

Biography

Traci Ponto

Spokane Community Oriented Policing Services

Crime Victim Advocate

Please let me introduce myself. My name is Traci Ponto and was born and raised in East Wenatchee, Washington. I graduated from Eastmont High School in 1985 and moved to Spokane, Washington in 1987. After moving to Spokane, I worked several jobs to put myself through Spokane Community College where I attended their law enforcement program.

While going to college I enrolled in a co-op program with the college that allowed me to volunteer at Spokane Police department. I volunteered through my college years and after taking the civil service test was hired by Spokane Police department in 1994. I attended the Basic Law Enforcement Academy in Spokane, Washington 09/1994 and graduated from the academy 12/1994.

During my career with the Spokane Police department, I was a member of the Mounted Patrol Unit, a Field Training Officer, TAC officer, and on the Dignitary Protection team.

My last 15 years of my career I was assigned as a Neighborhood Resource officer for a low-income neighborhood in the West Central area. I worked out of Spokane's first Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.) shop known as COPS West. For 15 years I worked drug and nuisance related properties and worked with neighbors resolving quality of life issues.

During my career I was awarded Spokane Police Department employee of the quarter, City of Spokane employee of the month, several Spokane Police department Community Service awards, American Red Cross Hero award, and prior to retiring I was recognized with a YWCA Women of Achievement award. In 2018, I started Spokane's first Volunteer C.O.P.S. Mounted Patrol Unit, bringing horses into our city as a community outreach and crime prevention function.

Working out of COPS West gave me insight to how our Spokane Community Oriented Policing Services is an invaluable tool to bridge the gap between neighborhoods and law enforcement agencies and in Fall of 2019 the Executive Director, Patrick Striker, came to me with an offer to be a Crime Victim Advocate.

I retired 11/27/2019 and started my position at COPS West as a Crime Victim Advocate on 12/01/2019.

I am very blessed to continue to serve the Spokane Community.