



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

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**Strategic Initiatives**  
October 2024 Report



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

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

I was assaulted (randomly punched in the face) on the sidewalk behind The Grand on Washington and Main in Spokane, WA, at 9:43 AM while attending a teachers' conference on August 6, 2024. I immediately called 911 and reported the assault. By the time I walked around to the front of the hotel, I met with two Spokane police officers who took my statement as the SPD already had a suspect in custody. This was my first time calling 911 and had never experienced anything like this before. I was impressed how quickly the SPD responded and acted. I was also impressed how kind, patient, and thorough **Officer Kaylee Kelley #1582** was in taking my information and the focus on detail - exact happenings - of the incident. I also appreciated **Officer Lee Barker's #1380** calm demeanor and empathy regarding the situation. Both officers were exceptionally professional, supportive and respectful. I want to be clear how impressed I was with the SPD and these two officers specifically. The immediate response and professional handling of the situation is commendable and deserves recognition. I thank you for your exceptional service and the work you do every day. I know it's not the most desirable and rewarding work but critical to our safety and well-being.

Dear Chief Hall, Welcome to Spokane! I wanted to take this opportunity to bring your attention to what I consider an outstanding performance of duty from one of your young officers. On Tuesday I received a call from a friend of mine, telling me he had found his neighbor with a gunshot wound and the police were at the neighbor's house. He sounded very upset, so I came by to make sure he was alright. After I arrived, the scene was being secured by several members of the police department. I noted to myself the professional manner, in which they all performed their duties. During the process, **Officer Spencer Clouse** conducted an interview with my friend. I believe Officer Clouse sensed how upset my friend was and treated him with both respect and empathy, to a level that seemed exemplary, in my opinion. While collecting the relevant facts, Officer Clouse also provided appropriate updates and communication throughout the process, including sharing his business card so that if my friend had further questions or could add additional information, he would have a person with whom to communicate. I thought you should know this. The police have a difficult job, to say the least. Please know that most people recognize this. In this instance, I felt this warranted special recognition. I was impressed. Good luck in your new position.

Dear **Sergeant [Isamu] Yamada**, On behalf of the State of Washington Department of Corrections (DOC), we would like to express appreciation for your outstanding communication and collaboration with the DOC staff located at the C.O.P.S. Southwest office in addition to other Department locations. Your efforts have facilitated a safer community and strengthened the bridge between departments. In your role, you have modeled kindness, positivity, and compassion that is contagious and impacts not just staff but also the supervised individuals, encouraging those individuals to make pro-social changes in their lives. Your unwavering dedication to serving and protecting the community is admirable. We salute your commitment and thank you for your service.

**Officer [Will] Mitchell** of the SPD is an outstanding individual. He helped me the other night. I was speeding. He gave me mercy. He was very kind and I would love to give him a compliment.



**Internal Affairs Unit Update**

**January 1 through August 31, 2024, Commendations and Complaints**

Commendations Received:   **Total: 129**

Complaints Received:           **Total: 68 (56 from community)**

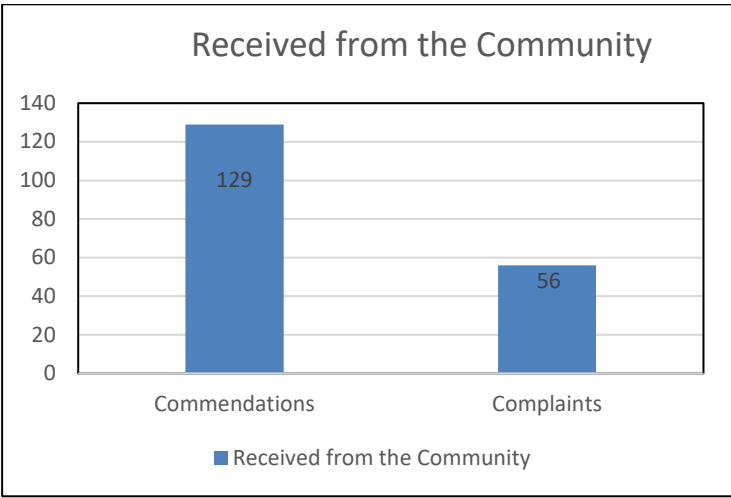
**Closed Complaints: 22 (As of August 31, 2024)**

**Source of Complaints—January 1 through August 31, 2024**

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 36</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 32</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 12</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 56</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.

