



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C19-028 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 3/13/2019

Allegation: Falsifying Evidence

Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

In 2016, the sister of the complainant was found deceased in the Spokane River. An investigation was conducted and it was determined by the investigator, and the Medical Examiner, that the manner of death of the decedent was likely a suicide.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleges her sister did not commit suicide, and the detective assigned to the case fraudulently used a surveillance video showing a figure jump off a bridge as false evidence that her sister committed suicide.

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs reviewed the incident and determined that the surveillance video in question was not fraudulently used. The investigation concluded that the video was of a person who jumped from the bridge the night before the body was found downstream. Furthermore, the video was not used as proof or conclusive evidence, but rather only one piece of information used to formulate an opinion as to the manner of death.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

This complaint was closed as an inquiry as the complainant's concern over the use of the video is a question of police procedure and not of misconduct.