



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-057 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 8/8/2016

Allegation: Racial Bias

Chain of Command Finding: Administratively Suspended

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant reported that she has been harassed by a male. She believes that he is assisted by Spokane Police Officers. The complainant made a similar report in 2014.

COMPLAINT

The complainant stated that she believes a device had been placed in her car that would shut the vehicle off. She said that when the vehicle died an officer would show up and threaten to tow it. She said that this happened to her in June 2016 and the vehicle was towed. She said that she lost the vehicle when the towing company sold it.

INVESTIGATION

All interviews were completed in the presence of the Ombudsman due to the nature of the complaint. The complainant was asked details about the first incident, because she had an actual report number. She said that she and her son were in the car when it died at 3rd and Division. They left it in the roadway and walked home. She did not have any contact with an officer. She said she waited for several days for something to come in the mail, to tell her where the vehicle was towed. When nothing came, she called Crime Check and was given the tow company name and number. She said the tow company would not let her pick up the vehicle, because she was not the legal owner. She claimed that she was the registered owner, but also said the ownership of the vehicle was unclear. The Internal Affairs Investigator reviewed the incident involving when the vehicle was towed. The CAD shows that a citizen reported the vehicle blocking 3rd. Officers found the vehicle abandoned in the middle of the road. The complainant was not the registered or legal owner. A second interview was scheduled with the complainant to clarify a few questions.

The complainant said that she experiences harassment daily that she attributes to police officers. However, she could give no specifics or dates and times. She described it as people looking at her, honking at her, and being around where ever she goes. The investigator explained at length that some facts or evidence was needed to investigate. The complainant was asked to take a picture or video with her phone at the next occurrence. She was also encouraged to call 911 when something was actually happening.

The complainant went back to the towing of the vehicle. She was showed her the report and explained that two citizens called about the car blocking traffic. The officer found the vehicle in the middle of the road on 3rd and Browne and that she was not the registered owner or legal owner. The complainant then claimed that the officers were lying, and the officers wrote a false report. The investigator explained that the officers didn't write the CAD report, and that the information was entered by 911 and through radio traffic with dispatchers and officers. The complainant became irritated and ended the interview.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The case was suspended due to all investigatory leads being exhausted and lack of further cooperation by the complainant.