



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
KEVIN HALL

Strategic Initiatives
March 2025 Report



Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing
March 2025



Excerpts of Commendations
(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)

Dear Spokane Police Department, I am writing to extend my gratitude and encouragement following my attendance at the "Current Drug Trends" seminar presented by **Officer Mike Thomas** on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at Sacred Heart Medical Center's auditorium. Officer Thomas's three-hour interactive presentation was not only engaging but also incredibly informative and tailored to his audience. He represented your department, himself, and our community with utmost professionalism. Through his personal experiences, shared with authenticity and respect, he effectively connected with the attendees without disparaging those who struggle with addiction or claiming to have all the answers. His approach demonstrated compassion, knowledge, and humility—qualities that resonate deeply with professionals like me, who have been working in education for over two decades. As an educator who has predominantly worked with high school students, I have seen a lot but found I learned a great deal from Officer Thomas's insights. His ability to convey critical information about current drug trends in such a relatable and impactful way has motivated me to explore opportunities to collaborate with him further. His dedication and professionalism reflect highly on your department and its commitment to serving the community. Thank you again for allowing Officer Thomas to share his expertise and for prioritizing outreach and education that benefits us all.

Hi. I came to the police department to get my criminal history. Each and every police department employee was exceptionally kind to me. I was crying a good deal of the time I was at your department. For me, having your people be kind to me made me feel safe and touched my heart. Thank you so much.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to conduct a ride along with your team. I was extremely impressed by the conduct and performance of **Officer Luke Jester**. He went above and beyond to ensure I was able to learn all the finer points of the position. I know that riders are typically handed to those lower on the seniority list, but the recent laterals have added so much to this experience. Officer Jester is good police. His paradigm, insight, skillset, and attitude are all reflective of his character and that of a seasoned officer.

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the outstanding service and professionalism of **Officers Nathan Thompson, Shane Holtshausen, and Dylan Pavlischak**. Recently, I experienced a situation involving abuse and threats from my ex-girlfriend, which left me feeling unsafe, nervous, and extremely anxious while hiding in my room. When I called the department for help, these officers arrived at my apartment promptly and went above and beyond to handle the situation with remarkable professionalism, empathy, and kindness. Their presence alone made a world of difference. They validated my concerns, took the time to listen to me, and reassured me in a way that immediately made me feel safer. Officer Nathan Thompson offered invaluable advice on how to handle the situation in a way that prioritized safety for everyone involved. The kindness and understanding they showed during such a stressful and vulnerable moment were truly impactful and deeply personal to me. I am incredibly grateful for their efforts and the way they approached the situation. I wanted to ensure the department recognizes these officers for their exceptional work. Despite the challenges and pressures of their job, they handled the situation with professionalism, compassion, and care. I will gladly spread the word about how incredible these officers are and the outstanding service they provide. Please extend my heartfelt thanks to Officers Thompson, Holtshausen, and Pavlischak. Their dedication and kindness will not be forgotten.



Internal Affairs Unit Update

January 1 through December 31, 2024, Commendations and Complaints

Commendations Received: **Total: 193**

Complaints Received: **Total: 102 (80 from community)**

Closed Complaints: 36 (As of December 31, 2024)

An investigation which, after appropriate follow-up and review by the Internal Affairs Lieutenant, may be classified as Closed if they meet one or more of the following reasons:

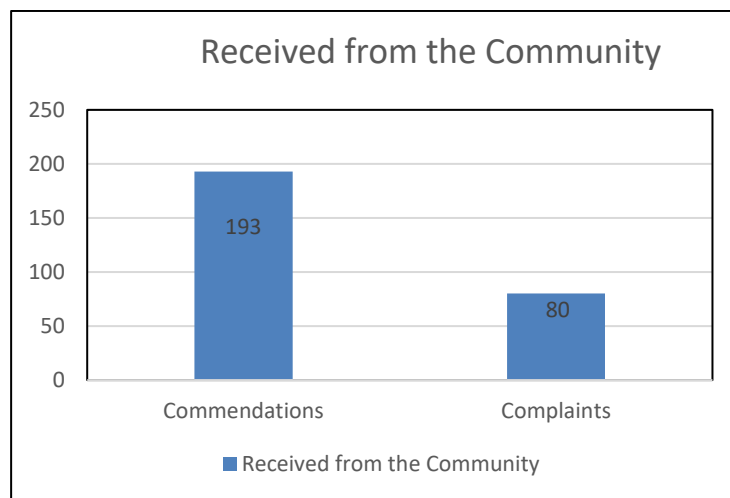
- A. An allegation of misconduct that is disproven upon initial review (i.e. BWC footage or other evidence clearly disproves an allegation).
- B. The complaining party refuses to cooperate.
- C. The complaining party becomes unavailable and further contact is necessary to proceed. The complaining party will be given a reasonable opportunity to re-contact Internal Affairs.
- D. All reasonable investigative leads were exhausted and no evidence of wrongdoing was uncovered.
- E. The accused officer leaves employment and the allegations do not meet the criteria set forth in RCW 43.101.135(3).

