



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-049

OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 9/7/2017

Allegation: False Reporting/Untruthfulness

Chain of Command Finding: Unfounded

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The Internal Affairs Unit was approached by an employee who advised about rumors going around the police department reference an officer employee falsifying an injury report and falsifying L&I paperwork regarding the injury.

COMPLAINT

The officer employee went out on injury leave on 08/07/17 based on an injury received on 07/19/17. Internal Affairs investigated allegations that the officer employee falsified an employee injury report and L&I forms as to the cause of the injury.

INVESTIGATION

Although this was brought to Internal Affairs as a rumor, the allegations, if true, were of a serious nature and thus Internal Affairs conducted an investigation. Internal Affairs reviewed all paperwork associated with the injury report. Internal Affairs interviewed all potential witnesses that were at the scene where the injury was sustained.

The witness officers interviewed consistently indicated that the officer employee did not go down the embankment to the river where the injury was sustained but also admitted they did not have a constant visual on the officer employee. The officer employee indicated that when her back was injured she had only begun to descend the embankment. The officer employee said that her back was in fact injured on 07/19/17. She filled out the L&I paperwork 2 days after sustaining the injury rather than the required 24 hours as she did not initially recognize the extent of her injury.

E-mails between the officer employee and her supervisor were consistent with the L&I paperwork and her interviews with Internal Affairs. The L&I paperwork was not filled out in its entirety and should have been reviewed more thoroughly by the supervisor.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

There was no evidence that the officer employee did not injure her back and that she falsely completed L&I paperwork. Allegations against the employee were Unfounded.

Ethical Standard 2.2 - Members of the Spokane Police Department shall truthfully, completely and impartially report, testify and present evidence in all matters of an official nature.

340.3.5 (g) - The falsification of any work-related records, the making of misleading entries or statements with the intent to deceive, or the willful and unauthorized destruction and/or mutilation of any department record, book, paper or document.