



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-010 OPO Number: 16-03
Date of Complaint: 02/11/16
Allegation: Inadequate Response
Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant witnessed a teen take Christmas lights from his neighbor's hedges. The complainant followed the teens toward Sharp and Cook to retrieve the lights. However, the teens got combative and the interaction escalated to one of the teen's friends, who was carrying a shaft approximately 24-30 inches long, swinging the shaft at the complainant. Another teen pushed the complainant onto the ground. The complainant was hit on the heel of his left hand in trying to confiscate the shaft. 911 was called twice without response.

INVESTIGATION

This case was referred to the shift sergeant to investigate. The sergeant interviewed the complainant with the Police Ombudsman present. He also interviewed the officer. When the officer arrived the complainant was not present and did not answer his phone. The sergeant verified through cell phone records that the officer had called the complainant.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The officer was assigned to Team 9 (Power Shift) that starts at 1600 hours. At 1607 hours the complainant's call was changed from a priority 2 call to a priority 3 call. Priority calls are self dispatched and remain in holding until an officer is free from higher priority calls. A call will get changed to a lower priority if the suspects are not present and there are no injuries or immediate emergencies.

At 1713 hours – The complainant calls to report that he was assaulted. He did not need medics and added that he has been waiting for the past hour. He requested to be contacted at Sharp and Cook. The complainant also provided his full name, date of birth and a phone number.

At 1824 hours – An officer and a CO-OP self-dispatched to Sharp and Cook to contact the complainant. The officer noted in the incident history that the complainant was gone from the intersection. They waited there for several minutes, but nobody came outside. They tried calling the victim back but there was no answer. The complainant said he did receive an anonymous call, but did not answer it, due to the fact that it is his practice not to answer anonymous calls that he receives. The complainant said that he was at Sharp and Cook, but gave up waiting and went out to dinner with his wife. The complainant was frustrated with the system, but did not have a complaint against the officer. The case was closed as an Inquiry.