The Internal Affairs Lieutenant and Police Ombudsman, upon review of a complaint, may agree to the finding of "Closed" for instances where both agree an allegation is Unfounded, Exonerated, Not Sustained or Training Failure concurrent to the Ombudsman's certification of timely, thorough, and objective.

Source of Complaints—January 1 through December 31, 2024

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 44
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 58
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 22
Generated by the Community	Total: 80

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





Deadly Force (Officer-Involved Shootings) Update

2025

From January 1 – January 31, 2025, there was one deadly force incident.

- **Incident 2025-20016302 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2025-20016302 took place on January 24, 2025, in the 200 block of East Sanson. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

2024

From January 1 – December 31, 2024, there were six 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.
- **Incident 2024-20267061 (Pending Criminal Investigation):** Incident 2024-20267061 took place on December 29, 2024, in the 800 block of W Cora. 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 (Closed)**
- **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 (Closed)**
- **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: Officers safely detain robbery and assault suspect

Thanks to tips from the community, investigators were able to identify the suspect from the Feb. 10th robbery that occurred in the 1700 block of west Francis (original release below). The male, who is under the age of 16, was taken into custody without incident by patrol officers at about 5:30pm, I February 14, 2025. We'd like to express our appreciation to those who called in the tips that assisted in this investigation.

Original Release:

Spokane Police seeking public assistance in locating robbery suspect

The Spokane Police Department is seeking help from community members to locate a robbery suspect stemming from an incident that took place on February 10th, 2025. Just before 1pm today, SPD responded to a business in the 1700 block of West Francis Avenue on a report of a robbery. A store employee confronted an individual on suspicion of theft. The male theft suspect stabbed the employee before fleeing the store on foot. The victim was transported to a local hospital and is being treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Baker Sector (Northeast)

Recent News: Shooting suspect booked into Spokane County Jail after extradition process is completed

Detectives with the SPD Major Crimes Unit (MCU) transported homicide suspect Glen Dylan Burkey from Missoula, Montana to the Spokane County Jail where he is being held on charges of 2nd Degree Murder, Drive By Shooting and 2nd Degree Assault.

Original Release:

Detectives with the SPD Major Crimes Unit (MCU) have identified the suspect in the shooting incident that took the life of 13-year-old Gavin Loper. The incident took place in the early morning hours of January 25th in the 2800 block of East Heroy Avenue. The suspect in the deadly shooting is Glen Dylan Burkey, 25. Burkey is 5'8" and weighs roughly 210 pounds with green eyes. The shooting does not appear to be a random act.



Probable cause has been established to arrest Burkey for 2nd Degree Murder, Drive By Shooting and 2nd Degree Assault.

Coffee with a Cop

The Northeast Precinct will host a Coffee with a Cop at McDonald's on 3416 N. Market on February 25, 2025. Below, pictures of recent Coffee with a Cop events at the Northeast Precinct.



