



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

**CRAIG N. MEIDL**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C20-005

Date of Complaint: 1/23/2020

Allegation: Unlawful/Improper Search and Seizure

Chain of Command Finding: Administratively Suspended

Final Discipline: Additional Training

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

A traffic stop was conducted for an infraction, and the driver was contacted. During the stop, the officer developed reasonable suspicion to believe the driver may be impaired. The driver voluntarily exited his vehicle to perform a field sobriety test. The officer conducted a frisk for weapons prior to examining the driver.

### COMPLAINT

The complainant alleges that he never gave the officer permission to search his person for weapons, therefore he infringed upon his rights.

### INVESTIGATION

A thorough investigation was completed, along with an interview of the complainant. After reviewing all the available information to include a body worn video, it was determined that the officer did have probable cause to stop the complainant. The officer developed reasonable suspicion to conduct further sobriety testing of the complainant, and for officer safety reasons conducted a pat frisk for weapons. The complainant and officer disagreed on the vernacular of a search versus pat-frisk. The complainant was ultimately released with a verbal warning.

### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

This complaint was administratively suspended. The officer will receive further training on what constitutes a search when dealing with a frisk for weapons.