



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-047 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 8/25/2017

Allegation: Inadequate Response

Chain of Command Finding: Training Failure

Final Discipline: Additional Training

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant was contacted by police reference a shots fired call. Upon contact, the complainant drove away from officers who subsequently chased the complainant in her vehicle. A PIT maneuver was conducted to stop the complainant's vehicle. Upon being stopped, the complainant stated to the officers that she was just sexually assaulted, and she was driving toward where she thought the suspect went so they could catch him. The complainant was subsequently arrested for DUI, Minor in Possession of Alcohol, and for failing to stop when signaled to do so. The shots fired was determined to be unrelated to the complainant being in the area.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleges the officers dismissed her allegations of the sexual assault and failed to take a report documenting such allegations.

INVESTIGATION

The complainant and the officers were all interviewed, and pertinent materials including police reports and body worn cameras were examined. It was determined that during the course of the officers' investigation, they did speak to the complainant about her allegations of sexual assault. The alleged assault was documented in the police reports, but the reports were improperly labeled as a DUI and subsequently was not forwarded to the appropriate investigative unit for follow-up.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

A chain of command review determined that the officers were in a position where they had one person who was both the suspect in one incident, and the reporting victim in another. The officers did spend an appropriate amount of time attempting to confirm the allegations, but did not appropriately report and label the incident to ensure that it was routed to the appropriate unit for follow-up. A training bulletin was crafted to address the training concerns.