



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-021 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 3/21/2017

Allegation: Excessive Force and Biased Policing

Chain of Command Finding: Multiple

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant alleged that he was racially profiled by the officer when he was pulled over. He also claimed the officer hurt his shoulder when he handcuffed him on a traffic stop.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged that the officer injured him in retaliation because he had made prior complaints against Spokane Police officers.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigation included a review of body worn camera footage as well as interviews of the complainant, involved officer, and witness officer. The investigation indicated that the evidence showed the officer had a constitutionally valid reason for the traffic stop (failure to stop at a stop sign). The handcuffing and frisk for weapons was acceptable due to the complainant's furtive movements. The complainant at the time did not complain of any injury and there was nothing to indicate excessive force during the handcuffing procedure.

The complainant had told the officer he thought the stop was a "race thing" but the officer could not tell the race of the driver until he approached the driver's side door and saw him through the window. Due to the complainant's allegation of retaliation, the IA investigator also looked into past complaints and saw that the complainant had made unsubstantiated complaints in 2004 and 2011, prior to the involved officer's hire with SPD. The involved officer would have no way of knowing that the individual had made prior complaints.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The Chain of Command determined there was no misconduct by the officer. The allegation of Racial Bias was Unfounded and the allegation of Excessive Force was Exonerated.