to tie all three incidents to Shaun Webb (44), who was located a short time after the last incident. He was booked into the Spokane County Jail on 1st Degree Burglary and 2nd Degree Assault. Webb has 4 prior felony Assault convictions.



SPD Recruiting and Hiring

SPD continues to recruit new entry-level officers for the midyear Basic Law Enforcement Academy. SPD sent recruiters to the Public Safety Test on February 5, 2024. At the event, 19 people added Spokane Police to their list of agencies to send scores to. 10 of the 19 were from underrepresented demographics; two were females and eight were people of color. SPD also recruited at the Lunar New Year celebration.

Below, SPD recruiters in action at the 2023 Lunar New Year Celebration.



SPD – New Video

SPD's Community Outreach Team is a critical part of the department in building and maintaining strong relationships with a wide variety of organizations, businesses, and individuals in Spokane.

This new video, posted on Facebook, highlights the collaboration with World Relief and Northeast Community Center.



Web link:

<https://www.facebook.com/SpokanePD/posts/pfbid02Pj2Y9Pb8YcrFh3g6iKiFsgErYdkSQ852W2EFoBvaq7iaj6jWmRYNT6fitavv5Nmcl>

SPD Orientation and Integration Workshop

SPD regularly holds pro-active orientation workshops for refugees, asylees, and immigrants. The purpose of the workshop is to provide education and information about public safety, resources, and what people can expect of the Spokane Police Department.

We tell 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 us when we contact the Language Line.


Refugee Emergency Language Card

Name _____

Language(s)
Spoken _____

English Contact:
Name _____

Phone _____


Spokane Police
Chief Meidl

Workshop Content includes:

The role of a police officer within the community:

- Help community members.
- Protect community members.
- Educate community members and explain community caretaking.
- Investigate crimes.
- Enforce the law.
- Make arrests.

Basic orientation and familiarity of what the police in Spokane City look like:

- Uniform colors.
- Patrol vehicle colors.
- What our badges and department patches look like.
- Tools we carry on duty.

How to call police or first responders in a time of need:

- What is the difference between a non-emergency and an emergency?
- What determines a community member calling 911 or Crime Check?

Equality under the law in the United States of America:

In the U.S. every adult is treated equally and has the same rights and protections

- Male or Female, Race / Ethnicity, Color of skin, Religion, Sexual Orientation, etc.)

Washington State law versus Spokane City Municipal Codes

The different levels of Crime in WA State:

- What is an infraction?
- What is a misdemeanor?
- What is a gross misdemeanor?
- What is a felony?
- Examples of each level of crime and the consequences of breaking the law

The difference between civil infractions and criminal charges

Public Safety Building • 1100 W. Mallon Avenue • Spokane, Washington 99260-0001



General topics of discussion include:

- Basic driving laws (what you need to drive a vehicle – Driver’s License, Registration, Insurance, License Plates).
- What to do if you are involved in a car accident – Never leave the scene of the accident until first responders speak with you.
- What you should do if you see emergency lights behind you while driving.
- What to do on a traffic stop (we are acting this scene out).
- What you should do if a police officer is knocking at your door.
- What is domestic violence and the criteria under Washington State law.
- What determines a “Household Relationship” within domestic violence laws.
- How and where does a community member pay a fine – Never offer a police officer money.

Crimes and how to avoid being a victim:

- Theft
- Fraud and identity theft
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Residential burglary
- Vehicle prowling



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.

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

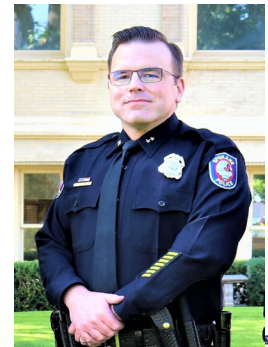
If you are interested in having Detective Schwering present to your group, please contact him at tschwering@spokanepolice.org.

Notable News

The Spokesman Review featured Interim Chief Justin Lundgren in this article:

Policing is the family business for interim Spokane chief Justin Lundgren

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2024/feb/06/policing-is-the-family-business-for-interim-spokan/>



Drug Education for Educational Professionals and Medical Professionals

SPD's Drug Recognition Expert Mike Thomas teaches a Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals (D.I.T.E.P.) course. In January and February 2024, he held classes for ESD101, a regional education unit. He will hold Current Drug/Opioid Trends for Nine Mile School District on March 5, 2024. These classes are well-received by educational professionals.

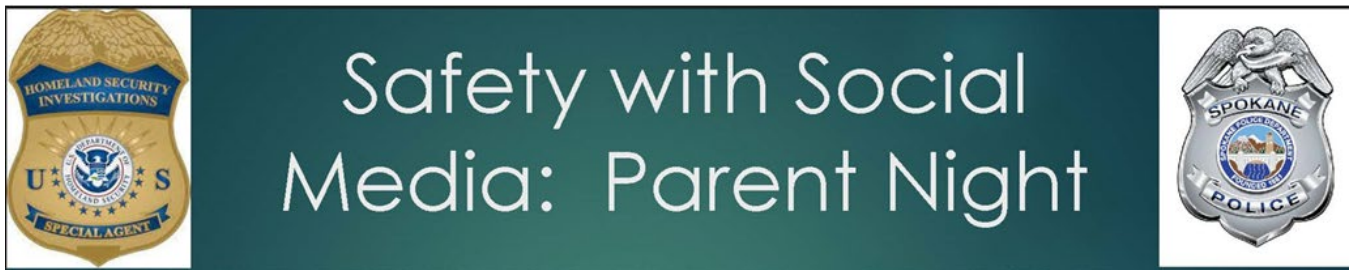
After the first class, SPD received four emails from professionals thanking SPD for the course. One email is displayed below.

I wanted to thank you for allowing Officer Thomas to present the DITEP training at NEWESD 101. I was able to attend and felt it was very informative and helpful for my practice. I also have had many of our nurses tell me how grateful they were that they were able to attend. We understand that it takes valuable time away from other things, but know that it is making a difference for professionals who serve our youth and community.

Officer Thomas also taught a Current Drug Trends course for Medical Professionals at the WSU school of nursing for current Nurse Practitioners, Deaconess Medical Center Multi Care Nursing Staff, and Valley Medical Center Multi Care Nursing Staff. He also taught Current Drug Trends for New Horizon Treatment Facility on February 13, 2024.

Internet Safety Class for Parents

The Community Outreach Unit partnered with Homeland Security on an internet safety class for parents. In 2023, the class was at Northeast Community Center. This recent class was at Salk Middle School as part of an event for families on February 23, 2024.



The class is for adults only and explains how teens can be targeted and exploited via social media, how parents can use safety features and settings, and shows demonstrations of various apps and sites.

SPD Volunteers

SPD Reserve Officers Ed Richardson and Mat Allen are helping with the Special Olympics Spokane Pacers basketball team, along with Community Outreach officers.



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

