



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

**CRAIG N. MEIDL**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-052 OPO Number: 17-25

Date of Complaint: 9/28/2017

Allegation: Inadequate Response

Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant's wife was a victim of property crime. Her vehicle window was smashed and her purse was stolen while she was shopping. The couple reported the crime, but detectives did not work the case due to insufficient resources.

### COMPLAINT

The complainant originally contacted City Councilman Fagan about SPD staffing shortages. Mr. Fagan suggested he file his complaint through the OPO.

### INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigator contacted the complainant. They discussed the triaging of cases with only three detectives at the precinct. The complainant said the supervisor who explained the prioritizing was very nice and respectful. The complainant understood the reasoning behind prioritizing the cases and that he understood that SPD had too few resources to address property crime concerns. He explained that his intention was not to file a complaint against any police officer or supervisor, but to notify the City Council about his concern over police staffing shortages.

The investigator also spoke with the North Precinct lieutenant about the case. He confirmed that a detective would not normally be assigned to a case based on those circumstances. Triaging made sense for this case. On that particular day, 24 property crimes were reported, and 12 of those were vehicle prowls.

### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

Internal Affairs classified the complaint as an Inquiry and the Police Ombudsman concurred.