



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

December 26, 2019

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

RE: R19-02 Use of Force Reporting on Force Used Against Persons of Mistaken Identity

Dear Mr. Logue,

Thank you for forwarding your recommendation regarding the Spokane Police Department's current response to reporting use of force against persons of mistaken identity. Our updated use of force policy requires that, "Unless otherwise provided in policy, all force used by an officer shall be promptly, completely and accurately documented." Although oftentimes a use of force to overcome resistance may not rise to the level of a "reviewable" use of force (the creation of a separate 'Use of Force' report for chain of command review in BlueTeam), it is still considered a "reportable" use of force that shall be documented in a departmental incident report.

In addition, the Training Academy will author a Training Bulletin to specifically address the requirement that officers are to document when force is used on a subject who was contacted as a result of matching a suspect description, but after further investigation is determined to not be the suspect involved.

This updated policy will address the suggestion brought forward in your recommendation.

Sincerely,

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

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police
Spokane P.D.

