



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C20-062 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 7/21/2020
Allegation: Inadequate Response
Chain of Command Finding: Closed
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant's car was stolen, and she was working with an officer to get her car back when he called her and told her he had located it. When the complainant arrived, she saw the officer talking to a male who was detained at the residence where the car was found. The officer then later released the suspect. The complainant believed the officer was too friendly to the suspect. She did not feel the officer adequately investigated the case of her stolen vehicle.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged Inadequate Response by the involved officer.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigator reviewed officer bodyworn camera video and police report. Video showed that the officer questioned the suspect's involvement in the crime of Possession of a Stolen Vehicle. However, he did not develop probable cause to arrest the suspect at that time. He facilitated the return of the complainant's car and completed a police report documenting his investigation up to this point.

When the investigator interviewed the complainant, he explained to her that the officer's police report and the BWC video he had going during the entire interaction were consistent with one another. There were statements made by the suspect that led the officer to not develop probable cause to arrest him for possession of a stolen vehicle and despite that, his statements in the video and police report suggested he was still working toward finding the original thief. By the end of the interview, the complainant said many of her questions about the investigation were answered and she was satisfied.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The complaint was Closed as the allegation of misconduct was disproven upon initial review.