It's important to note that calls for service and arrests have increased, and yet commendations are up. The chart below shows commendations versus complaints from the community through August 2024.



## Deadly Force (Officer-Involved Shootings) Update

### 2024

From January 1 – June 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 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 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 Administrative Review Panel, prior to Chief's review.
- **Incident 2023-20238146 (Pending Prosecutor Review):** 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 case is with the prosecutor.

### 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 Administrative Review Panel, prior to Chief's review.
- **Incident 2022-20156670 (Pending Administrative Investigation):** 2022-20156670 took place on September 4, 2022, in the 2900 block of E. Wabash Avenue. SIIR completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor's Office ruled the use of deadly force justified.
- **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)**



## Sector Updates

### Adam Sector (Northwest)

#### **Recent News: Suspect in custody after violent assault in West Spokane sends one to the hospital**

On August 15, 2024, at 11:30pm Spokane Police responded to the area of 800 W Garland on a report of an assault. Officers located a male victim on the ground, surrounded by several concerned community members. The victim was not conscious and struggling to breathe. The victim had sustained a severe head injury and was immediately transported to a local hospital for treatment.

As the investigation unfolded, officers learned the victim had been escorted out of a local business just prior to the assault. The suspect was not on scene when patrol officers arrived. Detectives with SPD's Major Crimes Unit (MCU) were able to identify the suspect and the Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) began searching for him. VCTF located the suspect and took him into custody. Johnnie W. Witherspoon (48) was arrested and booked into the Spokane County Jail for 1st Degree Assault. Witherspoon has extensive criminal history with prior felony convictions for 1st Degree Burglary and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

#### **Drive by shooting suspect taken into custody**

On August 26, 2024, at just after midnight SPD responded to the area of 100 West Sinto on a report of a shooting. Upon arriving, officers were advised that an unknown male pointed a handgun at several people in a parking lot before firing a shot into the front grill of an occupied vehicle. The suspect along with several other subjects then drove away. A shell casing was located near the front of the vehicle that was struck by the gunfire. The shooting took place after an argument inside a local business. The suspect, who was not part of the initial altercation, arrived at the location shortly after. Officers were provided with cell phone video of part of the incident and with that, were able to identify the involved suspects to include the male who discharged the firearm.

Detectives with SPD's Major Crimes Unit (MCU), Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) and the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) identified an address in the 1100 block of West Augusta that was associated with the suspects. After applying for and being granted a search warrant, MCU and VCTF surrounded the location and detained several subjects. The primary suspect in the shooting was taken into custody without incident. During the course of the follow up investigation at the Augusta address, detectives located several firearms, ammunition and shell casings. Joshua D. Cruz (35) was arrested and booked into the Spokane County Jail for Drive by Shooting, 1st Degree Assault and 2nd Degree Malicious Mischief.



### Baker Sector (Northeast)

#### **Nuisance Properties**

Baker Sector is working on 15 properties in various stages of abatement/cleanup.

**Recent News: Female suspect in custody after North Spokane stabbing injures two, swift response by officers prevents injuries to 3rd victim**

On September 6th, 2024, at 11:44am SPD responded to the area of 2000 N Division on a report of a stabbing. 911 was advised the suspect in the incident was a female. As officers were arriving in the area, a Patrol Sergeant observed a female actively assaulting people with a knife. While in the presence of the officer, the suspect had stabbed a male and was attempting to stab another subject on the ground when she was detained. The quick response of officers prevented the victim on the ground from being injured.

Shortly after making contact with the suspect, officers located another subject who had been stabbed by the same female. Medical aid was provided to the injured until additional resources arrived at the location. Two victims were transported to local hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries. Trischa R. Maravilla (31) was arrested and booked into the Spokane County Jail for 3 counts of 1st Degree Assault. Maravilla was released from the Spokane County Jail approximately an hour before the stabbings took place.

