



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C18-011 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 2/12/2018
Allegation: Inadequate Response/Improper Handling of Evidence
Chain of Command Finding: Exonerated/Unfounded/Sustained
Final Discipline: Document of Counseling

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers riding in a two-person car responded to the report of suspects breaking into a vehicle at a car sales lot. Officers arrived on scene and detained the two suspects as they attempted to leave the scene. The officers subsequently discovered that the suspects were attempting to steal parts from a vehicle for sale in the lot. The officers requested the victim be contacted to inquire about charges being pressed. The two suspects were released from the scene without an arrest being made at the time.

COMPLAINT

This complaint was made directly to Internal Affairs. The complainant believed the officers should have made an arrest because they caught the suspects in the act. The complainant has also been victimized prior at his place of business.

INVESTIGATION

The complainant and the officers were interviewed and the reports, body worn camera video, and police dispatch records were reviewed. The complainant received a phone call about the incident from police dispatch about an hour after the incident occurred and after the officers released the suspects. While reviewing the body worn camera video it was noticed that one of the officers came across a tool that was used in the attempted theft. That tool was not collected and preserved as evidence.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

There were two officers and a supervisor that were alleged to have responded inadequately. The two officers were also accused of the improper handling of evidence. The allegation of inadequate response against the two officers was sustained. The allegation of inadequate response against the supervisor was determined to be unfounded. The allegation of improper handling of evidence was sustained as to the officer who found it. The other officer was exonerated of this allegation. The officers received a documentation of counseling and additional training.