



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-012 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 2/25/2017

Allegation: Improper Driving and Misuse of Department Property

Chain of Command Finding: Sustained

Final Discipline: Written Reprimand and Remedial Training

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant in this case reported that, while driving eastbound on I-90, he saw a police vehicle with emergency lights activated. The complainant alleged that the officer's driving caused confusion for other drivers as they thought they were being pulled over, but the officer continued driving without making any traffic stops.

COMPLAINT

The complainant described witnessing extreme tailgating. He described the driving as "aggressive and inappropriate." He observed what he believed to be a misuse of emergency equipment (momentarily turning on emergency equipment to get cars to move over and then proceeding on in a manner that suggested the officer was not going to an emergency call). It appeared the emergency lights were activated solely for clearing other drivers from his lane.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigator reviewed available documentation. The complainant had identified the car by its number so the employee was easy to identify. The officer was not responding to an emergency call but was driving to work in a take-home car. The investigator interviewed the complainant and the officer. The officer admitted to wanting to "educate" drivers about not using the passing lane as a lane of travel, so he drove up behind them and activated his emergency lights to get the cars to move over to the center lane. He said he was not speeding and was not late to work. The investigator confirmed with the officer's supervisor that he was not late for work that day. The chain of command determined that the officer's driving and his use of emergency equipment were improper.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The allegations were both Sustained. The officer received a letter of reprimand and completed remedial EVOC training. Training consisted of review of policies: Response to calls, Safety, and Responsibilities of Responding Officers. The officer's take-home vehicle privileges were also suspended.