

Safer Spokane: A Community Safety Strategy

**Plan. Prevent. Protect. Partner.
2026-2027**

**“Serving our community with integrity,
professionalism, and compassion.”**

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

This community safety strategy is a commitment to enhance the safety and security of all Spokane community members with an evidence-based approach. While we are pleased to note that crime statistics are down across nearly all categories, we also recognize that more can always be done to protect and serve our community.

The Spokane Police Department is committed to policing in a manner that upholds constitutional principles, uses science and data to inform everyday practices, and celebrates the important role that the community has in safety. By leveraging data and research, we will implement strategies proven to reduce crime and effectively enhance public safety.



We will steadfastly adhere to constitutional principles, ensuring that every action respects the rights and dignity of all individuals while fostering accountability and transparency. Simultaneously, we will prioritize building strong, trust-based relationships with the communities we serve, engaging in meaningful collaboration to address local concerns, and creating inclusive, resilient environments. Together, these values will guide us in delivering fair, just, and impactful policing.

We will work in close partnership with community members and other stakeholders to reduce and prevent crime, as well as enhance perceptions of safety. We further commit to a learning mindset as we evaluate our strategy and adjust as needed to exceed community expectations.

We look forward to working with you to create a community where every person feels safe and has the opportunity to flourish.

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes SPD's plan to reduce and prevent crime while building trust and legitimacy in the community. While SPD will implement specific evidence-based strategies, the plan follows four broad pillars:

1. systematically address crime problems by aligning SPD operations;
2. suppress crime in specific high-crime places;
3. disrupt the group dynamics that allow crime (notably gun violence) to flourish;
4. and empower community partners and stakeholders.

By focusing on both people and places, SPD can address crime in a comprehensive and holistic way for long-term safety.

These four pillars are rooted in academic theory. Crime scientists have shown that crime occurs when likely offenders and potential victims/targets come together in time and place, especially when there is the absence of a capable guardian. To meaningfully reduce and prevent crime, SPD should focus on three broad efforts:

1. Disrupt the *place dynamics* that allow crime to occur.
2. Address the *individuals* and *networks* that are at greatest risk of perpetrating or being victimized by crime.
3. Activate the *community* to serve as their own guardians.



SPD has undertaken three key evidence-based strategies that balance prevention and enforcement, and integrate short- and long-term tactics. These strategies have been implemented in other cities and shown success in reducing crime. They align with specific pillars of the community safety strategy. To ensure the successful implementation of each strategy, SPD is undertaking a system-wide realignment of its organizational structure, technological and data investments, and training, among others, to support an effective and sustainable roll-out of each strategy. This aspect of the plan is reflected in the first pillar but will impact every action undertaken for each strategy.



The primary evidence-based strategies that comprise the plan are:

- Hot spots policing (*suppress crime at places*)
- Place-based problem-solving (*suppress crime at places*)
- Focused deterrence (*disrupt group dynamics*)

Across all strategies, SPD will emphasize building collaborative partnerships with other City of Spokane departments, law enforcement agencies, service providers, community groups, businesses, schools, faith-based organizations, and others. Community safety requires investment from all Spokane residents.

OUR GOALS

The goals of this plan are straightforward:

- Sustained reductions in violent crime and property crime.
 - Reduce violent gun crime citywide by 10% by December 2026.
- Sustained increases in community member satisfaction.
- Improved perceptions of safety.
- Improved police legitimacy and trust with community members, business owners, and local government institutions.

The goals will be measured in the following ways:

- Violent and property crime will be measured using internal calls-for-service and offense data. Community members can track crime trends using SPD's public dashboard.
- Community satisfaction, perceptions of safety, and police legitimacy will be measured through a yearly survey of community members.

