



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-025 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 3/29/2016
Allegation: Conduct Unbecoming
Chain of Command Finding: Not Sustained
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

This is an internal complaint. An officer is alleging that a sergeant made inappropriate comments to her when she was turning in her firearm for scheduled maintenance.

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs viewed surveillance camera footage and interviewed other officers that were present during the incident. Several of these officers are females.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

A witness officer stated in her interview that she and the sergeant bantered back and forth, and they engaged in dialogue that was similar to that described by the complainant officer. The officer indicated this bantering was directed exclusively at her, and she did not hear the sergeant address the complainant officer. A detective witness, who was standing in the portal of the door near the firearm turn-in location and was in a position to hear what occurred, stated she did not hear the sergeant state anything similar to what was alleged, and further she would report it if he did. The sergeant denied saying what was alleged by the complainant officer. The complainant officer did state in her interview that she thought she heard the sergeant say "Ladies" prior to the comment alleged, so she believed he was talking to her as well. While it would appear the comment alleged, or something similar may have been said, there is conflicting statements as to who it was said to. The witness officer to whom was bantering with the sergeant indicated that she and the sergeant routinely engage in the type of banter alleged, and appears to enjoy the bantering. This same bantering, said in the presence of the complainant officer, offended her. Though this bantering may not have been directed at the complaining officer, the sergeant lieutenant was directed to remind the sergeant. As a supervisor, he is held to a higher standard and must constantly be aware of the impact his words may have on others around him while fulfilling his supervisory role.