



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-018 OPO Number: 16-8
Date of Complaint: 02/18/2016
Allegation: Abuse of Authority/False Reporting
Chain of Command Finding: Administratively Suspended
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant alleges that an officer used her status as a Spokane Police Officer to evict them from their house by using calls that do not qualify for nuisance activity in the notices served on landlords. The officer served two Notice of Chronic Nuisance on the complainant's property. The complainant further alleges the nuisance letter contains evidence of the officer's perjuring herself and committing a Class C Felony of Fraud/Forgery by passing off her statements as true and correct. All five incidents listed were for domestic situations at a different address and have nothing to do with the complainant's property.

INVESTIGATION

During the Internal Affairs investigation, investigators found the report numbers on the complainant's Chronic Nuisance letter did not appear to match his property. The officer said that she transposed numbers from a different case onto this notice.

Internal Affairs interviewed the complainant and viewed body camera footage of the officer contacting residents of the nuisance property.

The officer has been working on problems with this location and submitted a history of reports in a large binder.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

A Chronic Nuisance property is defined in Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) 10.08A.

“Chronic Nuisance Property” means property on which three or more nuisance activities occur or exist during any sixty-day period.

The procedure that Neighborhood Conditions Officers (NCO) follow is laid out below in SMC 10.08A.040, Section A and states that the designee shall notify the property owner that the property is in danger of being declared a Chronic Nuisance.

This is one of the main duties of the NCO. These cases are complex and involve many documents. In this case, Internal Affairs asked the officer to put together an information packet on the property that supports the notice. In doing so we discovered that she had put the wrong report numbers on the notice, and inadvertently listed reports involving another nuisance location. She was also working on a Chronic Nuisance on that property at the same time

The documentation provided shows that the officer does have sufficient facts to issue a notice. The notice is used as a way to force the land owner into a conversation about the need to abate the nuisance. The information provided shows that the complainant was not cooperating in dealing with the problems over a long period of time.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The officer provided the wrong report numbers on the notice. However, the attached information was sufficient to address the other allegations. Internal Affairs directed the officer to send out the correct report numbers for the nuisance. This case was administratively suspended as the notice was valid.