



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C21-001 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 1/21/2021

Allegation: Demeanor and Abuse of Authority

Chain of Command Finding: Administratively Suspended

Final Discipline: Verbal Counseling

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

On 01/02/21 Officers responded to a possible hit and run call in north Spokane. The Officer that investigated the call got the appropriate information, wrote a report as well as completed a collision report. After the Officer had completed the investigation, the Officer contacted a neighbor who had called 911. This neighbor had been less than professional with the 911 operators. There was a short discussion between the Officer and neighbor about his interaction with 911 and dispatch.

COMPLAINT:

The citizen that called 911 to report the hit and run was upset that the Officer did not seem to care that he may have valuable information regarding the hit and run. The complainant was further upset at the Officer for berating him about his conversation he had with 911 and threatened the complainant with arrest. The complainant was further upset about the Officers demeanor towards the complainant as he was walking away from the conversation. The complainant wished to file a demeanor and abuse of authority complaint against the Officer.

INVESTIGATION:

Internal Affairs reviewed the Officers BWC, read the Officers reports, listened to the 911 call and interviewed the complainant.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

The investigation concluded that the case be administratively suspended and sent to the Officers supervisor for shift level counseling. The Officer warned the complainant that he could be arrested for the Abuse of the 911 Operating System. The Officer was correct in telling the complainant this, as the violator needs to be warned prior to arrest for the crime. The Officer was not discourteous or disrespectful to the complainant as he did not feel the need to stand there and be disrespected by the complainant. The Officer also did not exercise any wrongful or unlawful abuse of authority by telling the complainant that he could be arrested for the abuse of the 911 Operating System. The Officer was stating a fact and warning that his actions could result in arrest. The Officer could have chosen a better ending to the conversation with the complainant, which is why it has been sent to his supervisor for shift level counseling.

