



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C20-048 OPO Number: 20-30
Date of Complaint: 6/15/2020
Allegation: Demeanor
Chain of Command Finding: Multiple
Final Discipline: Document of Counseling

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complaint came out of an incident wherein police were called to a residence for a Domestic Violence Assault. When officers responded, a juvenile was locked outside of the house and alleged abuse at the hands of her guardians. She was arrested for 4th Degree Assault. The complainant alleged that all three officers who responded treated the juvenile very poorly.

COMPLAINT

The allegation of poor Demeanor was lodged against the three involved officers.

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs investigators reviewed officer bodyworn camera videos and police reports and interviewed the complainant and involved officers. The chain of command determined that the demeanor rose to the level of misconduct for two of the three officers. The concern was not just the profanity that officers used, (parents can "beat your ass"), because those words that can bring discredit to themselves, the agency, and law enforcement as a whole.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The Demeanor allegation was Sustained for two of the three officers. Those officers received training about their inappropriate word choice to describe the legal standard use of force and juveniles. The training on parental disciplinary rights and how to convey them was memorialized in a Documentation of Counseling. The Demeanor allegation was Not Sustained for the third officer.