



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-063 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 11/30/2017
Allegation: Criminal and Making a False or Misleading Statement
Chain of Command Finding: Sustained
Final Discipline: Termination

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant came forward with an allegation of domestic violence by her boyfriend, a Spokane Police officer. Internal Affairs notified the Spokane County Sheriff's Office (SCSO). SCSO investigated the incident and filed four 4th degree Domestic Violence Assault charges against the officer. The officer received a Not Guilty verdict by a jury at trial. When the trial was over, Spokane Police Department began an internal investigation into the officer's conduct.

COMPLAINT

The SPD internal investigation focused on two policy violations:

- SPD Policy 340.3.5(x): Violating any felony statute or misdemeanor statute where such violation may materially affect the employee's ability to perform official duties or may be indicative of unfitness for his/her position.
- SPD Policy 340.3.5(z): False or misleading statements to a supervisor or other person of a position of authority in connection with any investigation or employment-related matter.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigation included a review of court testimonies and transcripts of everyone who had testified at trial. It also included photographs, recorded interviews, and police reports from the criminal investigation conducted by SCSO. Internal Affairs conducted multiple interviews with the officer, complainant, and witnesses to determine if the officer had violated the above policies. Internal Affairs sent the completed investigation to an Administrative Review Panel (ARP) team for review.

The ARP concluded that although the officer was acquitted of the criminal charges, there was clear and convincing evidence to support sustained findings of violations of SPD policies. It was clear to the members

of the ARP that the officer was not truthful and forthcoming with the SCSO investigator and made false or misleading statements.

During the investigation, investigators began investigating a second officer for failure to report domestic violence. The investigation showed that this officer had heard an allegation of domestic violence from a discussion between the victim and his wife, and he had confronted the involved officer about the allegation. He was satisfied with the involved officer's explanation of the victim's injuries and denial of domestic violence as his explanation "sounded believable." This officer did not report the domestic violence allegation to a supervisor. The ARP stated that the second officer should have reported what he heard up the chain of command so an official investigation could take place.

CONCLUSION

The Chief found both allegations Sustained against the involved officer, and terminated the officer from employment.

The allegation against the second officer for failing to report domestic violence was also Sustained. The officer received a one-week suspension as a sanction.