



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C18-041 OPO Number: 18-22

Date of Complaint: 6/28/2018

Allegation: Demeanor

Chain of Command Finding: Mediation

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

While experiencing a manic episode, the complainant called a Suicide Prevention Hotline, which resulted in Spokane Police responding to his house.

COMPLAINT

The complainant contacted the OPO to file a complaint about officer demeanor during the response. He alleged that the excessive amount of officers who contacted him had little conversation with him while forcefully putting handcuffs on him. He would like to see further training for SPD on responding to people experiencing a mental health crisis.

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs and the Police Ombudsman conducted a citizen interview with the complainant. According to the Police Ombudsman, the interview essentially constituted a mediation. The complainant shared his perspective that the department's response worsened the symptoms of the crisis he was experiencing. Sgt. Waters, who is a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) subject matter expert and a leader with Enhanced CIT, shared that dispatch had listed the call as a suicidal male with a butcher knife, resulting in more officers responding to the call. The complainant was more interested in having a conversation about the process rather than having a complaint filed against an individual officer. The conversation led to several ideas, including bringing this situation to a CIT committee to determine if the police could have responded better, bagging medication, and engaging in small group sessions with officers to discuss responding to people in crisis.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

By the end of the meeting, the complainant had fully discussed his concerns and no longer wished to pursue a complaint. Although it was not a traditional mediation, the objectives of mediation were met. The Police Ombudsman asked if the meeting could be considered a mediation and the Chief agreed.