



**SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Office of Professional Accountability
September 2014 Report**

**Public Safety Committee Briefing
October 20, 2014**



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

Jenn, [Officer DeRuwe]

You hit a home run in our class last night. THANK YOU!!! Juvenile Court is looking for all-star presenters and you fit the description with precision. These are all Low-Risk/Diversion youngsters and what a perfect time to make a great impression! We would be honored if you would consider presenting on a monthly basis?? Thank you for sharing your stories with our class. You were awesome!

-Karen DeSonia, Probation Counselor, Spokane County Juvenile Court

I had positive experiences riding along with Officer Cory Lyons. From getting an injured homeless man to the ER, helping a domestic abuse victim, stopping a drunk man at 4 am driving with an 8-year-old in the car, to the disarming of a suicidal man with a gun... the side of SPD the news stations don't bother reporting on.

-January White

I went on a ride-along with Officer Shane Phillips. His interactions with citizens, whether they were complainants or criminals, were fantastic. He dealt with a situation where a man was having a mental health crisis. He treated the man with dignity and respect, and established a rapport with him, making the whole situation easier for everyone.

-Kathy Armstrong

I got in a car accident while driving to the airport, and unfortunately it was my fault. I felt terrible, but Officer Derek Bishop was just so wonderful. I was so flustered that I gave him old insurance information, but he never made me feel bad. He was so friendly and helpful. My car had to be towed, so he took my bags and gave me a ride to the airport! I was so grateful for all his help, I gave him a hug. As a retired person in my sixties, I really appreciate when a young person is so respectful. He was just awesome.

-Barbara Voigtlander

[Property Manager Shannon Hallam]

On behalf of the Gang Unit, I wanted to pass on the appreciation our unit has for all the help SPD Property employees have been for us. We have had some large cases, seizures, change in owners, releases, etc. over the past 8 years and the very good work and pleasant attitudes have been very nice to work with. The willingness to help and go the extra mile is evident, and sometimes our lack of forethought has created emergencies that your people have never complained about. Anyways, in short, thank you all.

-Sergeant Michael Kittilstved, Spokane Violent Crimes Gang Enforcement Team

I just wanted to thank our officers who protect our city every day. I have such gratitude and respect for all of you.

-Timothy Schlosser



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Internal Affairs Unit Update

2014 January 1st through September 30th Complaints

Source of 2014 Complaints*

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 68
Inquiries	55
Citizen Complaints	13
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 35
Inquiries	24
Citizen Complaints	11

*Note: Sometimes a citizen will report a complaint in multiple places, in those cases the place where the complaint was first reported is noted.

Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 11
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Categories of Complaints**

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1st and September 30th, 2014

Allegation	Number
Conduct Unbecoming	1
Demeanor	9
Failure to Report Domestic Violence	2
Failure to Take Report (Non-DV)	2
Sexual Assault***	1
Excessive Force	4
Lack of or Inadequate Response	11
Failure to Take Reasonable Action	1
Exceeding Authority	2
Improper Search/Seizure	2

**Note: Some investigations involve multiple allegations. Investigations do not include Inquiries.

***Allegation was received during this period, but was alleged to have occurred in 2012. The accused officer is no longer an employee of the SPD. The case is complete and is being reviewed by the Spokane County Prosecutor's Office for charging consideration.



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Allegations associated with **Internal Complaints** received between January 1st and September 30th, 2014

Allegation	Number
Absent Without Leave	1
Crime (Off-Duty Reckless Driving)	1
Crime (Off-Duty DUI Arrest)	1
Crime (Steroid Purchase)	1
Dereliction of Duty	1
False Reporting****	1
False Statements****	2
Integrity****	1
Lack of / Inadequate Response	1
SPD Policy Violation	3
Untruthfulness	1
Insubordination	1

****Investigation involved a civilian employee. The investigation was forwarded to HR and the employee was exonerated.

Current Status of 2014 Cases

Citizen Complaints

Status	Number
Exonerated	6
Sustained	4
Not Sustained	6
Unfounded	3
Under Investigation	5
Under Review by Capt. of Prof. Standards or Chief's Office	1
Resigned prior to Termination	1
Administratively Suspended	6
Changed to Inquiries	13



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Internal Complaints

Item	Number
Sustained	5
Not Sustained	1
Referred to City Human Resources	2
Under Investigation	1
Under ARP Review	1
Under OPO Review	2

Unfounded - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve department personnel.

