



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-035 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 04/25/2016
Allegation: Inadequate Response
Chain of Command Finding: Unfounded
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

On 04/25/16, Spokane County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) deputies were going to take a suspect into custody on probable cause (PC) 2nd Degree Assault - Domestic Violence (DV). SCSO said a Spokane Police Officer allegedly asked them to stand down because he wanted to put a tracker on the vehicle. The SCSO sergeant questioned the wisdom of this decision, stating that the victim had further exposure to the suspect. On 04/27/15 the suspect was taken into custody by SCSO deputies.

COMPLAINT

The apprehension of suspects in crimes against people, take priority over furthering property crimes investigations.

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs interviewed the complainant, deputy, and the officer involved. Members of the Police Anti-Crime Team (PACT) were also interviewed. Internal Affairs reviewed the messages sent between the officers and the deputy.

The deputy was aware that PACT was looking for the suspect. He contacted them when he located the vehicle. The deputy had also been on a DV call with this suspect the day before. The deputy knew the details of this call and the officers did not.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The deputy, the officer who observed the suspect vehicle, had an opportunity to personally stop the suspect vehicle under the probable cause for 2nd Degree Assault (SCSO charges within the deputy's

jurisdiction). He did not require Spokane Police approval or permission to arrest on SCSO PC. The deputy also indicated in his interview with Internal Affairs, "In reality I didn't have PC. I believe there was PC for 2nd Degree Assault", and "I'm not going to stop and make an arrest on PC I don't have... I've been burned before." Apparently the deputy shared this with the SCSO investigator, and additionally that the probable cause affidavit was not in the SCSO probable cause folder, hence he had no inability to follow up on the PC by the deputies own statement; he was not going to stop/arrest for the probable cause. It is therefore not realistic to expect a Spokane Police Officer unfamiliar with the call to stop and arrest. This is further strengthened by the fact that the deputy was on the initial call where the probable cause was reportedly developed, and still indicated he was not going to stop the suspect and make an arrest.