Charlie Sector (South)

**Recent News: Sex Offender in custody for South hill incident involving a minor, additional charges also filed for related incidents days prior**

On August 16th, 2024, at 9:42am, SPD responded to the area of Rockwood Boulevard and Helena after 911 was advised a suspect in a sex crime complaint from the previous day was observed in the area. Officers arrived and detained a male. SPD was already in the process of trying to locate this person stemming from multiple complaints in the area of lewd conduct/indecent exposure over the past few days. Upon locating the suspect male, officers were contacted by a minor and parent regarding an incident that had just occurred. Officers were advised that the male currently being detained had been following a minor for several blocks.

The suspect was pushing a scooter while following the victim. As the victim arrived close to home, the suspect called out to the victim as he was fondling himself. The victim advised officers the suspect had a hand inside his pants while following her. At the conclusion of the investigation, officers took the male into custody and booked him into the Spokane County Jail for Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes. Gray was also booked on two additional counts of Indecent Exposure for an incident that occurred several days before. The prior complaints had similarities as the suspect was pushing/riding a scooter before and after the reported incidents. Gray is listed a registered sex offender out of Montana with previous convictions for Indecent Exposure.

**Multiple SPD Officers injured making arrests - stressing patrol resources**

Five SPD Officers responding to two different calls on Saturday, 08/17/24, suffered minor injuries while arresting uncooperative suspects. In the first incident, at around 12:45pm, police responded to a disorderly person at a park in the 3100 block of E. 27th Ave in the Lincoln Heights area during a community event. A female was yelling profanities at little children while they were trying to play on the playground. When officers arrived, the female continued yelling profanities and ignored encouragement from officers to refrain from cursing at the park. The decision was made to detain the female for disorderly conduct. During the detention she resisted and fought multiple officers, kicking one in the head and scratching him. The female also spit in the face of another officer. It took multiple officers and the WRAP restraint device to successfully arrest the suspect. The officer who was kicked was examined at an area hospital for a possible head injury and was cleared to return to work. Patricia A. Schauman (33) was booked into the Spokane County Jail for Disorderly Conduct, Resisting Arrest, and 2 counts of 3rd Degree Assault. She remains in jail as of this writing on a \$3,500 bond.



In the second incident in which officers were injured, police responded to a possible DV in progress near Liberty Park in the 500 block of S. Pittsburg around 1:30pm. They arrived and developed probable cause to arrest a female for 4th Degree Assault DV after learning she hit a male, threw rocks at him, and put him in a choke hold. As officers were detaining the female, she fought and bit one officer on the arm and kicked another. A third officer injured his back during the altercation with the female. Again, it took multiple officers and the WRAP restraint device to successfully take the suspect into custody. While in the back of a patrol car, the suspect continued to thrash around, slamming her head on a partition in the vehicle and kicking a back seat door. The officer with the back injury was out for the rest of his shift. Nika F. Labeaf (19) was arrested and booked into the Spokane County Jail for 3 counts of 3rd Degree Assault, Resisting Arrest, and 1 count of 4th Degree Assault DV.



David Sector (Downtown)

**Downtown Coffee with a Cop at McDonald's on Third.**

Chief Hall, City Council members, Downtown Precinct staff, and McDonald's staff enjoyed meeting community members at the Coffee with a Cop event on August 30, 2024.



## Chief Hall's Swearing In Ceremony

SPD is proud to welcome Chief Kevin Hall to Spokane! The Swearing In Ceremony took place on August 26, 2024, at the Tribal Gathering Place. Chief Hall comes to Spokane from Tucson, Arizona where he served with the Tucson Police Department for more than 30 years. Chief Hall held several leadership roles within the department and served as Assistant Chief of Police since 2016. "As I step into this role, I am deeply honored to serve the Spokane community as the new police chief. I am committed to building trust, ensuring safety, and working hand in hand with our esteemed officers and every resident to make our city a better place for all," Chief Hall said.



## Crime Prevention Education – Criminal Intelligence Unit

The FBI reported that Americans lost \$5.6 billion in 2023 in cryptocurrency fraud scams.