Exonerated - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.

Not Sustained - When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the employee.

Sustained - When the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted misconduct.

Training Failure - Deficiency in training was the cause of the alleged act.

Closed Due to Mediation - Is an alternative to the investigation, adjudication and disciplinary process.

2014 Deadly Force Incidents

2014 Investigative Reviews

Total: 4

March 2014

March 26th, 2014---Internal Affairs Lt. Lundgren responded to 1527 W. Grace Avenue after an Officer Involved Shooting. Officers were investigating the suspect’s involvement in a series of Armed Robberies at the time of the shooting. Sgt. Braun will be the lead on the Deadly Force Review after the SIRR Team investigation and Prosecutorial Review are completed.



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April 2014

April 3rd, 2014-- Sgt. Staben responded to Magnesium and Division after a suspect required medical treatment after fleeing from the scene of a collision. The suspect choked on a plastic bag that a witness reported seeing him swallow while attempting to flee from pursuing officers. The suspect died after choking on the plastic baggie. The Medical Examiner's Office has determined the cause of death to be accidental.

April 29th, 2014-- Sgt. Braun and Lt. Lundgren responded to 2512 N. Standard on the report of an Officer-Involved Shooting. Officers, Detectives, and civilian media were on scene investigating a possible homicide after a woman was found dead at the location. A person of interest in the homicide reportedly drove through the barricades at the location and confronted officers at the location. Sgt. Braun is the lead investigator on the case.

Bias-Based Policing Update

The Spokane Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services to the community with due regard for the racial, cultural, or other differences of those served. It is the policy of this department to provide law enforcement services and to enforce the law equally, fairly, and without discrimination toward any individual or group.

Race, ethnicity or nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, economic status, age, cultural group, disability or affiliation with any other similar identifiable group shall not be used as the basis for providing differing levels for law enforcement services or enforcement of the law.

The Bias-Based Policing Policy, along with other related items, is now posted to the Police Accountability website. The following documents are now available to the public.

- SPD's Biased-Based Policing Policy
- SPD's Immigration Policy
- Statistics about Use of Force Incidents involving Subjects of Color, 2010-2014
- Asian Subjects and Use of Force, 2010-2014
- Black Subjects and Use of Force, 2010-2014
- Hispanic Subjects and Use of Force, 2010-2014
- Native Subjects and Use of Force, 2010-2014
- Arrest data and Race/Ethnicity demographics



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Records Unit Update

Public Record Disclosures as of 9/29/2014

Oldest request not completed: 7/15/14
New requests received this week: 304
Total requests started but not complete:* 172
(11 of the requests are very large and the requestors have been provided with an extended completion date.)
Total requests not processed: 17 (oldest date of 9/25/2014)

Outreach Update

Community Outreach Officer DeRuwe and Lieutenant Tracie Meidl were recently featured as panelists for the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission’s annual conference. They were asked to share Spokane Police Department’s community outreach efforts with the conference attendees. The Commission recognized SPD’s Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) as “an innovative way that police officers are positively interacting with youth.”

The (YPI) program has been so popular that it has been difficult to accommodate all the kids that want to attend. 85 youth have participated so far this year. The most recent graduation took place on September 23rd. YPI sessions have been held all over Spokane, at East Central Community Center, Crosswalk, Northeast Community Center, West Central Community Center, and North Central High School. A Rogers High School session begins in November. This month, YPI will be held at Excelsior Youth Center’s residential specialized high school.

