



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
KEVIN HALL

Strategic Initiatives
January 2025 Report



Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing

January 6, 2025



Excerpts of Commendations
(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)

A woman left a voice message is that she is a 71-year-old lady who moved to Spokane a month ago. She had some type of emergency last night that SPD and SFD responded to. All who responded were very compassionate, but she singled out **K9 Officer Anthony Guzzo** who she said came back in with his K9 Ghost and he was compassionate to the “nth degree.” She just wanted to let someone know about it and that she is so impressed with the “magnificent service” SPD and SFD provided to her.

Hi, **Captain [Matt] Cowles**. It was so nice to meet you in person last night. I wanted to thank you for the excellent job you did answering questions and responding to all the commentary at last night's meeting. You did a wonderful job responding with concise, professional and thoughtful information. It was obvious to me that you care deeply not just about doing a good job, but about the citizenry and city as a whole. I was impressed with your grace and composure. I think there should be a new rule that anyone who shares a complaint must also share a compliment or idea that is meaningful. It's easy to say what you don't like and what you're against. The real work in being an engaged citizen is talking about ideas you support and how to bring them to life in a meaningful way. I appreciate the time you are all devoting to just that.

At around 1:30AM on 11/24/2024, there was a group of people having a loud altercation/fight on the corner of Arthur and 13th. The situation was concerning, and we were worried that things could escalate. Before I could pick up my phone to call, there was an SPD unit driving by our house to address the situation. Just wanted to share that I appreciate the timely response and making us feel safe during a potentially violent situation in our community. **[South Precinct Officers.]**

I wanted to take the time to pass on my appreciation to your Chaplain program and pay special appreciation to **Chaplain Chris Murphy** who responded to my mother-in-law's house this past week when she passed. Chris was a gentle spirit who comforted all with passion/compassion and empathy for the shock that all were experiencing. His gentleness, yet firm solid "I'm Here For You" approach helped all through the day. We had a great conversation outside while getting some fresh air and enjoyed that we had a lot in common and were actually living in the same neighborhood. Please pass on my appreciation to Chris, and to all, for providing such caring service.

I just wanted to reach out one last time and thank you again for providing our Scouts with an amazing visit. They had such an amazing time and couldn't stop talking about all they got to learn and see. **[North Precinct Officers.]**



Internal Affairs Unit Update

Note: This report is completed before the end of the month, so year-end totals will not be available until the following month's report.

January 1 through November 30, 2024, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 175**

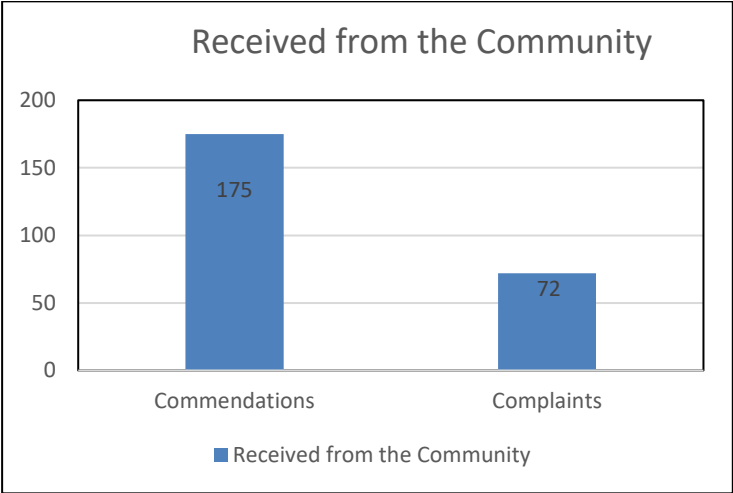
Complaints Received: **Total: 91 (72 from community)**

Closed Complaints: 32 (As of November 30, 2024)

Source of Complaints—January 1 through November 30, 2024

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 41
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 50
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 19
Generated by the Community	Total: 72

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. The chart below shows commendations versus complaints from the community through November 2024.



Deadly Force (Officer-Involved Shootings) Update

2024

From January 1 – November 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 Prosecutor Review):** Incident 2024-20060204 took place on March 31, 2024, in the 1800 block of West Dean. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) conducted the criminal investigation. The case is with the prosecutor.
- **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 5th 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 Admin Panel Review, prior to the Chief's review.
- **Incident 2023-20238146 (Pending Administrative Investigation):** 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 prosecutor ruled the use of deadly force was justified. Internal Affairs will conduct an administrative investigation.

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 2nd 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 Admin Panel Review, prior to the Chief's review.
- **Incident 2022-20156670 (Pending Deadly Force Review Board):** 2022-20156670 took place on September 4, 2022, near 2900 E. Wabash Avenue. SIIR completed the criminal investigation. The Prosecutor's Office ruled the use of deadly force justified. SPD completed the administrative investigation.



- **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)**

Precinct Outreach – Connecting with the Community

Northwest Precinct

Officers visited the Holmes Elementary School Resource Fair



Officers participated in school visits at Indian Trail Elementary



Northeast Precinct

Northeast leadership and officers helped with the Heroes and Helpers event at Target.