David Sector (Downtown)

Crisis Outreach, Response and Engagement (CORE) Pilot Plan Study

From October 14 through November 11, 2024, the Spokane Police Department (SPD) implemented a 30-day community safety pilot initiative in the Downtown Precinct's Second Avenue and Division Street area. The initiative, called the Crisis Outreach, Response, and Engagement (CORE) Plan, partnered SPD personnel with other City of Spokane and Spokane Fire Department stakeholders to provide behavioral health and social service outreach and engagement to unhoused individuals in the area while also infusing the area with a robust law enforcement presence through place-based, data-driven policing. This report documents initial indicators of SPD implementation-- including key findings, SPD activities, crime trends, and displacement indicators-- to determine whether the CORE Plan should be retained and/or expanded. Key findings include:

- More proactive policing during the CORE timeframe. During the CORE Plan, 9.3% of all officer-initiated CFS citywide occurred in the CORE area. Notable increases in officer-initiated CFS during the CORE Plan include call types for public disorder, stops, suspicious activities, and trespassing. During the CORE Plan, SPD officers issued more citations and arrests for drug, obstruction, public disorder, and trespassing offenses. These call types reflect the community's stated preference for addressing overt disorder indicators in the area.
- Improved data collection protocols. SPD analysts created a new mobile application to collect SPD contacts with community members during the CORE Plan. The data collected through the application has assisted with multiple criminal investigations and will serve as the foundation for more robust empirical evaluations of future CORE activities.
- Identification of high-risk individuals. During the CORE Plan, SPD personnel engaged in 181 documented contacts with 143 individual people. These individuals collectively had 2,192 local arrests, which is a high concentration of arrests among a small proportion of people. The top 15% of most frequently arrested individuals accounted for 52% of the total arrests. Future efforts to

address the needs of these identified high-risk individuals may meaningfully decrease crime and disorder citywide.

- Ongoing criminal investigations into drug trafficking. SPD's proactivity in the CORE area resulted in investigators opening several new investigations into drug trafficking and distribution in the area. These investigations are ongoing but could meaningfully disrupt the flow of narcotics into the Downtown area.

Crime Trends

- Observed changes in crime patterns during the CORE Plan compared to previous months. Analysis of assaults, drug offenses, and public order offenses show sizeable changes in the counts and percent of the citywide total during the CORE Plan timeframe compared to the month prior and the average of the previous three months. More data points are needed to determine the significance of these changes. However, it is clear that the CORE Plan disrupted the trajectory of crime in the area. Increases in the offense counts may indicate that proactive enforcement activities were meaningfully productive, as measured by increases in officer-initiated CFS and citations/arrests.
- Assaults in the CORE area increased from an average of 4.2% of the City's overall assault count in the previous three months to 6.0% during the CORE timeframe.
- Drug offenses remain highly concentrated in the CORE area, with 30.9% of all drug offenses citywide being located there during the CORE Plan timeframe. An average of 21.2% of all drug offenses citywide were reported in the CORE area during the previous three months. Low crime counts may be driving some of the large percentages.
- Public disorder offenses accounted for 11.8% of the citywide total count during the CORE Plan but only 7.2% of the citywide count in the previous three-month average. There were notable increases in pedestrian interference citations and trespassing offense counts during the CORE Plan relative to the month prior and the previous three-month average.

Displacement

- Anecdotal evidence suggests displacement occurred but lessened the overt disorder indicators in the CORE area. More analysis is needed to understand if the displacement of unhoused individuals from the CORE area will disperse some of the associated crime problems. SPD concludes these early indicators of effectiveness warrant the continued implementation of CORE in the current site and expansion into new areas.

In 2025, SPD will:

- Continue CORE efforts in the current pilot area and expand into other areas of the Downtown Precinct for the entirety of 2025. SPD will use data to uncover other crime hotspots throughout the City.
- Work with the City of Spokane, Spokane Fire Department, and other social service providers to expand the crisis outreach and engagement in the CORE area and other identified hotspots.
- Continue to assess crime trends and police activities in the CORE area(s) to ensure ongoing evaluation of these efforts.
- Work with other CORE partners to develop data collection protocols for their CORE contacts. Improved data collection by all service providers will assist with SPD's future evaluation efforts. The continued evaluation will inform and develop future policies and strategies in the downtown area with long-term success metrics based on interventions that show benefit with little or no harm.



SPD Drug Education

On Tuesday, February 18, 2025, Officer Mike Thomas held a Current Drug Trends course for caregivers at the Providence Auditorium. This three-hour course is designed to keep our community up to date on the drugs used and abused in our local area.

The course discusses potential issues with these drugs and current medical practices.