Each component supports SPD's goals:

Plan Pillar	Activity/Strategy	Plan Goals	Elements Responsible	Primary Tasks
Align SPD Operations	Organizational Alignment	Crime reduction; community satisfaction; police legitimacy	All SPD personnel	Update organizational structure, strategic priorities, personnel wellbeing, accountability, crisis care infrastructure, technology and data infrastructures, and training.
Suppress Crime at Hot Spots	Hot Spot Policing	Crime reduction; community satisfaction; perceptions of safety	Patrol precincts; Crime analysis	Enforcement and prevention
	Place-Based Problem-Solving	Crime reduction; community satisfaction; perceptions of safety	Patrol precincts; crime analysis; NROs; Civil Enforcement Unit; Community engagement	Problem-oriented policing; situational crime prevention; community support/outreach
Disrupt Group Dynamics	Focused Deterrence	Crime reduction; perceptions of safety; police legitimacy	Investigations; Patrol; Community engagement; Gun Crime Unit	Prioritized enforcement and investigation of networked violent offenders; Offering social services and alternatives to violence
Empower Community and Partners	Embed community members and partners in all crime strategies	Community satisfaction; police legitimacy	All SPD personnel	Hold weekly Crime Control meetings; Invite community and partners to meaningfully participate

CURRENT CRIME IN SPOKANE

SPD tracks crime trends to assess where we are now and to help direct our crime-reduction/prevention priorities in the future. Spokane is generally a safe community. Year-end crime totals for 2025 show that property crime is below pre-pandemic levels, and most violent crime types are also down. This is outstanding news!

Overall crime, including both crimes against people and property crimes, has fallen 22% compared to 2019, and is down 14% compared to 2024. Burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and robberies all show meaningful reductions, with burglaries down 34% from pre-pandemic levels. SPD has already taken several steps to drive this positive change. The department surpasses national averages in solving homicides, closing nearly every reported case. On top of that, the department has kept more officers on the job and hired more new ones than at any point since the pandemic. While criminologists are still studying all the reasons behind the national drop in crime, having a steady and effective police presence clearly makes a difference.

However, SPD is seeing some troubling trends in certain crime types, notably gun violence. Starting in the COVID-19 pandemic era, violent crime involving a firearm has shown an upward trajectory. These offenses may not all result in injury or fatality, but they do indicate a broad use of firearms in the commission of violent crimes.

Offense	2019	2024	2025	% change from 2019 to 2025	% change from 2024 to 2025
All person and property crimes	29,987	27,186	23,282	-22.4%	-14.4%
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	6	16	8	+2**	-8**
Rape	239	177	191	-20.1%	+7.9%
Aggravated assault	1,014	1,040	957	-5.6%	-8.0%
Robbery	321	334	271	-15.6%	-18.9%
Burglary	1,874	1,524	1,229	-34.4%	-19.4%
Larceny*	10,488	8,604	7,953	-24.2%	-7.6%
Motor vehicle theft	1,328	1,240	835	-37.1%	-32.7%
Person crimes	6,742	6,476	6,113	-9.3%	-5.6%
Property crimes	23,245	20,710	17,169	-26.1%	-17.1%

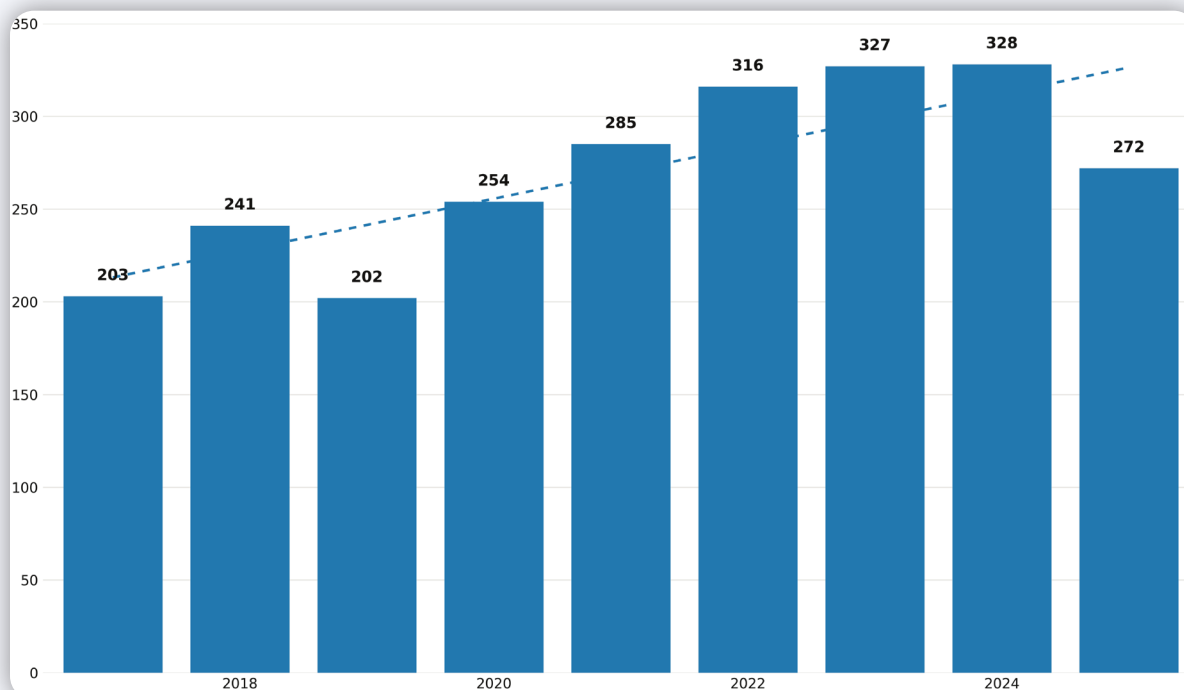
**Includes: all other larceny, pocket-picking, purse-snatching, shoplifting, stolen property offenses, theft from building, theft from coin-operated machine, theft from motor vehicle*

