



# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**CRAIG N. MEIDL**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C20-078 OPO Number: 20-51  
Date of Complaint: 10/20/2020  
Allegation: Demeanor and Biased Policing  
Chain of Command Finding: Unfounded  
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

On an unknown date, an unidentified Spokane Police officer allegedly contacted the complainant and her boyfriend without cause in a vehicle in front of their home. The complainant alleged the officer acted as though he was going to start a fight with her boyfriend and then abruptly left the area. On a different date, her boyfriend was stopped for failing to stop for a stop sign while riding an electric scooter. The complainant believed the accused officer was the same officer who had contacted them on the earlier date. She submitted a complaint through the Office of Police Ombudsman alleging the officer's contacts with her boyfriend were racially motivated.

### COMPLAINT

The official allegations are violations of SPD Policy 304.3.2K K: Discourteous or disrespectful treatment of any member of the public or any member of this department or another law enforcement agency, and SPD Policy 402: Bias-Based Policing.

### INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs investigator reviewed bodyworn camera video and interviewed the male and the officer. The officer told the male he observed him failing to stop at a stop sign. The male said, "I didn't know I was supposed to stop." Bodyworn camera (BWC) footage of the traffic stop shows that it would have been difficult for the officer to know the male's race prior to the traffic stop. The male was wearing a full-face helmet, large black goggles, a black neck covering of some sort, a white hoodie protruding out of the collar of a black jacket, black gloves, khaki pants, black and white tennis shoes, and black socks. No skin was visible. During the interview, the officer advised that he did not know the race of the male or have any knowledge that he has had prior contact with him. BWC footage showed that the officer exhibited a professional demeanor throughout his contact with the male. In reference to the contact in front of the male's house, BWC and CAD shows that a different officer made a contact with the complainant and her boyfriend at the house.

### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The chain of command reviewed the investigation and stated there was no way the officer could have known the race of the male prior to the stop. The officer was polite and professional during the contact captured on video. Both allegations were determined to be Unfounded.