



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C20-034 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 5/1/2020
Allegation: Property Loss/Mishandling and Bodyworn Camera Policy Violation
Chain of Command Finding: Sustained
Final Discipline: Document of Counseling

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

An officer responded to a suspicious circumstances call in which a homeowner was digging in their flowerbed and found a small bone. The officer responded and took possession of the bone with the intent to later place it on police property. The officer forgot about the bone. Four days later, when he realized his mistake, he checked the vehicle he was driving the day he took possession of the bone and it was not there. He was not able to find it.

COMPLAINT

The official allegation was a violation of SPD Property Policy 804.3.3: Any employee who first comes into possession of any property, shall retain such property in his/her possession until it is properly tagged and placed in the designated temporary property locker or storage room along with the Evidence Report form. Care shall be taken to maintain the chain of custody for all evidence. Additionally, after the investigation began, there was a second policy violation of 703.4.D.1(a)1: Bodyworn Camera Use Policy.

INVESTIGATION

The officer's supervisor conducted an investigation after the officer reported his mistake. He reviewed all available documentation and spoke with the officer. When he reviewed the bodyworn camera video from the incident, he saw that the officer failed to activate his camera prior to exiting his vehicle, per policy.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The chain of command determined that the policy violation regarding the failure to place evidence on property prior to the end of shift was Sustained. The officer was also out of compliance with the policy regarding activation of the body camera. Both violations were addressed in the Documentation of Counseling.