***Small numbers arbitrarily inflate percent changes. Percent changes will not be reported for small numbers.*

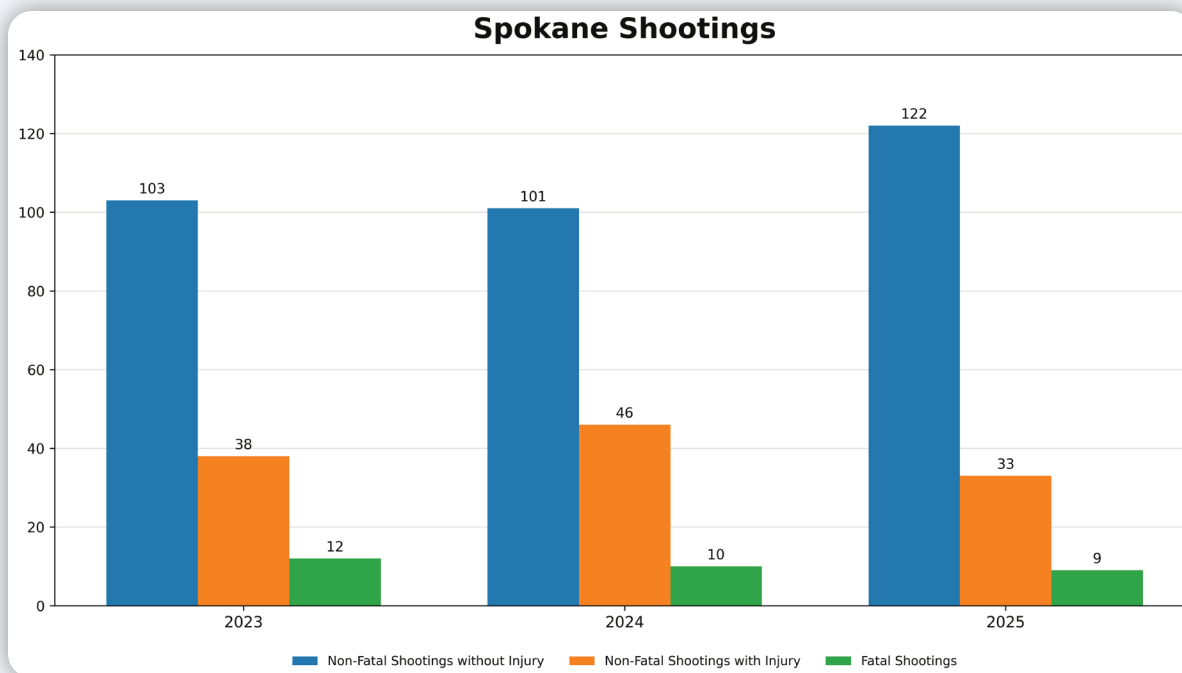
While 2025 saw some promising reductions in firearm-related violence, the most serious gun violence (i.e., confirmed non-fatal shootings with and without injury and fatal shootings) has remained relatively stable for the past three years.