- Current drugs trending
- Signs and symptoms of potential use
- Paraphernalia associated with use
- Other accoutrements
- Concerns, considerations and potential issues



SPD participates in Spokane Alliance for Fentanyl Education (SAFE). See community training opportunity below.



SAFE
Spokane Alliance for Fentanyl Education


YOUTH SUMMIT

AS LEADERS OF OUR COMMUNITY, PLEASE ENCOURAGE THE YOUTH IN YOUR LIFE TO ATTEND THIS IMPACTFUL EVENT. IT WILL BE A HIGH ENERGY SUMMIT WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL LEARN HOW TO TAKE ACTION IN THE COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS THE FENTANYL CRISIS.

MARCH 6th
10:00 AM-1:00 PM
Warehouse Athletic Facility

[Click to Learn the Goals and Objectives](#)

Scan the QR Code or Click [Here](#) for Registration



wa@safefentanyl.org

SPD Employees Recognized

Theft is a significant concern in Spokane and is directly associated with more serious crimes. The Spokane Police Department has many hard-working people whose expertise help bring criminals to justice. Patrol Officers Madie McDonald and Mackenzie German Johnson and Crime Analyst Jaime Lamanna were recognized for their efforts in combatting property theft and returning stolen property to owners. They are pictured at right with Chief Kevin Hall.

On December 5th, 2024, Spokane Police responded to an apartment complex in the 1700 block of East Lincoln Road on a report of stolen property. A community member located his stolen bike via a tracking device. Upon finding his property, he confronted a male who told him he was the owner of the property. The victim left the location and called 9-1-1. Officers responded and attempted contact at an apartment.

Officers Madison McDonald and Mackenzie German-Johnson are the two hard-working officers on this incident who helped bring the criminals to justice. Officer McDonald and Officer German-Johnson responded to the scene and spoke with the victim who had tracked his \$3500 bicycle to the location. They attempted to contact the occupants of the apartment, who hid inside. Investigating further, they found a black Jeep Wrangler was associated with the apartment. Officer McDonald uses several social media sites to stay up to date on crime trends in Spokane. From these sites she was aware of a black Jeep Wrangler associated with thefts throughout the Spokane area. This information was bolstered by a recent Crime Analysis information bulletin, drafted by Crime Analyst Jaime Lamanna, for a black Jeep Wrangler involved in thefts. A short time later, a Spokane County Sheriff's Office detective arrived, unrelated to their incident, and advised he was looking for a black Jeep Wrangler associated with several thefts in Spokane County. Additional information came to the Officers from SPD's Special Investigative Unit, linking many of the recent thefts in Spokane to a black Jeep.

Officers McDonald and German-Johnson worked diligently to draft a search warrant for the location listing as many items as they could locate by pouring through the multiple case reports associated with the thieves and their Jeep. A search of the apartment not only yielded many stolen items and the suspects who were taken into custody, but also the black Jeep Wrangler in a nearby garage, full of many more stolen items. The Jeep was seized as evidence.

Once the items were located, many victims needed to be identified and contacted. This job was taken on by Crime Analyst Jaime Lamanna. She was able to locate and contact 21 victims, many of which had not reported the thefts. Some of these victims were completely unaware of their items being stolen. As a result of Jaime's proactive work, 21 additional charges can be brought against the arrestee.

The extra effort put in by not only led to the arrest of the thieves and the recovery of the stolen items, but also to positive community feedback and public support for SPD on social media from several of the victims. This type of work is indicative of the incredible work done by these individuals.



SPD in the Community

Recently, SPD officers and volunteers have attended events such as the Lunar New Year Celebration, Leadership Spokane Gala, Nuestras Raices Gala, Montvale Event Center Opening, and the Girl Scouts GirlCon Northwest Event. Photos from Lunar New Year (credit to Aiko Connections for center photo) and GirlCon.



Recruiting for SPD Employees and Volunteers

Over the past two months, SPD has attended multiple recruiting venues:

- Public Safety Tests in Western Washington
- “Meet the Employer” fairs at Fairchild Air Force Base
- On-Track Academy “What’s Next” Career Event
- Career Café
- Eastern Washington University Criminal Justice and Sociology Department Talks
- Eastern Washington University Winter Career Fair



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