



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CRAIG N. MEIDL CHIEF OF POLICE

### Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-065 OPO Number: None  
Date of Complaint: 12/8/2017  
Allegation: Conduct Unbecoming  
Chain of Command Finding: Unfounded  
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

#### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

An officer responded to a domestic violence incident involving the complainant. The complainant felt that the officer was “coming on to her.”

#### COMPLAINT

The complainant said the officer made the comment, “I think we are done here” after the corporal finished taking photographs. She felt he was commenting on her physical appearance, that what he was seeing in her. She also said the officer asked her out for coffee so they could talk about the incident. She also said that the officer forgot to retrieve the arrestee’s shoes and coat and brought them back. He made a comment about it being the “real reason I came up here,” which made her feel uncomfortable. Finally, his body language throughout the call made her feel as if he was trying to hit on her.

#### INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs investigators reviewed body worn camera footage, officer reports, and interviews conducted with the complainant and involved officers.

Body worn camera footage of the incident by the officer and other officers on the scene showed professional, empathetic behavior by the officer, including appropriate body language. The video displayed the officer’s attempt to build rapport with a victim who initially did not want to say anything had happened. Video did not corroborate the complainant’s allegation of the officer asking her out for coffee. The video showed that the officer touched the victim’s elbow at the point when she was told her boyfriend was going to jail. During the interview, the officer said the touch on the elbow was intended to control her movements if necessary, as she was crying at that time, and that situation is the one when unwilling victims tend to get very upset.

The Internal Affairs investigator watched the video with the complainant, who clarified that she didn't have anything concrete but just a feeling, he was very kind, but it was too much attention. In the chain of command review, the reviewing lieutenant states that his finding is not meant to deny any feelings or discomfort reported by the complainant, but that in those circumstances, the officer's behavior was reasonable.

CONCLUSION

The allegation of Conduct Unbecoming for the officer was determined to be Unfounded.