Further analysis into violent offenses involving firearms shows an entrenched network of younger offenders (juveniles & young adults up to 26) disproportionately contribute to the violence. These youth and young adults tend to commit violent offenses together with multiple suspects at a higher rate than individuals who are older (27+).

Approximately 150 youth and young adults have been arrested for 326 shooting, robbery, or aggravated assault offenses between 2018 and 2025. Eighty-three individuals were listed in 91 shooting, robbery, or aggravated assault cases.



Yearly Citywide Violent Crime involving a Firearm (Non-DV; Full year comparison 2017 - 2025)



*Citywide Shootings:
2023-2025 (Non-Fatal Shootings without Injury, Non-Fatal Shootings with Injury, and Fatal Shootings)*

Beyond violent crime, individuals across the network are also involved in other criminal activities, including property and social crimes. The whole network of 264 identified individuals has been involved in 3702 unique case reports, 1054 arrests, 256 tickets/citations, and 80 accident reports. This results in a high allocation of law enforcement resources to a small percentage of the population.

Due to the troubling trend of gun violence driven primarily by networked individuals, SPD's community safety strategy currently focuses on violent crimes, especially those involving firearms. However, the strategies outlined in the plan apply to all crime types, and broad community safety can be achieved by implementing them effectively. SPD will continue to monitor crime trends and update the community safety strategy should other crime types show noteworthy increases.



PILLAR 1: REALIGNING SPD TO ADDRESS CRIME PROBLEMS

To ensure this community safety strategy works as intended, SPD is realigning its personnel, policies, procedures, training, data infrastructure, technologies, and community and other stakeholder partnerships to prioritize community health and safety through crime reduction and prevention. While this work does not directly address crime, it fosters the culture of excellence needed to ensure each strategy is implemented effectively. SPD's structure, mission, and values are aligned to support its broader strategic vision of reducing and preventing crime, especially gun violence, while maintaining the Spokane community's trust and satisfaction in its police department.

SPD's work to realign the structure, mission, and values around crime reduction and prevention encompasses eight broad areas:

1. *Organizational Structure: Realign personnel for crime reduction and prevention.*
2. *Strategic Priorities: Set strategic priorities using data and evidence.*
3. *Personnel Wellbeing: Maintain a healthy workforce to ensure sustainability.*
4. *Accountability: Build legitimacy through transparency and oversight.*
5. *Crisis Care Infrastructure: Support efforts to provide citywide social services.*
6. *Technology Investments: Use technology as a force multiplier.*
7. *Data Infrastructure: Elevate data in everyday practices through IT investments.*
8. *Training: Expand and enhance training across the organization.*

Each of these core areas represents an organization-wide effort to shift SPD practices and culture towards evidence-based, constitutional, and community-centered policing to reduce and prevent crime. SPD has always valued excellence and places a strong emphasis on serving the community with integrity, professionalism, and compassion. This realignment fine-tunes the department's existing strengths to ensure the best possible community safety. Every SPD employee has played a part in this broad realignment.

