



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C20-089 OPO Number: 20-058
Date of Complaint: 12/23/2020
Allegation: Inadequate Response
Chain of Command Finding: Mediation
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers were dispatched to a hit and run collision. The residents there reported a vehicle had struck their fence, car, and house then left the scene. The roads were covered in snow and ice with tracks leading from the intersection up to their house. The residents claimed they located the driver of the vehicle, after she had parked it inside of a garage, just down the street as an Uber waited out in front. Officers questioned the victims and the driver but did not charge the driver with any crimes or traffic violations. A collision report was taken, and information exchanged. The complainants believe officers were derelict in doing their job when they did not cite or arrest the driver of the vehicle.

COMPLAINT

Inadequate Response allegations were investigated for both officers.

INVESTIGATION

The Internal Affairs Investigator reviewed the police reports, collision report, and bodyworn camera video, and interviewed the complainant. BWC video did not show misconduct but showed validation of the complainants' viewpoint. The Office of Police Ombudsman has the discretion to recommend mediation to the Chief. If the officer participates in good faith, the officer is not subject to discipline. The requirement of good faith is met when an officer "listens to all information presented and considers the issues raised by the complainant and acts and responds appropriately." The OPO recommended mediation in this case. The mediation lasted approximately an hour and was successful in providing feedback to the officers and the complainants.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The case was successfully closed out by Mediation.