



OFFICE OF
POLICE OMBUDSMAN
808 W. SPOKANE FALLS BLVD.
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201
509.625.6742
FAX 509.625.6748

October 11, 2016

Chief Craig Meidl
Spokane Police Division
1100 West Mallon
Spokane, WA 99260

RE: Review and Recommendations from IA C16-059

Dear Chief Meidl,

Thank you for the opportunity to review Internal Affairs CI16-059.

During the investigation, it became apparent that an SPD officer does not call in each traffic stop he makes. A quick review of the current SPD Policy Manual did not reveal any policy regarding this notification. This procedure is taught during basic training in most police academies as a best practice to enhance officer safety. Having the dispatcher know where the stop is and being able to check the vehicle's registration for wants/warrants can only serve to enhance officer safety. Additionally, it provides documentation for the reasons of the stop should a complaint arise as it did in this case.

OPO Recommendation R 16-06: That each SPD officer radios in every traffic stop for his/her safety and for the safety of the public.

It also became apparent that an SPD officer does not have the equipment necessary to record all contacts during his assigned shift due to download requirements and battery issues. The mechanism currently utilized does not allow the assigned body camera to become fully charged prior to the officer's shift. The officer stated that the majority of his work days require him to stop recording traffic stops with significant time remaining on his shift.

OPO Recommendation R 16-07: That SPD come up with a mechanism that ensures all officers' body cameras have the opportunity to be fully charged prior to their shift and ensure that all traffic stops are recorded properly.

Sincerely,

Bart Logue
Police Ombudsman
Office of the Police Ombudsman, City of Spokane

www.SPDOmbudsman.org

Email: SPDOmbudsman@spokanecity.org

www.facebook.com/SPDOmbudsman • www.twitter.com/SPDOmbudsman