

SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-028 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 4/28/2017

Allegation: Misuse of Department Property

Chain of Command Finding: Administratively Suspended

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

A Spokane C.O.P.S. volunteer came into the C.O.P.S. shop and turned on the monitor to a computer. She saw a pornographic image and reported it to C.O.P.S. leadership.

COMPLAINT

The official allegation was Misuse of Department Property against an unknown employee/volunteer.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigator interviewed the C.O.P.S. volunteer who recalled seeing the image. He also interviewed another volunteer who was aware of the situation but had not witnessed it. The IA investigator spoke with C.O.P.S. leadership. They had also investigated and found spam emails containing the images that were sent to the C.O.P.S. Logan general email box.

An employee with SPD's Technical Assistance and Response Unit (TARU) performed a digital forensic examination of the hard drive. He advised the IA investigator that he found two pornographic images on the computer. One image was a realistic-looking cartoon female figure. The other was a square with images of women in various stages of undress with an advertisement in the center. Both images were attached to spam emails sent to the C.O.P.S. Logan email address.

The TARU employee examined all the user accounts and cache history using special software, but he did not find any pornographic or sexually related sites or searches on the computer. He viewed all the files on the computer and was not able to find any sexually related material except the images located within the email artifacts.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The investigation was Administratively Suspended.