



# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C20-083 OPO Number: 20-54  
Date of Complaint: 11/20/2020  
Allegation: Inadequate Response and Demeanor  
Chain of Command Finding: Administratively Suspended  
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers responded to a resident reporting an abandoned vehicle on his property that was listed as stolen a week prior. The officers questioned the resident and did not develop reasonable suspicion to list him as a suspect or probable cause to arrest him. The owner of the vehicle, the complainant, responded to take her vehicle. Shortly after arriving, the complainant and her husband took responsibility of their vehicle and a tow was called to remove it since it was not drivable. Both officers left the scene before the tow truck arrived. A supplemental report was completed per policy, but the complainant was upset that the resident at the house was not arrested or treated as a suspect. She further took issue with the officers leaving her and her husband alone with the unknown male while waiting for the tow truck.

### COMPLAINT

The case contained allegations of Inadequate Response and Demeanor against both officers.

### INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs Investigator reviewed all documents, bodyworn camera, and interviewed the complainant. The complainant said she did not want the officers to be disciplined or for there to be a formal complaint. She just wanted them talked to by a supervisor and told to do a better job of explaining to citizens what investigating they were going to do and to make the citizen's safety a priority.

The investigator contacted the direct supervisor of the two officers to ensure follow-up was done with these officers to address the safety concerns of citizens in vehicle recovery circumstances, as well as conducting as thorough and in-depth investigation as possible in all cases.

### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The case was Administratively Suspended, and the case was referred to the officers' supervisor for follow up. The Office of the Police Ombudsman concurred.