



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C18-087 OPO Number: 18-54
Date of Complaint: 10/9/2018
Allegation: Computer Misuse Violation
Chain of Command Finding: Unfounded
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant joined the Tinder dating app and started corresponding with a man who was a Spokane Police officer. They did not meet in person but spoke and texted on the phone and used social media to communicate. During a recent text exchange, he asked her if she was related to another officer. Once she confirmed the relation, he ended his contact with her. The complainant had not given him any information that she was related to an officer.

COMPLAINT

The complainant believed that the officer used a law enforcement database to research her and that is how he found out she has a relative in the Spokane Police Department. The official allegation against the officer was Policy 340.3.5(c): Computer Misuse: unauthorized access and/or intentional release of designated confidential information, personnel file materials, data, forms, or reports.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigation included interviews with the complainant, involved officer, and two other officers. The involved officer explained that he learned about the complainant through her Facebook page. He noticed that they had a mutual friend who was an officer. The involved officer contacted that officer and asked him about her. That officer told him that she had a relative in the department. After a conversation with another officer, he decided to end correspondence with her. Internal Affairs interviewed both officers who had spoken with the involved officer, and both stated that had conversations with the officer about the complainant. They did not check the complainant's name, phone number, or any other information through any law enforcement database.

Internal Affairs had New World Support Team Help Desk investigate to see if any user had run the complainant's information through a law enforcement database during the time the complainant and officer were communicating. The Help Desk confirmed there were no searches for the complainant on any law enforcement databases.

Internal Affairs performed a Google search of the complainant's name and found a 2016 Spokesman Review article about the complainant: "Spokane woman starts petition to make killing police a hate crime." The article stated she has always been very supportive of law enforcement. "Her sister and niece are married to law enforcement officers."

The investigation showed there was no evidence to indicate that the officer violated policy. The complainant's allegation was based on an assumption without any evidence.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The allegation was determined to be Unfounded.