



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C19-082 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 9/19/2019
Allegation: Multiple
Chain of Command Finding: Sustained
Final Discipline: Letter of Reprimand and Termination

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers attempted a traffic stop after observing a reckless driver. Officers pursued the suspect in their vehicle. The suspect fled from officers. As officers struggled with the suspect during the arrest process, one officer kicked the suspect in the groin and used an expletive. During the department's review of the use of force, SPD referred the case to Spokane County Sheriff's Office to investigate the officer for 4th degree Assault. Spokane County Sheriff's Office completed their investigation and sent it to Spokane County Prosecutor's Office to review the criminal charge against the officer. The Prosecutor's Office declined to file charges as the incident did not meet the prosecution standards of RCW 9.94A.411. Once the criminal investigation was complete, Internal Affairs conducted an internal investigation.

COMPLAINT

The final allegations of the Internal Affairs case were violations of the following SPD policies:

- Policy 340.3.5(x): Any failure or refusal of an employee to properly perform the function and duties of an assigned position.
- Policy 340.3.2(k): Discourteous or disrespectful treatment of any member of the public or any member of this department or another law enforcement agency.
- Policy 2.1: Officers of the Spokane Police Department shall be aware of their lawful authority to use that force reasonably necessary in securing compliance with their lawful enforcement duties.
- Policy 340.3.5(ac): Conduct unbecoming.
- Policy 340.3.5(p): Failure to disclose material facts or the making of any false or misleading statement on any application, examination form, or other official document, report, form, or during the course any work-related investigation.

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs reviewed the criminal investigation and all available documentation, including police reports and body worn camera video. Investigators interviewed the involved employees.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

An Administrative Review Panel convened to review the investigation and their recommendation was provided to the Chief. All allegations listed above were determined to be Sustained. The employee was terminated.

In the same internal investigation, the employee's supervisor was investigated for allegations of Improper Supervision and Inadequate Response. The determination was Sustained for both allegations. The supervisor received a Letter of Reprimand and one day suspension (suspended for one year assuming no similar violations during that time).