



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C21-013 OPO Number: 21-03
Date of Complaint: 3/22/2021
Allegation: Abuse of Authority
Chain of Command Finding: Inquiry
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

On 03/19/21, officers from the Spokane Police Department were assisting Spokane City Code Enforcement in cleaning up and moving a transient encampment that was blocking the city sidewalk in the downtown area. While this was going on, the complainant wanted to take photos and video of the police' interaction with the other citizens. The sergeant in charge told the complainant he was free to record the event however he was interfering by being too close and standing in the street. The sergeant gave him multiple warnings and alternative locations to record from.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged the sergeant exceeded his lawful authority to restrict him from recording by physically escorting him away from the scene and threatening to arrest him for obstructing.

INVESTIGATION

The body camera video and police reports were reviewed, as well as applicable department policies. Internal Affairs contacted the complainant and the Ombudsman's Office and agreed to be interviewed.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The actions of the sergeant to restrict the proximity of the complainant to record the incident were within policy and current case law.

