



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-020 OPO Number: 17-20  
Date of Complaint: 1/13/2017  
Allegation: Unlawful Arrest and Biased Policing  
Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry  
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant identified two officers that he felt were targeting him when they arrested him for violation of a No Contact Order.

### COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged that these two officers had been involved in several incidents with him previously. He also questioned the number of officers who responded to this arrest.

### INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigator reviewed all available documentation about the case: radio traffic, CAD incident report, surveillance video, police reports and BWC (body worn camera) video for arrest for violation of the No Contact Order. The investigator also interviewed the complainant.

The two named officers were on foot patrol Downtown when one of the officers recognized the complainant. The officer was a trainee who had been involved in the previous Domestic Violence arrest. As judges often issue No Contact Orders as a condition of release from custody in Domestic Violence cases, the officers identified the complainant and his companion and verified that an order existed. After confirming the violation on surveillance video, they arrested him for the violation.

The investigator noted that BWC video shows that the two officers were polite in their contact with the complainant. They explained that they are required to make an arrest if they develop probable cause for the violation. The investigator pointed out that the officers were following Washington State law and their actions were reasonable.

The investigator also looked at the number of officers who responded to the arrest. BWC video also showed that after the two officers begin talking to the complainant, two patrol cars pull up, and as they exit their car, another car pulls up to the scene. The primary officer transmits over the radio that no more

assistance is needed. Once it is determined that the other officers are not needed, they leave the scene. All of the officers who responded are assigned to the Downtown Precinct, a small geographical area, and are often available to respond quickly to calls in the Downtown core.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The Internal Affairs Lieutenant asked to close the case as an Inquiry and the Police Ombudsman concurred.