



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-054 OPO Number: 16-22
Date of Complaint: 6/24/2016
Allegation: Excessive Force / Racial Bias
Chain of Command Finding: Exonerated
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Complainant called in to report seeing an officer using excessive force against a black male. The complainant stated that officer had the male down on the ground with his knee on the back of the black male.

COMPLAINT

The black male was reportedly complaining of pain and the officer just told the male, "there is nothing you can do", and then intentionally dislocated the black male's shoulder. When other officers arrived, they referred to the male as "negro" and "black".

INVESTIGATION

During the investigation, the IA investigator reviewed the body camera video of the incident. The video completely disproved the allegations made against the officers. The investigator stated the video showed the officers contacting the black male and attempted to arrest him for an arrest warrant. The male resisted being handcuffed and the officers did take him to the ground. The investigator described the take down as "using very little force". While on the ground, the officer did have his knee on the back of the male, which is standard protocol for prone cuffing technique. While on the ground, the male did not yell out in pain, and was talking in a relatively normal tone of voice. No racial slurs were heard on the body camera videos. Finally the investigator described the incident as "unremarkable".

CONCLUSION

As to the complaint of excessive force, the officers were exonerated. The complaint of racial bias was deemed unfounded.