



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C21-014 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 3/24/2021

Allegation: Demeanor

Chain of Command Finding: Administratively Suspended

Final Discipline: Verbal Counseling

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

On 3/23/21, Spokane Police Officers were working the Church at Planned Parenthood demonstration at 123 East Indiana Avenue. An SPD Sergeant contacted a driver who he had seen driving erratically around the crowd of people. The sergeant was standing outside the driver's door, and the driver had the window rolled down so they could have the exchange. The sergeant was not wearing his mask as he made contact with the driver. As the sergeant attempted to break contact with the driver, they made a comment about him not wearing a mask.

COMPLAINT

The driver of the vehicle was upset that the officer did not have his mask on while speaking with them. The driver felt uncomfortable speaking with the sergeant without him wearing a mask. The driver expressed their discomfort, but the sergeant dismissed it and refused to put a mask on. The driver felt that the sergeant potentially endangered those who she cares for by refusing to wear a mask.

INVESTIGATION

Internal Affairs reviewed the complaint, and watched the body worn camera video from the incident.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The investigation concluded that the case be administratively suspended and sent back to the sergeant's supervisor for informal follow-up. The sergeant was outside the complainant's vehicle and it is unclear the distance between the two of them. The sergeant was professional during the contact and attempted to break contact with the driver. The driver then expressed their concern with the sergeant not wearing a mask. Per an SPD email sent to all police, the sergeant should have been wearing his mask upon contact with the driver. For that reason, the case has been sent to the sergeant's supervisor for shift level verbal counseling.

