



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C19-062 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 6/29/2019
Allegation: Demeanor and Biased Policing
Chain of Command Finding: Administratively Suspended
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant was participating in the Hoopfest Basketball tournament and had concerns with an officer who was providing security for the event. He observed an officer insert himself into a disagreement on the court and he felt that the officer escalated the situation unnecessarily. He said the game in question was becoming tense because of poor calls made by the court monitor. The complainant felt that the officer focused on the Black player when he inserted himself into the situation and his actions instigated the situation rather than calm it down.

COMPLAINT

The allegations were Demeanor and Biased Policing.

INVESTIGATION

Investigators reviewed Body worn camera footage. The complainant's allegations of racial bias and demeanor was not substantiated. The player in question was very agitated. The chain of command agreed that they did not see biased motivation behind the officer's actions, but had concerns that the officer was interjecting in a matter that was better suited for the Hoopfest court monitors to address. While it was appropriate to support the court monitor when there is a heated argument in process, the officer could have explained to the official to use their authority to police the spirited gameplay instead of law enforcement. The officer had less than a year of patrol experience and had never worked at Hoopfest. The officer's supervisor during the event counseled the officer to use this experience to develop a better response to incidents like this in the future.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The case was Administratively Suspended as the Internal Affairs lieutenant determined that the case was a minor allegation that could be addressed by the employee's supervisor for informal follow-up. The Ombudsman concurred. The matter was resolved with mentoring and counseling.