



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C19-016 OPO Number: 19-01
Date of Complaint: 3/3/2019
Allegation: False Arrest
Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant was arrested for DUI on 3/4/2018 after an investigation by the officer.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleges that he was a passenger in the vehicle that was involved in a collision, but was still arrested for DUI. He alleges false arrest.

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs reviewed the incident, and determined that the complainant was a passenger in the vehicle when he was arrested for DUI. However, the arrest was not based on the driving that led up to the collision. The officer developed probable cause that the complainant had been driving the vehicle up to the point he was confronted by his girlfriend, who took over driving duties. During conversations with the complainant, there were indications that he was not being forthcoming with Internal Affairs with information. When confronted about this, he changed his account of the incident and inquired as to the legality of making a DUI arrest when the officer did not witness his driving.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

As the complaint was a question as to police practice in DUI arrests, and that there was clearly probable cause for the arrest in this case, this complaint was classified as an inquiry.