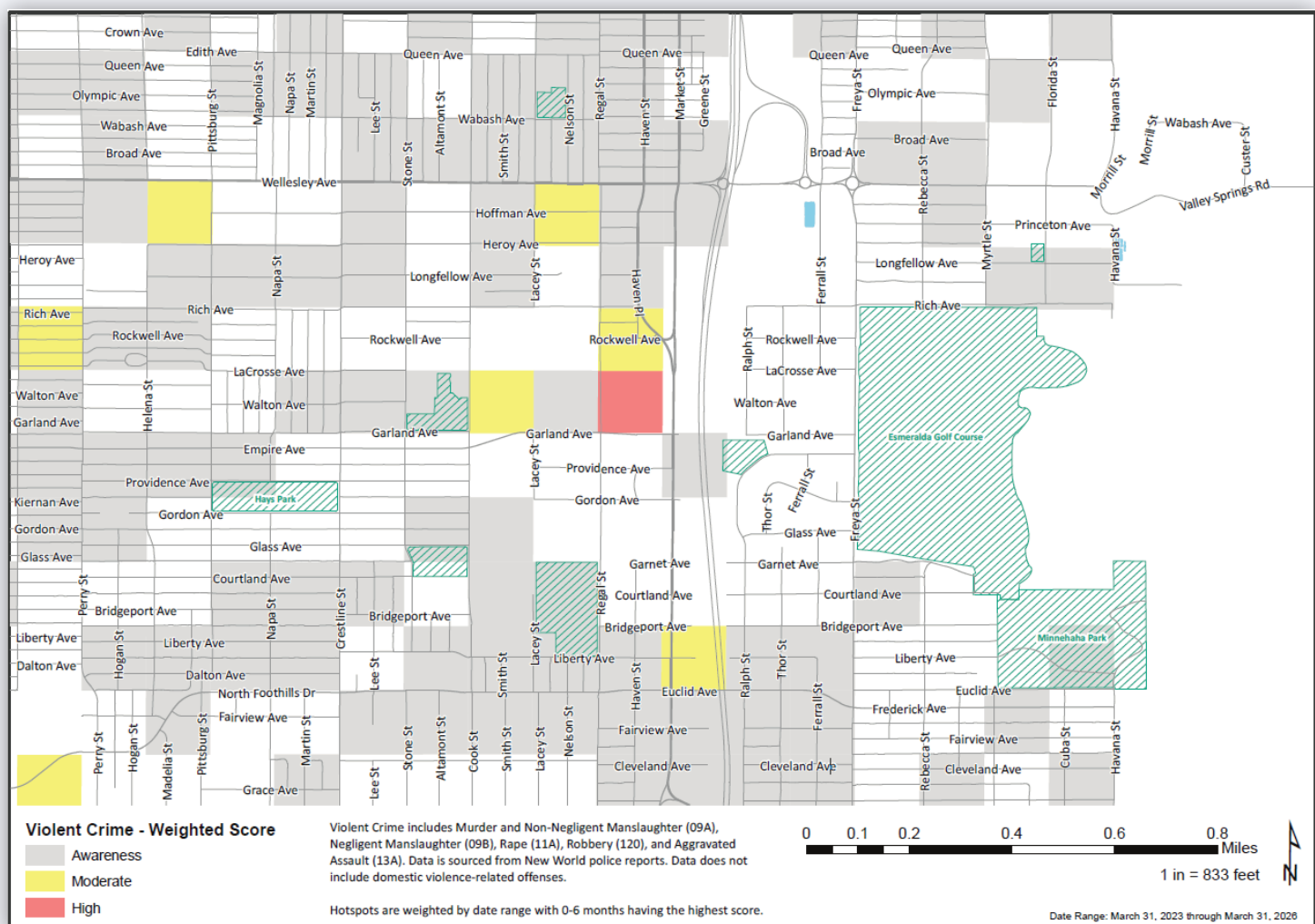
Many of the activities undertaken in SPD's realignment are part of the [SPD 2025-2026 Strategic Plan](#). Regarding crime reduction and prevention, they serve as the framework for implementing evidence-based strategies. The community may never see the results of many of these projects, but their impacts will be felt in the hot spots policing, place-based problem-solving, and focused deterrence strategies.

PILLAR 2: SUPPRESS CRIME AT HOT SPOTS

SPD is implementing two evidence-based strategies to suppress crime in places by disrupting the underlying dynamics that allow crime to occur. Specifically, the hot spots policing strategy is designed to address the places that have repeated reports of crime by placing officers in the highest crime areas. The place-based problem-solving strategy focuses on the places and victims of crime by using problem-solving to address known crime issues in places. Both of these strategies have been scientifically tested in multiple jurisdictions and shown to work well to reduce crime. Across all these strategies, SPD works with community and City partners to empower the community to eventually prevent crime before it happens.

HOT SPOTS POLICING

Hot spots policing is a strategy that focuses on very small areas, sometimes just a few blocks, where crime happens more often than in other places. SPD uses recent crime data and input from officers and analysts to identify these “hot spots,” then keep the list updated every six months. By understanding which locations consistently experience problems, the department can spend its time and resources where they can make the biggest difference.



