



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-008 OPO Number: 17-4
Date of Complaint: 2/7/2017
Allegation: Demeanor
Chain of Command Finding: Closed by Mediation
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant was involved in a traffic accident and he was unhappy with officer response.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged that he felt harassed and that the officer was demeaning when he said the complainant was "playing games."

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigator reviewed written documentation and bodyworn camera video footage. While interviewing the complainant, investigators asked him if he would like to watch the video. After viewing the video, the complainant agreed his perception of the incident may have been off but he was still upset with the officer's demeanor.

The Office of Police Ombudsman has the discretion to recommend mediation to the Chief prior to an IA investigation. In the event all parties – the complainant, officer, and department- agree, mediation is used in lieu of an Internal Affairs Investigation. The complainant and officer were open to mediation. If the officer participates in good faith, the officer will not be subject to discipline. The requirement of good faith is met when the officer "listens to all information presented and considers the issues raised by the complainant, and acts and responds appropriately." The Ombudsman set up a mediation for the parties.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The Ombudsman assessed that the officer participated in good faith during the 50-minute mediation. Thus, the Ombudsman and Director MacConnell agreed to close the case due to mediation.