



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C19-015 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 2/21/2019
Allegation: Conduct Unbecoming and Improper Supervision
Chain of Command Finding: Multiple
Final Discipline: Document of Counseling

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

A volunteer in Spokane Police Department's CO-OP Program was removed from the program due to several policy violations involving ride-alongs and social media postings. After her termination, Volunteer Services staff heard rumors of misconduct between the volunteer and officers.

COMPLAINT

The misconduct rumors ranged from possible romantic relationships between officers and CO-OP volunteers to officers supplying alcohol to underage volunteers. The official allegation was Conduct Unbecoming against two officers involved in the CO-OP program.

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs investigated the rumors of misconduct. Investigators interviewed Volunteer Services staff and several volunteers. The volunteer in question refused to be interviewed. Investigators could not compel her to be interviewed since she was no longer part of the department. The investigation did not support the allegations of misconduct. However, the investigation revealed that the supervisor of the unit had not reported an allegation to Internal Affairs that should have been reported.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The allegation of Conduct Unbecoming against the officers was determined to be Unfounded. An allegation of Improper Supervision against the supervisor was Sustained, and he received a Documentation of Counseling. The chain of command recommended updating the CO-OP and Explorer Standard Operating Procedures to reflect clear expectations about mentor/volunteer relationships. Policy was subsequently updated.