Officer DeRuwe is also involved in general outreach, regularly meeting with youth in Spokane County Juvenile Court’s Diversion and Coordination of Services programs. She is on the Operations Team of “Excelerate Success,” a United Way partnership that brings together education leaders, businesses, government, non-profit organizations, the faith community, parents and community stakeholders—to support youth and families. She is one of four Leadership Directors on the Board of Spokane’s Homeless Coalition, a coalition of fifty agencies serving Spokane.

Body Camera Implementation Project—Progress Update

Since starting the body camera pilot program for the Spokane Police Department on September 1, 2014, six Evidence.com uploading docks have been activated for officers to upload their body cameras in three different locations (Public Safety Building, Academy, and Downtown Precinct). Officers are currently able to label and upload video through the use of the docks.



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At the time of this report, the Department has approximately 1300 videos uploaded to Evidence.com. This total includes video from 2012, when the department conducted the testing and experimenting phase with numerous cameras.

Officer Ryan Snider of the Technical Assistance Response Unit (TARU) is successfully troubleshooting technical issues. Officers are filling out forms to document any problems (issues with the cameras and issues with the current pilot policy). He is working with Scott Simmons to establish an audit of the use of the cameras. TARU created PSTAT codes for use of the total counts of video taken at incidents. The PSTAT codes will assist the audit of videos available for incidents with an incident number.

Officer Snider is also training Sergeants on the use of Evidence.com. Sergeants are learning how to attach the video files to Blue Team reports, for Internal Affairs' tracking of Use of Force, Pursuits, Accidents, and Complaints.

Bryce Newell from the University of Washington is in the process of setting up a research project related to the adoption and use of the wearable cameras by officers in our agency. He conducted a similar research project with Rialto Police Department.

Community outreach is ongoing. As of September 30, 2014, Director Schwering presented to the following organizations:

- Nevada Lidgerwood Neighborhood Council: Aug 13.
- Police Advisory Committee: Aug 13.
- Inland Northwest Business Alliance BOD (LGBTQA): Aug. 20
- AmeriCorps Youth Build: Aug. 22.
- East Spokane Business Association: Aug. 27
- Rotary 21 Club: Aug. 28.
- Lutheran Community Services: Sept. 11
- Adult Victims of Sexual Assault: Sept 11
- Frontier Behavioral Health: Sept. 22
- Family Services Spokane: Sept. 22
- Professional Women's Networking Group: Sept. 25
- House of Charity staff and volunteers and other Catholic Charities employees: Sept. 25
- Spokane AIDS Network- Sept. 30

Body Camera VIRTRA Trainings held at the Academy:

- Mayor's Cabinet- Sept. 11
- Rotary 21 / The Porch Church:- Sept. 11
- Media Forum – Sept. 12
- City Council (one of three trainings)- Sept. 12



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- City Council – Oct. 7

Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Update

The Spokane Police Department continues to engage in the Collaborative Reform process with the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The COPS team visited Spokane in September on a week-long site visit. While in Spokane, the COPS team's goal was to observe Spokane Police Department operations.

The COPS team:

- Interviewed 50 officers and participated on several ride-alongs with patrol officers.
- Interviewed Police Ombudsman Tim Burns and two of the Ombudsman Commission members that had been seated the week before.
- Met with SPD staff and Frontier Behavioral Health about the collaboration between the two agencies and the enhanced mental health training SPD is planning for officers.
- Attended in-service training sessions for officers and for command staff.
- Observed a Deadly Force Review Board meeting.
- Attended a Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) graduation at West Central Community Center.
- Visited WSU Spokane's Research Center to observe the violence confrontation simulation laboratory and to learn more about the collaboration on Crisis Intervention Training with WSU Spokane.
- The COPS Office plans to release findings and recommendations for the Spokane Police Department in December 2014.