



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-073 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 10/26/2016

Allegation: Policy Violations

Chain of Command Finding: Multiple

Final Discipline: Written Reprimand

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The involved employee sent an email to a City Prosecutor regarding a hit and run collision to his personal vehicle. The Prosecutor's Office contacted SPD about the email, which led to the complaint.

COMPLAINT

The Prosecutor's Office had concerns about how the employee conducted his own investigation into the hit and run where he was the victim of a crime. During the investigation, the employee did not follow policy for photo lineups. The Prosecutor dismissed the case based on these reasons. The employee sent an unprofessional email to the Prosecutor's Office about the case.

INVESTIGATION

The investigator interviewed the complainant, complainant's supervisor, and involved officer. The employee was a victim of an unattended hit and run collision. An SPD officer handled the initial investigation, involving a license plate verified by photograph and eyewitness testimony. The Traffic Unit was unable to follow up on the case due to several fatality collisions and the reporting officer was unavailable. Crime victims have the authority to gather additional information and help find those responsible; it was determined that the officer had not violated Policy 386.3.2 with his limited involvement. However, it was determined that he did not follow proper procedure for conducting a photographic lineup and he used his departmental email to send an unprofessional email to the Prosecutor.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The Chain of Command determined that the officer was in violation of two SPD Policies - 212.3, Prohibited Use of Email, and 610.5.1. Photographic and Live Lineup. Those allegations were sustained. The allegation regarding Policy 386.3.2, Incidents of Personal Interest, was unfounded.