



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C20-065 OPO Number: N/A
Date of Complaint: 7/28/2020
Allegation: Inadequate Response
Chain of Command Finding: Training Failure
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant was involved in an altercation with several people outside of a downtown bar. A Reserve Officer and his partner officer investigated and did not develop probable cause to arrest any suspects. The complainant alleged that the officer had been talking to the suspects at one point and let them go because he was friends with them.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged Inadequate Response by the accused officer.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigator reviewed officer reports, Reserve Officer BWC video, and photographs from the incident. He learned that a detective had been assigned the criminal investigation associated with this incident. He spoke to the detective, who said the crimes he was investigating had been elevated from Assault 4th to Assault 2nd degree and Malicious Mischief 3rd to 2nd degree.

The investigator learned that the Reserve Officers were the first to respond but did not initially see a fight or contact the complainant even though their primary task was to be prisoner transport for the downtown bar patrol detail. The officer was talking to some females in the parking lot who were potential witnesses and/or suspects to the incident and he did not identify them for a report. There was no direction by any officer or supervisor to canvas the area for potential witnesses or suspects.

When the complainant walked up, he offered her medical attention and took a crime report as required by SPD Policy 344.2.1. The investigation by the Reserve Officers was sufficient for a detective to develop additional information to forward the case to SPD Major Crimes where charges are pending.

While there was no evidence of misconduct, the BWC video showed several deficiencies in the Reserve Officer's handling of the call. It was clear that the officer would benefit from training regarding scene management, and the role of Reserve Officer, to include directing back-up officers towards investigative

priorities, interacting with citizens; to include self-awareness of how some interactions with the public while investigating a potential crime can be perceived as acting partial, and evidence preservation.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The alleged policy violation was determined to be a Training Failure. The officer received additional training.