



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

**CRAIG N. MEIDL**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C18-039 OPO Number: 18-20  
Date of Complaint: 6/26/2018  
Allegation: Bias Based Policing, Inadequate Response, Excessive Force and Policy Violation  
Chain of Command Finding: Multiple  
Final Discipline: Document of Counseling

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Multiple officers responded to a fight on N. Maple Street. Multiple callers reported 15-20 people fighting in front of a residence. When officers arrived, most of the involved people had left. Officers spoke to witnesses and victims at the scene as well as at the hospital. There was an allegation that one or more of the involved parties may have been armed with a handgun and had made threats. Officers developed probable cause and arrested one of the involved parties for felony assault. Over the course of two weeks, there were multiple calls to the same residence for a variety of complaints.

### COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged officers made an arrest due to the suspect being a convicted felon and because the suspect's father had been involved in an officer involved shooting with the Spokane Police Department. The complainant further alleged officers did not adequately investigate several incidents they responded to over a couple of weeks. Internal Affairs added the excessive force allegation based on the complainant's description of the suspect's arrest. Another policy violation, 1060.4 (a) Prohibited Speech, Expression, and Conduct, was added to the incident based on the internal review of the case that was separate from the complaint.

### INVESTIGATION

Seven of the officers that responded to this case were listed as accused. There were nine interviews conducted along with four and half hours of body camera video reviewed which had witness interviews. Multiple police reports were reviewed as well. Based on Internal Affairs' review of the evidence, the officers that responded to the call did not know who the suspect was nor did they know his criminal history. Investigators did not find evidence of Biased Policing in the officers' approach to the investigation but they did find evidence that one officer lacked documentation of an allegation of a threat in his report and another officer made unprofessional comments.

### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The chain of command determined that one of the officers' reports was lacking important information about a threat. The allegation of Inadequate Response was Sustained for him, while the allegation was

Not Sustained for the rest of the officers. The allegation of Excessive Force was determined to be Unfounded. The Policy 1060.4 (a) violation was Sustained.

Allegations and Determinations:

Excessive Force: Unfounded by both officers.

Biased Policing: Unfounded for all officers.

Inadequate Response: Not Sustained for six of the officers. Sustained for one officer.

Policy Violation 1060.4 (a) Prohibited Speech, Expression, and Conduct: Sustained for one officer.

Both officers with a Sustained allegation received a Document of Counseling as a sanction.