



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C18-088 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 10/16/2018

Allegation: Excessive Force and Demeanor

Chain of Command Finding: Multiple

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

A citizen was briefly detained as he matched the description of an Armed and Dangerous Attempted Murder suspect. Once it was determined he was not the person the officers explained the situation to him and ended the contact.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged excessive force was used against him because he was “thrown to the ground and had an assault rifle pulled on him”. The complainant also alleged the officer’s demeanor was inappropriate as one of the Officers “got his chuckles in.”

INVESTIGATION

An investigation into this complaint revealed the Officers attempted to gain verbal compliance from complainant before he was physically detained. This was unsuccessful as the complainant was wearing earphones and wasn’t able to hear the Officers. A review of the tactics used by the Officers revealed their decision to deploy a patrol rifle was appropriate given the information they knew at the time. Additionally, the amount of physical force used against the complainant was appropriate given the information the Officers new at the time it was applied.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, the Demeanor portion of this complaint lacked any basis. The Officer didn’t “chuckle” at the complainant, rather based on the Body Worn Camera video had a moment of levity after a brief but tense encounter.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

Since this complaint had two components it was dealt with as follows: Both Officers were Exonerated as it related to the Excessive Force claim, and the Demeanor allegation was Unfounded on both Officers.