



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-030 OPO Number: 17-16
Date of Complaint: 4/26/2017
Allegation: Inadequate Response
Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant contacted Internal Affairs in 2017 to complain about a lack of police response to harassment.

COMPLAINT

The complainant had filed several complaints in the past but SPD refused to investigate his claims.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigator reviewed the available documentation and interviewed the complainant. The complainant stated that a man had harassed him for many years, by computer, tablet or cell phone. Someone was hacking his electronics. His issues with the police department began in 2011. He filed a complaint in July of 2012 with the Police Ombudsman at that time, Tim Burns. In the complaint, he describes how he and his girlfriend's cell phones were being hacked by the individual. It had the same allegations as the current complaint. The July 2012 complaint was closed out as an inquiry. He filed a second complaint in 2012 which stems from a burglary report referencing the same individual. The complaint was also closed out as an inquiry with the Ombudsman's agreement.

The investigator found a police report involving the complainant in 2016. The information was similar to the other reports. The 2016 report was forwarded to the Domestic Violence (DV) Unit. The investigator discussed the case with the DV Unit supervisor. The supervisor had decided not to assign the report to a detective due to the information being hard to follow. If the allegation were true concerning the technical complexity, the DV Unit would not have the resources to investigate it. The DV Unit supervisor makes the decision to assign cases for every case that is forwarded to the unit.

The complainant was upset that his claims were not being investigated, but there was no misconduct or policy violation by officers. There were multiple submissions of the same complaint over a period of several years, which were all properly classified as inquiries.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The complaint was closed as an inquiry. The current Police Ombudsman, Bart Logue, concurred that the case should be classified as such.