



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

August 28, 2018

Bart Logue, Ombudsman
Office of the Police Ombudsman
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201

RE: Response to R18-02 Evidence Release Procedures

Dear Mr. Logue:

On March 22, 2018 I received a recommendation from you in regards to the department's property release procedures.

My understanding is that Internal Affairs originally received information from your office about this incident on February 28, 2018 and immediately began working with the Property Unit to determine what had occurred and research potential changes to our procedures to ensure this type of response would not occur again.

A change to the letters received by citizens went into effect on March 6, 2018 with the date of the incident being added to the letter so that the citizen will have a better understanding as to what the letter is referencing. This was one of your recommendations.

The other recommendation was the Property Unit update its standard operating procedures to call the affected citizen to let them know the property is being released and give them the option of picking up their items or requesting they be destroyed. The Property Unit sends out approximately 7,700 release forms per year. Making a call to every potential property item recipient is not logistically possible. In addition, City Legal has reviewed our procedures and we are currently operating according to state law with regard to the release of property. Though this was a good suggestion, this callback may be a more appropriate role for the Prosecutor's Office victim advocates at the conclusion of the case.

As always, we appreciate your efforts to continue to help us improve upon our processes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Meidl".

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police