Once the hot spots are selected, patrol officers visit them regularly for short periods (approximately 12-15 minutes) throughout the day as though the hot spot was a call from the community. Their goal is not to arrest people but to be a visible presence, talk with community members, and work on solving the problems that make the area unsafe. Officers follow clear instructions given by dispatchers during each visit, and specialized units like traffic officers, behavioral health teams, and the Gun Crime Unit pitch in with more targeted help when needed. All activity is documented so analysts can track what is happening, see what is working, and adjust the plan over time.

A big part of this strategy involves working with the community to understand why certain places attract crime and how to fix those issues. Officers use a method called SARA—Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment—to figure out what is really causing the problems and to develop solutions that go beyond police work alone. They might partner with businesses, city services, outreach groups, and residents to make changes like improving lighting, managing chronic disorder, or helping frequent callers get support. Over time, the goal is to make these places safer and more stable, so they no longer remain hot spots.

PLACE-BASED PROBLEM-SOLVING

SPD uses a strategy called place-based, problem-oriented policing to help reduce crime over the long term. This approach, known as POP, focuses on understanding the real reasons why crime happens in certain areas and to repeat victims, and then creating responses that directly address those causes. It involves looking at data to find problems, figuring out what is driving them, trying out targeted solutions, and then checking to see whether those solutions are working.

POP has been shown to be very effective at lowering crime and disorder, and it works well alongside hot spots policing. SPD uses POP in areas with high levels of violent crime, paying close attention to the environmental conditions that make violence more likely. Officers use strategies like improving lighting, limiting access to places that attract illegal activity, and working with businesses to make locations safer through Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).



SPD also partners with other city departments to deal with nuisance properties and make sure buildings are managed responsibly. The investigations bureau employs several experts in nuisance abatement in the Civil Enforcement Unit with a proven track record. By tailoring responses to the specific problems in each location, SPD can change the conditions that allow crime to happen and help prevent future violence.

To date, SPD has launched three pilot POP projects in chronic violent crime hot spots across Spokane. Each project is managed by a patrol lieutenant and supported by crime analysts. Officers are tasked with determining the underlying causes of the violence in those areas and coordinating cross-sector responses. The patrol captains oversee the progress on these pilot projects. At the same time, the training academy is developing new curriculum on problem-oriented policing so that new officers are taught the concepts and can join the projects immediately when they graduate from the basic academy.

It is too early in the implementation of the strategy to determine long-term success. However, the pilot projects will be evaluated to see if they successfully reduced crime, and new POP projects will be selected in other areas of the city.

WHAT SUPPRESSING CRIME AT PLACES IS NOT: BROKEN WINDOWS

While SPD does suppress crime at places, we do not engage in broken windows policing. Broken windows policing, hot spot policing, and place-based problem-solving are three different strategies that apply different theoretical frameworks for reducing crime. Broken windows policing is based on the idea that small, visible signs of disorder, like graffiti, broken windows, or public drinking, send a signal that no one is watching, which can encourage more serious crime to follow. Under this approach, officers pay close attention to minor offenses and neighborhood upkeep, believing that fixing small problems early helps prevent bigger ones later. Hot spot policing takes a more data-driven approach to focus on specific locations and create a police presence in those areas. Place-based problem-solving does not rely on police presence or enforcement but rather focuses on changing the dynamics that create crime opportunities, things like improving lighting, trimming overgrown landscaping, adding clear sightlines, and designing public spaces so people naturally want to use and watch over them. The goal is to make it harder for crime to happen in the first place by shaping the space around it.

In short, broken windows targets behavior and disorder, hot spot policing targets locations using data, and place-based problem-solving targets the underlying causes of crime problems, including the physical design of a space.