South Precinct

South Precinct officers helped at Fresh Soul's Thanksgiving Event.



Coffee with a Cop at the South Grand Starbucks



Visit at Cataldo Preschool



Downtown Precinct

The Downtown Precinct is doing daily safety walks in the downtown area and passing out candy canes till the end of the year.



Investigations Update

Supervisors from the Investigative Division attended a DOJ/Human Rights Spokane Hate Crime Reporting Forum with Spokane Pride. The forum provided an opportunity to present elements of hate crime, mechanisms to report hate crime, and the need for reporting hate crime. SPD attended the forum to help create, build, and expand trust and relationships needed within the LGBTQ+ community.

License Plate Covers Prohibited

The Spokane Police Department is reminding citizens that the law prohibiting license plate covers goes into full effect January 1, 2025. Since June 6 of this year, officers were able to issue warnings to those who still had license plate covers.

As of January 1, 2025, officers will be able to issue citations under the new portion of the law. This new part of the law on how to display your plates clears up some ambiguous language in the previous law. The law under RCW 46.16a.200(5) and (7) now states, "License plates must be... kept clean and uncovered and be able to be plainly seen and read at all times...It is unlawful to use license plate holders, frames, covers, or other materials that conceal, obstruct, distort, change, alter, or make a license plate or plates illegible."

There are some exceptions, such as carrying temporary cargo that could obstruct the view of a license plate, or license plate frames that do not obscure license tabs or identifying letters or numbers on the plates, given the license plates can be plainly seen and read at all times.

It is a primary offense but not a moving violation. The ticket for this violation is currently \$237. More importantly, not having your plate obscured helps officers more quickly locate your vehicle should it be stolen.

SPD Volunteers at Events

One of the main goals of the Spokane Police Department is to engage with the community we serve. There are many ways to engage with the Spokane Police Department. SPD Cadets, Explorers, and Reserve Officers enjoyed helping at various outreach events this holiday season.

SPD Cadets and Reserve Officers at the Target Heroes and Helpers event and Salvation Army Shop with a Cop event.



SPD Cadets and Explorers at the Embrace Washington Santa Breakfast event for youth in foster care.



Interested in becoming a volunteer with SPD? Or learning about an internship experience? Learn more here:

- <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/volunteers/cadets/>
- <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/volunteers/explorers/>
- <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/volunteers/citizen/>
- <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/officer/internships/>



If you are interested in applying or have any questions, please contact the Volunteer Services Unit at 509.363.8283. Email your completed application as an attachment to volunteer@spokanepolice.org.



Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) Update

The Behavioral Health Unit is a regional unit staffed with SPD officers, Spokane County Sheriff's Office deputies, and Frontier Behavioral Health clinicians.

November 2024 Stats:

- Calls for service by BHU: 454
- Total time on-scene for calls for service: 14,969 minutes
- Unique individuals contacted: 141
- Contacts of a person in crisis: 246
- Individuals contacted for follow-up: 64
- 3.7% of contacts resulted in an arrest.
- 12% of calls resulted in Involuntary Detentions to the hospital.

Sergeant Dale Wells reports that his dispatch pilot program is going forward. SPD is learning how to do a better job getting information from law enforcement to Frontier Behavior Health (FBH). The 988 system is in place, but some people refuse to be transferred to 988 after they call 911. SPD is also targeting those who abuse the 911 system. One person, who has been offered many chances for treatment and refuses, made over 2800 calls to 911 this year alone. Another person made almost 300 calls, and BHU staff know his increased calls are related to his decompensating. BHU was able to contact him and get him medical treatment.

Anecdotal Success Story:

A person was in an adult care facility being disruptive, refusing medications, and throwing things. He had only been there for less than 24 hours because he had been discharged from the hospital. The client was not oriented to place or time and was unable to perform Adult Daily Living skills. The client was non-violent, but he was experiencing delusions and hallucinations. He was threatening to leave the facility, which is not a locked facility, and he was not able to care for himself. Citing grave disability for the individual, BHU staff took the man under protective custody under the Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA). He was transported via AMR to Deaconess North, where it was discovered he had a brain bleed. It is unknown to what degree the brain bleed affected his behavior. If left untreated, the brain bleed would have been life-threatening.

Spokane Police Foundation Helps the Community During the Holiday Season

With the help of community partners like Les Schwab, RESCU, Christian Brothers Automotive, and Salvation Army, the Spokane Police Foundation adopts families for Christmas. Families receive clothing, toys, and food. Some of the families are identified on patrol calls, while others are referred by counselors and social workers.





Below, volunteers from Spokane Police Foundation wrap presents with SPD Chaplains, employees from Les Schwab and RESCU, and board members from Teen & Kid Closet.



Teen & Kid Closet helps the Foundation by having the parents/grandparents of sponsored families come in and pick out clothes and shoes for the kids. Teen & Kid Closet donates lots of merchandise, helping the Foundation provide more gifts for each sponsored family.



The Spokane Police Foundation also applied for a grant with Target to help refugee youth buy clothing, shoes, and toys. The North Target and Foundation helped 26 kids on December 12.



Pictures from the Salvation Army Shop with a Cop event with Airway Heights Police Department.



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