



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C21-010 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 2/28/2021

Allegation: Demeanor and Inadequate Response

Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

On 02/11/21, Spokane Police Officers were made aware of a juvenile runaway. The juvenile's mother said that she realized the juvenile was gone when she found a note in her room stating, "I'll be back soon, sorry love [her name]." The juvenile's mom confirmed that the note was written in her daughter's handwriting. She also found out through multiple friends of her daughter, she had in fact ran away. There were rumors going around that the juvenile may have left with someone, one of which was an 18-year-old male. After intensive investigation by Spokane Police Major Crimes Detectives along with other resources, they determined that the juvenile had probably been with a juvenile male. Just before midnight on 02/12/21, the juvenile was found alone in a tent on north Division by SPD. An officer had a brief interaction with juvenile, inquired about her welfare, and then arranged transport for juvenile back home once it was determined that a detective was not immediately available.

COMPLAINT:

The complainant felt that the officers did not do enough initial investigation to make sure the juvenile was not injured or had been harmed.

INVESTIGATION:

Internal Affairs reviewed the officers' BWC (Body Worn Camera), read the officers reports, and took the initial phone complaint.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

Internal Affairs conducted a full and comprehensive investigation into the allegations made in this case. They found that the officers conducted themselves in a professional manor throughout the case in question. The officers asked the appropriate questions upon initial contact with the runaway, immediately notified the assigned detective, and detectives have continued with follow-up investigation with the juvenile. Officers did inquire about the runaways' well-being and the responses received did not indicate a need for medical attention. There was some casual conversation during which the officer mentioned the seriousness of what was happening, but it was not said in an unprofessional manner. Internal Affairs has closed this complaint out as an Inquiry.

