



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C18-024 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 4/25/2018

Allegation: Inadequate Response and Biased Policing

Chain of Command Finding: Multiple

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant in this case was involved in an argument. Neither party was arrested, but the complainant believed that the other party should have been arrested.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged Inadequate Response by the primary officer. He alleged that the involved officer discriminated against him regarding the officer's decision to not arrest the other party because of the complainant's sexual orientation.

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs investigators reviewed all documentation of the incident, including police reports and body worn camera. Investigators could not reach the complainant for an interview but interviewed both officers on the scene, the involved officer and witness officer.

Bodyworn camera video clearly depicted the actions of the officers with both parties. The video showed officers' actions were professional and appropriate. Officers contacted involved parties, took statements, and wrote an informational report. There was not probable cause for arrest of either party because there were conflicting allegations and a lack of independent witnesses to establish a primary aggressor or the nature of the incident. The complainant did not like the outcome of call but there was no probable cause for an arrest, as the complainant desired.

A chain of command review followed the Internal Affairs investigation. The chain of command determined that there was nothing in the video record or the written record to show that the officer's response was biased or that his personal beliefs tainted his decision-making. While the complainant revealed he had a male partner during the call, that revelation did not affect the officer's actions or the

resolution of the incident. Regardless of the sexual orientation of the complainant, the objective resolution of the incident was reasonable based on the statements and physical evidence known to the officer at the time of the incident.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The Inadequate Response allegation was determined to be Exonerated. The Biased Policing allegation was determined to be Unfounded.