



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-052 OPO Number: 16-20
Date of Complaint: 6/30/2016
Allegation: Demeanor/Unlawful Search
OPA Finding: Administratively Suspended
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers made contact with the complainant during a traffic stop.

COMPLAINT

The complainant was stopped for a broken tail light. He alleges that the officers accused him of impersonating an officer because of the vehicle he drove. The complainant claims to be a Bail Enforcement Agent in Idaho. He alleges he was detained for 30-45 minutes and officers were very aggressive toward him, were unprofessional and tried to intimidate him into searching his vehicle. The complainant claims the officers conducted a search of his vehicle even though he objected. The complainant wants a copy of the report and a written apology from both officers.

INVESTIGATION

This incident was captured on body camera. It appears the officer initiated the stop because he believed the complainant was following another officer as that officer responded to a call in the same vicinity. The complainant was driving a Ford Crown Victoria or Police Interceptor that he said he recently purchased. This vehicle still had a prisoner transport "cage" installed along with a Speed Measuring Device (radar) and what appeared to be red and blue police lights. This made the officer concerned that it may be a police impersonator or someone who may want to ambush police. The allegations the complainant made do not exist on the body camera video; the complainant states the officers were aggressive, they did an illegal search of his vehicle, he was "detained and harassed for 30-45 minutes", and was intimidated. The officers were not aggressive, there was no search and the detention lasted approximately 17 minutes, which is not unreasonable for an investigatory stop. The Internal Affairs Investigator scheduled an interview with the complainant to ask some clarifying questions to assist in this investigation. The complainant did not show up or call. The investigator left several more voice messages, including an offer to meet in Idaho where the complainant resides and received no response.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The case was administratively suspended for lack of cooperation by the complainant.