



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C16-075 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 10/30/2016

Allegation: Demeanor / Inadequate Response

Chain of Command Finding: Multiple

Final Discipline: Document of Counseling

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers responded to several calls for service involving the complainant's family. The calls centered on concern for a family member with possible mental health issues, as well as a Domestic Violence call.

COMPLAINT

The complainant filed the complaint as a third party on behalf of her family. She was not on scene for the responses, but shared concerns about Demeanor and Inadequate Response. She stated that an officer on scene had told the adult family members to "act their age." She felt that officers arrested the wrong person on one of the calls, and that they should have taken one of the family members into protective custody.

INVESTIGATION

The investigator interviewed the complainant, other family members, and the involved officers. He reviewed the bodyworn camera (BWC) video of the incidents. From the interviews, the investigator determined that one officer had made comments that concerned the family and his behavior was not professional. The officer acknowledged that he had told the family not to act like twelve year olds.

The investigator determined that officers had arrested the correct person in the Domestic Violence incident. They did have probable cause for the arrest. As far as taking a family member into protective custody, both officers explained that they did not have enough information to justify protective custody. The person was uninjured and did not seem to be a threat to herself. The family did not provide information showing that she was in danger. There was no BWC video of the officers on one of the calls. BWC video of other incidents with the family showed officers explaining their limitations on taking the family member into protective custody, explaining they will forward the report to Frontier Behavioral Health so that mental health professionals can follow up with the person. It was determined that officers conducted a thorough investigation and correctly determined that there was no reasonable cause to take the family member into custody.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

In the case of the first officer, who had made the concerning statements to the family, the Demeanor finding was sustained. The Inadequate Response finding was exonerated. He received a Documentation of Counseling as a sanction for the sustained finding.

In the case of the second officer, the Demeanor finding was not sustained. The Inadequate Response finding was exonerated.