



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C20-017 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 2/27/2020
Allegation: Inadequate Response and Making a False or Misleading Statement
Chain of Command Finding: Sustained
Final Discipline: Suspension

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

An internal investigation was initiated when there was an issue with evidence in a case that went to prosecution. The Prosecutor's Office informed SPD of the details. The involved detective had reported taking a surveillance CD from property and delivering it to the department's Technology Assistance Response Unit. However, the CD was left in her desk. Instead of viewing the CD, she used a photo montage to identify the suspect for probable cause. She never viewed the CD. When the prosecutor charged the case, it was discovered that suspect that was charged was not the person that committed the crime. The charges were dropped. Had the detective viewed the video, the person would have been exonerated.

COMPLAINT

An internal investigation was opened with the allegations of False/Misleading Statements and Inadequate Response.

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs reviewed all available documentation and conducted interviews with the detective and her supervisor.

An Administrative Review Panel (ARP) was convened to review the investigation. The ARP determined that the employee had not followed up on the case appropriately and was evasive in her answers. The panel recommended Sustained dispositions for both allegations.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

Both allegations were found to be Sustained per the Chief of Police. The detective received a suspension of 15 hours for each allegation (30 hours total). She retired immediately after receiving the suspension.