



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-006 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 1/10/2017

Allegation: Harassment/Conflict of Interest/Reckless Driving and
Unauthorized Use of Law Enforcement Database

Chain of Command Finding: Administratively Suspended

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant was involved with a criminal investigation as the victim of an assault. During the course of the investigation, the complainant said he believed that a Spokane Police Officer was harassing him in order to help a woman claiming to be a relative of a police officer. When the information was brought to the detective investigating the case, he notified his supervisor. The lieutenant of the investigative unit contacted Internal Affairs about the complaint.

COMPLAINT

The complainant was in a civil disagreement with a woman. He made an agreement over Craigslist to make a bed for her. The woman made a down payment and the complainant did not deliver the bed, so an argument ensued. During the argument, the woman said her brother was in law enforcement and would come to collect the money. Sometime after that exchange, a driver in a white Ford tried to run the complainant off the road. An associate of the woman then assaulted him. When meeting with crime victim advocates, the complainant told the advocates he thought a Spokane Police Officer was harassing him on behalf of the woman. The crime victim advocate recognized the last name and told the complainant that a Spokane Police Officer had the same name as the woman. After doing a Google search, the complainant was sure that he had found the brother of the woman who was harassing him.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigators reviewed the complaint, and associated material, including Facebook and text messages between the parties. Investigators interviewed the complainant, his girlfriend, and the woman. The woman admitted she told the complainant she had a brother in law enforcement because she was scared of him, and stated that she is not related to the officer and does not know him. Her former married name is the same as the officer.

Investigators researched the vehicle that the named officer owns, but it did not match the description of the suspect vehicle. Investigators conducted several database searches and confirmed that the named officer did not have any sisters. The named officer did not show to be an associate or relative of the

woman. The only similarity was that she was married to a man with the same last name of the officer at one time. There was no link between the officer and the woman or her ex-husband. The officer's last name is the same last name of the person who lied about being related to an officer, but no other links were found. Investigators noted several reports where the woman had either indicated that she was in law enforcement or that she had family members who were in law enforcement. After finding no links to substantiate the claim, the investigation was sent to the Internal Affairs Lieutenant and Police Ombudsman to review.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

At the request of the Internal Affairs Lieutenant with agreement by the Ombudsman, the complaint was Administratively Suspended, due to the complaint appearing false and lacking credibility to proceed.