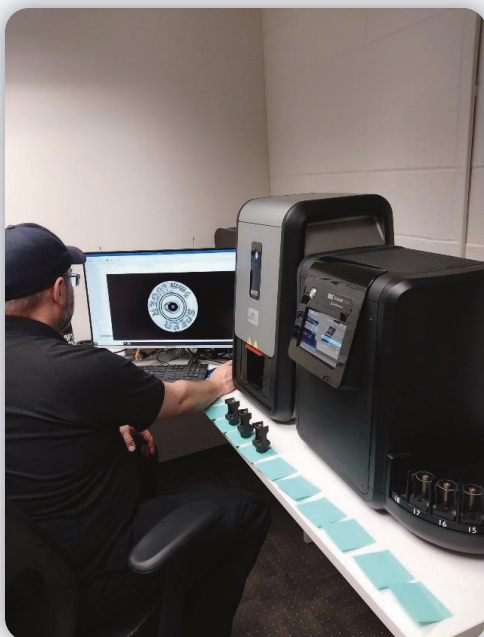
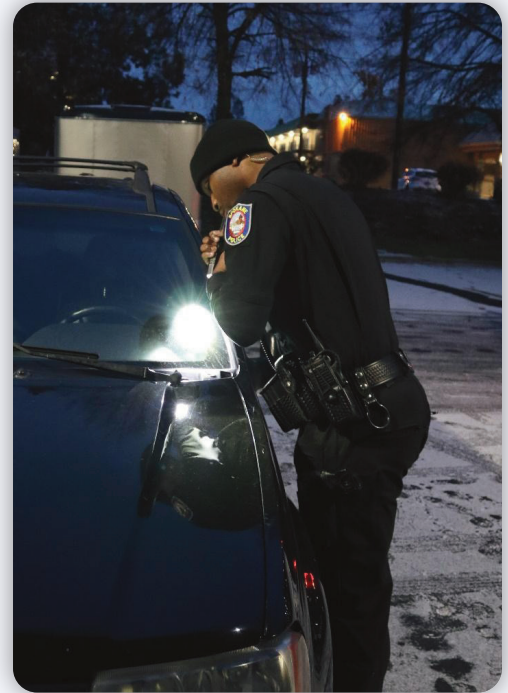
PILLAR 3: DISRUPT A GROUP DYNAMICS

Firearm-related violence in Spokane is highly networked. A small number of juveniles and young adults drive much of the gun violence. These individuals are connected through their social relationships. SPD plans to disrupt the networks of violent juveniles and young adults by uncovering the links that form their relationships and using those relationships to control the individuals. This strategy is called focused deterrence.

FOCUSED DETERRENCE

Focused deterrence is a community violence-reduction strategy with strong evidence showing it can lower gun violence. This approach uses detailed data and tools like social network analysis to identify people who are at the highest risk of being involved in violent crime. These individuals often have past contact with police, are connected to others involved in violence, and may also be at risk of being victimized. In

focused deterrence, police work with partners such as probation, parole, and prosecutors to warn these individuals about the legal consequences of future violence, while community members offer support, services like job or housing help, and messages about choosing a safer path. Street outreach workers—people with real-life experience and community trust—also help mediate conflicts and calm tensions. Participants receive both enforcement messages and offers of help through meetings called “call-ins” and through personalized outreach, and service providers follow up to support them over time.



SPD has not started implementing the focused deterrence strategy. The newly formed Gun Crime Unit will be responsible for coordinating activities associated with the focused deterrence strategy, supported by community engagement officers, crime analysts, and the investigations bureau. However, the strategy requires considerable investment in both SPD and community resources to be implemented effectively. SPD and City of Spokane grant writers are looking for funding opportunities to support a full-time project manager position to assist with the strategy's implementation. In addition, SPD is communicating with potential community partners to build implementation readiness within the community. SPD plans to have focused deterrence implemented by the end of 2027.

In addition, SPD plans to support the launch of a hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP) with our hospital and community partners in the next two years. HVIPs are multidisciplinary programs that offer trauma-informed care and resources to people immediately after they have been hurt by gun violence. Research shows that many gunshot patients are at risk of repeat violent injury, and that revictimization is less likely when those patients are immediately connected with hospital- and community-based resources that address underlying risk factors. When a victim comes to the hospital with a gunshot wound, a trained team member meets with them while recovering in the hospital to offer services such as counseling, safe housing, job training, or support to avoid getting hurt again. In addition, violence interrupters often work with family members and friends of the gunshot victim in the immediate hours after the shooting to ease tension and prevent retaliatory shootings.



