



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-064 OPO Number: 17-31
Date of Complaint: 11/27/2017
Allegation: Inadequate Response
Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant called 911 to report a burglary in the empty apartment above his unit. He was unhappy with the response from officers.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged Inadequate Response. He received no follow up after Spokane Police officers conducted their investigation, and the burglar was still on the premises after SPD investigated.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs lieutenant reviewed BWC (body worn camera) and CAD documentation related to the call. After the complainant called 911, two units responded. While the officers were on scene, the complainant called a second time to say he still heard activity and requested that someone contact him when the officers arrived.

The investigator contacted a Radio supervisor to request radio traffic associated with the call to ascertain if the officers were advised of the complainant's second call while they were on scene. The supervisor advised that there was absolutely no radio traffic to or from the officers associated with this call. It is evident that the officers did not know the complainant was requesting contact while they were at the scene.

BWC video showed that officers looked into the windows of the vacant apartment and knocked on the door. They cleared the call after not receiving an answer at the door and not finding anything to act upon. Based on the information available, they would not have had legal grounds to enter the apartment under exigent circumstances, nor would they have had enough information to secure a search warrant for the apartment. The officers' actions were reasonable and appropriate.

The investigator spoke to the complainant and advised him of his findings after looking into the call. He explained why the complainant was not contacted by officers. The complainant said he understood that the officers did not know he was requesting contact. He said he was satisfied with the explanation and advised the investigator to tell the Police Ombudsman that they could close out the complaint. The complainant also spoke to the Police Ombudsman and stated that he no longer wanted to pursue the complaint.

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 researched to assure they were appropriate, and the complainant was satisfied with the complaint being closed out.

CONCLUSION

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