



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C18-068 OPO Number: 18-39
Date of Complaint: 8/8/2018
Allegation: Demeanor
Chain of Command Finding: Exonerated
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers conducted a traffic stop on the complainant, believing she was driving a stolen vehicle. They asked the complainant if they could search her vehicle. When she refused, they obtained a search warrant. They seized her vehicle and towed it.

COMPLAINT

The complainant initially alleged improper search and seizure of her vehicle and poor demeanor by the officers. She said the officer made an inappropriate remark about her cousin's baby and refused to give her a ride as she requested after her vehicle was towed. The allegation of an improper search or seizure was removed because policy was followed and the vehicle was seized for a search warrant.

INVESTIGATION

The investigation included a review of available documentation, including police reports, and bodyworn camera video. Internal Affairs interviewed the complainant and the involved officer. During this incident, officers were following a stolen vehicle in an undercover capacity. While they were following the stolen vehicle, the occupants got into another vehicle that they believed was stolen and was related to the investigation of the other stolen vehicle. The complainant was the driver of the vehicle, and the involved officer asked to search her vehicle because he could see shaved keys in plain view. When she refused, officers obtained a search warrant. They seized her vehicle and towed it.

The bodyworn camera video did not support the complainant's allegations. There was no conversation about the complainant's cousin's baby or a request for transportation that was denied. Rather, the complainant and her friend arranged for transportation from the scene of the traffic stop using their cell phones. The chain of command concluded that the involved officer's demeanor was appropriate during the encounter.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The allegation was determined to be Exonerated.