SPD recently purchased and operationalized an in-house National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) console, which will play a critical role in uncovering the networks that perpetrate gun violence for the focused deterrence strategy. NIBIN is a computer program network administered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) that creates high-resolution digital images of the unique markings left by firearm mechanisms on either a fired bullet or an expended cartridge casing obtained as evidence. After receiving the unique images, the program links the bullet or cartridge casing to other images in the national system, potentially connecting bullets and cartridge casings to incidents involving the same gun. In turn, this link provides SPD investigators with case leads on other shootings, trends, and related matters. Investigators work with intelligence analysts to identify the networks of individuals driving violence in Spokane, using forensic, ballistic, and technological evidence.

PILLAR 4: EMPOWER COMMUNITY AND PARTNERS

Empowering community members to take part in community safety starts with giving people the tools, knowledge, and support they need to make a difference where they live. A public health approach looks at safety the same way as preventing illness—by identifying risks early, strengthening protective factors, and working together to create healthier environments. This means helping neighbors build strong relationships, improving access to resources, and giving people chances to share their ideas and concerns. When community members feel confident and included, they become active partners in creating safer, more connected neighborhoods.

Working with partners such as schools, local businesses, service providers, and faith groups also strengthens community safety. Each partner brings different strengths, and together they can spot problems earlier and respond more effectively. SPD is committed to a public health approach that encourages everyone to share information, coordinate efforts, and focus on long-term solutions that reduce harm.



By involving a wide range of community voices and partners, we create a foundation of trust and shared responsibility—making safety a community effort rather than something handled by one group alone.

All the crime strategies that SPD implements have opportunities to engage community members and partners in meaningful cooperation. The core value of community engagement will be built into every strategy to ensure all opportunities to meaningfully engage are taken by SPD personnel. In addition, SPD is committed to building trust and legitimacy with the community we serve through transparency and accountability. To do that, SPD strives for transparency and accountability.

ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH DATA AND PROBLEM-SOLVING

SPD is recalibrating its CompStat model, Crime Control, to consolidate all Crime Plan strategies under a single accountability framework. CompStat (short for Computer Statistics or Comparative Statistics) is a data-driven management system used by law enforcement agencies to reduce crime and improve accountability. It originated in the New York City Police Department in the 1990s and focuses on collecting and analyzing crime data to identify patterns, allocate resources, and track performance. The process typically involves analyzing crime-trend data, holding regular meetings to hold precinct



commanders accountable for their crime statistics, and allocating resources to reduce crime. The new SPD Crime Control model shares many hallmarks with the CompStat model. However, it aligns better with a new iteration, CompStat360, which emphasizes community engagement, metric development, and problem-solving in addition to a focus on crime statistics and accountability.

All SPD command staff are required to attend weekly Crime Control meetings to engage in the problem-oriented policing framework at the organizational level. The meetings are designed to brainstorm the causes and responses for identified crime problems, including gun violence. Chief Hall and the Assistant Chiefs attend meetings to provide resources to captains and lieutenants as they implement crime response plans. All assigned action items are discussed in meetings to ensure accountability and progress. Future Crime Control meetings will serve as the accountability structure, communication medium, resource-coordination hub, and partnership-development platform for all implemented strategies.

CONCLUSION

Spokane is a safe and thriving city. However, SPD is concerned by early indications of growing youth involvement in gun-related crimes. SPD is committed to and invested in the safety and betterment of our city and continues to work hard to ensure every community member feels safe. The strategies outlined in this community safety plan are evidence-based, data-driven, and theory-informed. While the Safer Spokane: Community Safety Strategy cannot capture all of SPD's crime-fighting efforts, it does highlight the broad vision to center SPD efforts around community safety.

However, SPD cannot do it alone. SPD's long-term gun violence reduction strategy recognizes that violent crime can spread like an epidemic and requires a team-based approach. This means community organizations, City departments, healthcare providers, service agencies, victims, neighborhood members, and research partners all play important roles in understanding and addressing the root causes of violence. While police help lead the effort, the goal is for the community to work alongside police as "co-producers" of public safety.

To truly make a sustainable impact, we need your help. Every person plays an important role in community safety. With your collaboration, we can continue moving forward to reduce and prevent crime, making our city safer for all of us.





SPOKANE
POLICE
DEPARTMENT