



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-049 OPO Number: N/A  
Date of Complaint: 6/30/2016  
Allegation: Inadequate Response  
Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry  
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

An officers responded to a Theft call for service. The complainant was cited for City Theft.

### COMPLAINT

The complainant was upset because he was cited for City Theft when he refused to pay for a service in full. A company came to unlock his car for him, after he locked his keys in the car. The complainant is alleging that he and the locksmith agreed to a \$35.00 fee out of the total \$114.00 bill. He is saying that is a civil agreement between he and the locksmith, and the police should not have been citing him for what he classified as a civil dispute.

### INVESTIGATION

An Internal Affairs Investigator had one of the city prosecutors review the case. They said there was probable cause for the arrest. We asked her if there was any misconduct by the officer for issuing the citation based on the facts of the case. They said there was not. The officer had recorded body camera evidence that supports the finding.

### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The complainant is concerned about the officer having probable cause to issue a citation, which was confirmed by the prosecutor. The officer's body camera video provides multiple, very clear explanations, of the steps that the officers would have to take in regards to issuing the citation. The officers involved gave the complainant multiple opportunities to avoid being cited with full warning that a citation would be issued if the complainant did not fulfill the obligations of the transaction. The officer also completed a police report. The courts are the appropriate place to argue the merits of a citation. This investigation was classified as an inquiry as there was no violation of policy.