



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-056 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 8/4/2016
Allegation: Excessive Force / Demeanor
Chain of Command Finding: Exonerated
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

An undercover detective was at his home loading work equipment into his vehicle when he saw a male cut across his property and the run to the side of his house out of view. The male was also holding an object in his hand that appeared, at quick glance, to be a gun. Fearing he was going to be burglarized, the detective accessed his duty weapon and confronted the male on the side of his house. Within about 2 seconds, the detective realized the male was a city water meter reader, and that the object in his hand was likely a meter reader device. The detective then apologized to the male and commented to him something to the effect that he must get confronted a lot.

COMPLAINT

The complainant reported that the detective pointed a firearm directly at him, which he thought was excessive and startled him. The complainant also stated that the detective laughed when he noticed the complainant worked for the City Water Department.

INVESTIGATION

This statements given by both the complainant and the detective were very similar in nature. Both stated that the detective confronted him and within about 2 seconds, put the gun away and apologized and stated that he must get confronted a lot. Some discrepancies in the statements include: The complainant stated the detective pointed the gun directly at him. The detective stated that he had the gun at "low ready". The complainant stated that the detective laughed at him. The detective stated that he did not laugh at him at any time.

CONCLUSION

The detective was exonerated as to the excessive force complaint. There were objective circumstances that led to a subjective belief he was being burglarized. The complaint of demeanor was deemed to be unfounded.