



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-048 OPO Number: 16-19
Date of Complaint: 6/24/2016
Allegation: Inadequate Response
Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant is diagnosed with bipolar disorder and was experiencing a manic episode at the time of his arrest. He alleges he was denied his regular medication, as well as the anti-psychotic to calm his episode. The complainant is most interested in starting a dialogue with SPD on how to better serve the community with respect to mental health issues.

COMPLAINT

The complainant was arrested for domestic violence. He is complaining that the officer could have taken him to a mental health facility instead of an arrest.

INVESTIGATION

An Internal Affairs Investigator spoke with the complainant via telephone. The complainant was advised that Washington State Law prohibits police officers from administering medications to arrestees. The investigator also told him that RCW 10.99.030, mandates police officers in Washington State to make a custodial arrest when probable cause is established for a Domestic Violence Assault. He was also told that even if the officers would have preferred to take him to a mental health facility, rather than jail, the previously stated RCW prohibited any officer discretion. He stated that he was satisfied and understood the position the officers were in.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

One of the most common calls that officers respond to is a Domestic Violence. Those responses often result in mandatory arrests as outlined in RCW 10.99.030. This case was closed as an inquiry as there was no violation of policy.