



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

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

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C18-045 OPO Number: 18-25  
Date of Complaint: 7/10/2018  
Allegation: Inadequate Response  
Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry  
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant owns a business just outside the Downtown area, in an area that is often frequented by homeless individuals who loiter and panhandle on the street corner. The complainant states that this is a continual problem.

### COMPLAINT

The complainant contacted the OPO to complain of a lack of response by patrol officers to her concern reference homeless individuals. The complainant further complains that when patrol officers do respond, all they do is "shoo" the loiterers off the business property and onto the public sidewalk, which does nothing to take care of the problem.

### INVESTIGATION

The IA investigator researched calls for service related to the complaint and found several incidents, some of which received a patrol response, and some of which did not. All of the calls to police addressed in this inquiry occurred during peak times with high call for service volumes. The investigator spoke with the complainant who stated that there is no complaint against any particular officer or employee's handling of an incident, but rather frustration at the entire situation.

### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

This complaint was classified as an inquiry as no complaint of misconduct was brought forth against any specific employee, and it is common practice to triage calls for service to ascertain which calls will get a patrol response. Additionally, when officers do respond to handle concerns of this nature, the constitutional rights of the individuals contacted is paramount, and to take further steps other than what was taken by patrol officers in these instances would be a violation of their constitutional rights.