<https://apnews.com/article/cryptocurrency-fraud-fbi-report-29b412330ccebce946dec895f5060fd7>

Spokane residents have also fallen victim to scams. Detective Tim Schwering with the Criminal Intelligence Unit has created a community presentation about online scams, particularly scams involving cryptocurrency, based on what he's seen investigating fraud cases. The presentation includes information on how scammers target and manipulate victims and how to prevent being scammed, as well as what to do if you are a victim.

As of September 20, 2024, 58 presentations have been held at various neighborhood councils, service agencies, business associations, senior living residences, and community groups.

Detective Schwering tailored the presentation for the Latine community, working with Mujeres in Action. The presentation is available in Spanish. Thrive International also worked with Det. Schwering to have the presentation available in Ukrainian, Russian, Pashto, Dari/Farsi, and Arabic.

DEPARTAMENTO DE POLICÍA DE SPOKANE



INTEGRIDAD ~ PROFESIONALISMO ~ COMPASIÓN

ВІДДІЛ ПОЛІЦІЇ СПОКАНУ

ЧЕСНІСТЬ ~ ПРОФЕСІОНАЛІЗМ ~ СПІВЧУТТЯ



If you are interested in having Detective Schwering meet with your group, please contact him at [tschwering@spokanepolice.org](mailto:tschwering@spokanepolice.org).

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





## Investigations Update – Illicit Massage Businesses

SPD's Criminal Intelligence Unit and Civil Enforcement Unit are working together to shut down Illicit Massage Businesses (IMBs) in the City of Spokane. Illicit Massage Businesses are associated with human trafficking. According to Detective Tim Schwering of the Criminal Intelligence Unit, "It is critical to make a distinction between legitimate, registered businesses and fronts for labor and sex exploitation. The vast majority of massage businesses fall into the former category. These are licensed therapeutic and relaxation massage establishments – legitimate, reputable businesses. They operate legally and provide relaxation and therapeutic non-sexual massage services to clientele in communities of all sizes. The perpetrators driving the illicit massage industry are large-scale, well-organized criminal networks more akin to the mafia, operating 'massage' business operations as fronts for providing sexual services.

"With regard to exploitation of recruited victim workers, as with other forms of human trafficking, traffickers exploit vulnerabilities unique to foreign national victims and survivors, including language and cultural barriers. In particular, traffickers utilize the following means of coercion and control over workers in IMBs that prevent them from self-identifying or reaching out for help: Fear and shame— a worry instilled by perpetrators that victims have committed criminal acts and will be arrested or deported. Debt bondage – an accrued debt that cannot reasonably be paid back and/or existing debt that is exploited. Lack of knowledge – a gap in understanding of U.S. cultural and legal norms, such as legal rights for workers. Controlled movement and isolation – limitation of a victim's travel outside of the business and the trafficker's confiscation of a victim's passports/immigration papers, as well as isolation exacerbated by language barriers."

Together, the Criminal Intelligence Unit and Civil Enforcement Unit have been successful in shutting down quite a few IMBs in Spokane. They are still working on active cases involving IMBs that will result in either criminal charges or civil abatement.

## Spokane Bike Swap Grant

Spokane Bike Swap awarded the Spokane Police Foundation with a grant to provide access to bicycles for youth through Spokane Police Department. Officers were able to identify vulnerable youth who had never had the pleasure of having a bike, and youth who had had their bikes stolen. We spent the funds buying new bikes for these kids, and it was a rewarding experience for all. Thank you, Spokane Bike Swap!





**Shop with a Cop with Police Activities League participants**

The Spokane Police Department was able to take 9 children back to school shopping, thanks to a grant from the North Spokane Walmart that was provided to us for this purpose. The children who were taken shopping were participants in the summer Police Activities League program and exemplified the core values of the program (honesty, integrity, leadership, sportsmanship and respect).





**Shop with a Cop with Salvation Army**

Spokane Police volunteers and staff joined Spokane County Sheriff's Office, Spokane Valley Police, and Liberty Lake Police to shop with 54 children who are in Salvation Army's foster care programs. It was a very special experience as many of the children had had traumatic experiences with law enforcement when removed from their parents. Each child had \$150.00 to spend at Old Navy and walked away with new clothes and shoes for school.



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

