



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-072 OPO Number: 16-30  
Date of Complaint: 10/13/2016  
Allegation: Demeanor / Inadequate Response  
Chain of Command Finding: Exonerated  
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Police responded to a call for service involving the complainant as the suspect. The suspect witnessed a young man stealing mail from his neighbor's mailbox. When he confronted the young man, he pointed a gun at him. Police responded, and interviewed the complainant and another witness, but did not find the juvenile.

### COMPLAINT

The complainant did not like how the primary officer spoke to him, "drilling" him about pulling his gun and telling him he could be in trouble. He stated that the officers did nothing to find the suspect. He felt that if officers had looked for the juvenile, they could have prevented further crimes. The allegations in this case were Demeanor and Inadequate Response.

### INVESTIGATION

The investigator interviewed the complainant and involved officers, and reviewed incident reports and bodyworn camera (BWC) video from the incident. BWC video from the arrest confirmed that officers acted appropriately for the circumstances. The call had come in as a Person with a Weapon call, with a witness describing the complainant chasing children with a gun, so the primary officer asked the complainant several clarifying questions. The primary officer was concerned that the complainant had pointed his gun at an 8-year-old male "to scare him," as there is no allowance under Washington state law for a firearm to be used under those circumstances. When police arrived, the juvenile was not at the location. The complainant had let the juvenile go after he apologized. Both officers on-scene looked for the juvenile but were unsuccessful. The juvenile was not located or identified so police were unable to investigate either the potential theft or weapon violation.

### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The Chain of Command determined that the officer's level of response given to the matter was appropriate. The allegations were determined to be exonerated.