



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C20-002 OPO Number: 20-02
Date of Complaint: 1/7/2020
Allegation: Abuse of Authority and Bodyworn Camera Violation
Chain of Command Finding: Mediation
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant alleged that he was approached outside of his place of employment while on a break. The officer asked him if his name was Vincent, to which he replied that he was not. The officer asked him for his name. The complainant declined to give it and stated that they could go speak to his supervisor who would confirm his name. After approximately ten minutes, the officer let him return to his position without speaking to his supervisor. Later the officer stopped back by the business and spoke with the complainant's supervisor to inform him that the complainant was very uncooperative with the officers earlier. The officer allegedly insinuated that the police department may pull their contract from them.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged a violation of Policy 340.3.5E: The wrongful or unlawful exercise of authority. He felt the officer's conduct was inappropriate, and by speaking with his supervisor, the officer was trying to get him fired. A second allegation was added, Violation of Bodyworn Camera Policy, when the IA investigator saw that the officer did not have his bodyworn camera activated on the second contact.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigator reviewed the complaint, incident reports, and bodyworn camera video. He interviewed the complainant, complainant's supervisor, and the officer. The Office of Police Ombudsman has the discretion to recommend mediation to the Chief. If the officer participates in good faith, the officer is not subject to discipline. The requirement of good faith is met when an officer "listens to all information presented and considers the issues raised by the complainant and acts and responds appropriately." The OPO recommended mediation in this case. The mediation lasted approximately an hour and was successful in resolving the concerns brought forward by the complainant. The complainant expressed his appreciation for the officer's willingness to participate in the process and expressed a positive outlook from the experience.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

Internal Affairs was notified by the Office of Police Ombudsman that the involved officer participated in a successful mediation with the complainant. In accordance with SPD policy and Spokane Municipal Code, the investigation was closed.