Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number:	C17-053	OPO Number:	17-26

Date of Complaint: 10/9/2017

Allegation: Inadequate Response

Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS
The complainant had reported a forgery to Crime Check. He had asked for follow up on his case. He spoke with a Lieutenant, who said Spokane Police Department would not be investigating the crime.

COMPLAINT
The complainant alleged that the lieutenant said it was Spokane Police policy not to investigate these types of crimes, in part due to the Prosecutor's Office policy not to prosecute.

INVESTIGATION
The Internal Affairs investigator contacted the complainant. He learned that the suspect in the forgery is his estranged wife. The investigator explained the process of how cases are triaged. He also told him that a forgery such as the one he reported would not normally be investigated further.

The investigator interviewed the involved lieutenant. He remembered the conversation with the complainant. He had explained the reasoning in his decision not to assign the case. Based on the monetary amount, the forgery in this case did not meet the criteria for detective assignment and prosecution. The lieutenant denied stating that it was SPD policy not to assign the case, but he had told the complainant that it was very unlikely for the prosecutor to prosecute his case.

John Grasso, the property crimes supervisor of the Spokane County Prosecutor's Office, was consulted on the case. He confirmed that given the facts of the case, it would be unlikely that he would prosecute the case.

Internal Affairs recommended that the complaint be closed as an Inquiry, as there was no violation of policy that remained to be pursued by Internal Affairs. The question was related to police procedures, which were validated by the Prosecutor's Office.

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