



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CRAIG N. MEIDL CHIEF OF POLICE

### Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-015 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 2/27/2017

Allegation: Inadequate Response

Chain of Command Finding: Administratively Suspended

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

#### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The named officer was involved in a domestic violence standby call. The officer assisted a person in retrieving her property as she had been staying at another person's house. The two parties disputed ownership of one of the items. The officer explained that property disputes were civil issues and would need to be handled through court. A third-party complainant, a relative of the involved parties, arrived at the location and requested a supervisor. She alleged that the on-scene officer was not protecting her sister during the dispute. She also said that the officer put hands on her sister.

#### COMPLAINT

The complainant's primary complaint was that the officer allowed a crime to occur (theft of property) and did nothing, since he did not help her get the disputed item back.

#### INVESTIGATION

The investigator reviewed available documentation, and interviewed the complainant, officer, and witnesses. He reviewed body camera video of the incident, which showed the officer was professional in his contacts with the involved parties. The complainant was not on scene. Her allegations about what happened did not match the body camera video. For example, there were no threats of harm toward her sister and no one put hands on her. The complainant was upset about the property dispute, but both the officer and his supervisor had clearly explained the process for civil disputes. Neither the officer nor the supervisor found probable cause to make an arrest of the other party.

The Internal Affairs Lieutenant reviewed the investigation and discussed it with the Police Ombudsman. The body worn camera footage captured the incident and it was clear that there was no evidence of the allegation occurring.

#### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

Due to exhausting all reasonable investigative leads and finding no evidence of wrongdoing, the Internal Affairs Lieutenant requested to classify the complaint as Administratively Suspended. The Ombudsman concurred with the classification.