



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-070 OPO Number: 16-28

Date of Complaint: 10/10/2016

Allegation: Demeanor

Chain of Command Finding: Multiple

Final Discipline: Written Reprimand

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Police responded to two recent calls for service at the complainant's business. In both calls, he felt officers displayed unprofessional demeanor.

### COMPLAINT

The complainant contained allegations of poor Demeanor for three officers. In the first incident, the complainant felt that the officers treated him and his wife as suspects. They felt bullied throughout the encounter. In the second incident, the officer questioned the employee, who did not speak English as his first language, in an impatient and unprofessional manner.

### INVESTIGATION

The investigator interviewed the complainant and officers, reviewed incident reports, and watched bodyworn camera (BWC) video from the incident. BWC video from the first incident confirmed that the two officers made several negative and unprofessional statements during the encounter. BWC video from the second incident showed communication difficulties between the third officer and the employee. The language barrier made it difficult for the officer to get time-sensitive information about an attempted robbery. The officer was direct in his communication and asked the employee to repeat himself several times. The Chain of Command determined that while communication was difficult due to the circumstances, the officer was not intentionally disrespectful or rude.

### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The allegation against two officers was determined to be sustained, resulting in a written reprimand for the more senior officer and a documentation of counseling for the other newer officer. The allegation against the third officer was determined to be exonerated.