



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

**CRAIG N. MEIDL**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-028 OPO Number: 16-11  
Date of Complaint: 4/4/2016  
Allegation: Inadequate Response / Demeanor  
Chain of Command Finding: Administratively Suspended  
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Complainant alleges that a lieutenant refused to assign an investigator to his case because it was a civil matter as he believes it is a criminal matter. Further, the lieutenant hung up on him during a phone conversation.

### COMPLAINT

The complaint was received from the Police Ombudsman's Office and states he spoke with the lieutenant on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 about the status of his case. He was not happy with his interaction with the lieutenant. The complainant was mostly upset with three things: 1) The lieutenant did not confirm what the property management employee told him on the phone about the Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB) approving of the disposal of the alcohol. 2) The lieutenant did not agree that this was a criminal matter and would not assign a detective. 3) The lieutenant hung up on him.

### INVESTIGATION

The investigation found that the lieutenant correctly determined that the incident was a civil issue between tenant and landlord. This was determined by documentation provided that showed the tenant was advised of open alcohol bottles being held by the landlord, and that the tenant was to contact the landlord within an ample period of time or the contents of the open bottles would be poured out. This showed a lack of intent to deprive as required for a criminal charge of theft. Furthermore, the tenant admitted to the lieutenant that he made no effort to contact the landlord and retrieve the property. In regard to the lieutenant hanging up on the complainant, the lieutenant told Internal Affairs he was talking to the complainant and advised it was a civil matter. The complainant disagreed and talked over the lieutenant

during any attempted explanation as to why it was a civil matter. The complainant talked over the lieutenant several times, and the lieutenant gave the complainant 2-3 warnings that the conversation would end if this continued. The complainant continued to interrupt the lieutenant during an attempted explanation. The lieutenant subsequently told the complainant that he was ending the phone call and hung up.

#### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

This complaint was administratively suspended due to all investigative leads being exhausted and no evidence of wrong doing being located.