



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-003 OPO Number: 17-2

Date of Complaint: 1/10/2017

Allegation: Unlawful/Improper Arrest, Excessive Force and Demeanor

Chain of Command Finding: Exonerated and Unfounded

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Police arrested the complainant on a domestic violence assault charge at the Spokane Transit Authority (STA) Plaza.

### COMPLAINT

The complainant did not believe that police had probable cause to arrest him. He alleged that one of the officers used excessive force by grabbing him while he was in handcuffs. The officers displayed poor demeanor. One officer intentionally escalated the conflict.

### INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigator reviewed the complaint, associated officer reports, and bodyworn camera video from the incident. He reviewed security video from the bus and read the STA security officer reports. He interviewed the complainant, officers associated with the call, and STA security officers.

Concerning the unlawful arrest allegation, the investigation revealed there was probable cause for an arrest for a domestic violence assault. The assault was captured on security video, and the officers watched the video. They also interviewed the victim and the bus drivers who witnessed the assault. Officers were mandated by law to make a custodial arrest and would have been acting outside state law and SPD policy had they not arrested the complainant. The excessive force allegation against Officer A involved his grabbing of the complainant's shirt while appearing to keep him from standing. The bodyworn camera video showed the complainant was highly agitated and attempted to move forward and possibly stand. There is no policy prohibiting an officer from holding onto an item of clothing to assist in the control of a suspect. Concerning the demeanor allegation for both officers, the chain of command determined that there were no violations of policy.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

A chain of command review determined that there was no evidence of misconduct by the officers. The allegations were determined to be:

Officer A:

Demeanor: Exonerated

Excessive Force: Exonerated

Unlawful Arrest: Exonerated

Officer B:

Demeanor: Unfounded

Unlawful Arrest: Exonerated