



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C20-058 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 7/2/2020
Allegation: Inadequate Response
Chain of Command Finding: Training Failure
Final Discipline: Additional Training

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant discovered that unknown persons had stolen wheel rims from his front yard. Before calling the police, the complainant watched a neighbor's security video that allegedly depicted unknown persons stealing the rims, placing them inside a vehicle, and driving away. The complainant drove around the neighborhood and found what he believed to be the suspect vehicle. He attempted to retrieve the rims he claimed to have seen through the open garage door in which they had been placed by the suspects. He argued with a male in the driveway and was assaulted. The complainant called the police to report the theft and assault. Unknown subjects closed the garage door and left the scene prior to police arrival. Officers responded to the scene and arrested a male for assault but did not recover the complainant's stolen rims.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged Inadequate Response on the part of the three responding officers.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigator reviewed the police reports, CAD reports, and officer bodyworn camera video. He interviewed the complainant and involved officers. The issue of not recovering the stolen property was because officers were unable to develop probable cause for the theft of the wheels. The officers did not locate anyone who could give consent to search the garage for the wheels. Therefore, officers felt that the garage could not legally be searched.

The chain of command determined that officers spent an appropriate amount of time on this incident, completed a report, and made an arrest for assault. The issue that was exposed by this investigation was not a failure to take action, but a situation wherein the officers were not completely familiar with the extent of their authority in this case. The officers should have sought assistance from a supervisor. The chain of command noted that search warrant could have and should have been sought. The chain of command recommended that the three officers be provided some additional Criminal Procedures training regarding search warrant preparation.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The allegations of Inadequate Response were determined to be a Training Failure for all three officers. The officers received additional training.