



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C18-072 OPO Number: 18-44

Date of Complaint: 9/4/2018

Allegation: Standard/Policy Violation - Other

Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant set up tents outside City Hall and used the tents to camp on the sidewalk as a form of protest against the City ordinance against camping in public rights of way. Officers responded and gave the complainant a warning to remove the tents and desist from violating the ordinance or they would enforce the ordinance. The complainant was disinclined to comply with the officer's warnings, and was cited for violating the ordinance.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleges that his Constitutional Rights were violated when he was issued the citation

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs reviewed the incident and determined that the complainant had participated in the public forum at a City Council meeting and publicly stated that he was putting up a "tent city" outside City Hall, and would remain there for an indefinite period of time. The officer providing enforcement of the ordinance was following directives from his chain of command and on the advice of City Legal.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The allegation of inadequate response has been deemed an inquiry. The officer was acting pursuant to the ordinance, under the direction of his chain of command, and on the advice of a City Attorney. The question as to the constitutionality of the actions is a matter for a judicial body to determine.