



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-022 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 3/23/2017
Allegation: Excessive Force
Chain of Command Finding: Unfounded
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The officer conducted a traffic stop involving the complainant, who was wanted for numerous crimes. The officer took her into custody and began transporting her to jail. While en route to jail, she began shaking. The officer stopped the car and called for medics. She was treated on-scene for a reported seizure. She told a medic with American Medical Response (AMR) that an officer had hit her in the head, causing her to have a seizure.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged that the officer used Excessive Force in the incident.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigation included a review of reports and body worn camera footage from the incident. After the complainant made the allegation, AMR had transported her to the hospital for treatment of a possible seizure. She was medically cleared for jail and then transported. At jail, she was found to be in possession of methamphetamine.

Per policy, the involved officer was not wearing a body camera video during the incident due to his investigative assignment. However, body worn camera video from a witness officer was available. The video revealed no signs of distress by the complainant. It showed a casual conversation between the accused officer and the complainant after detainment, with the officer asking questions and the complainant answering.

The investigator interviewed the involved officer, witness officer, and AMR employee who had treated the complainant. The officers' interviews were consistent with their reports. The involved officer said he had used standard handcuffing techniques and used absolutely no force. He stated that her claim was "100% false." The AMR medic's opinion was that the seizure was not legitimate. The medic saw no signs of injury to the complainant's head, and the complainant did not present with recovery symptoms

she would have expected to see after a seizure. Jail staff confirmed there was a documented history of the complainant reporting questionable seizures.

The complainant did not return the investigator's calls to schedule an interview, but the officer's sergeant had interviewed her at the hospital immediately after the incident. When interviewed by the officer's sergeant, she claimed she did not remember being struck or even making the statement. A corporal took many photos of her head and did not see any signs of injury.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The Chain of Command determined there was no evidence of the allegation of misconduct by the officer and that the allegation was false and the allegation was Unfounded.