



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C21-025 OPO Number: 21-07
Date of Complaint: 5/3/2021
Allegation: Demeanor and Inadequate Response
Chain of Command Finding: Closed
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

This complaint spans a several months period that encompasses not only the Spokane Police Department but some of its partnering agencies. Spokane police officers had 'Involuntary Treatment Act' paperwork authorizing them to take the person experiencing homelessness to the hospital with injuries he was not taking care of. The person was then held on a 48-hour involuntary committal at the hospital. On another date, officers had cited the homeless person for obstructing, after they were given several warnings to begin to pack up and move along so that Code Enforcement could clean up the area. This person refused to do anything and was cited for the crime by officers. On yet another date, the person was involved in an altercation where there was an assault. Officer conducted follow-up the day of the incident as well as the day after.

COMPLAINT:

A community person wished to make a complaint on Spokane Police Officers and their partnering agencies on behalf of a person currently experiencing homelessness. The complainant cites that Police improperly sent the man to the hospital where he ended up being placed on an involuntary 48-hour hold. During that period, partnering agencies got rid of this person's belongings rather than storing them. The complainant also contends that Police have intentionally misfiled and buried a case from the media involving an assault on the person experiencing homelessness. Finally, the complainant claims that the SPD has continually harassed this person in hopes to clean up his camp, while not offering him a place to go.

INVESTIGATION:

Internal Affairs reviewed the Officers BWC, read the Officers reports, and researched the report that was allegedly hidden from the media.

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 manner throughout the cases in question. The Officers went through the proper channels and followed their policy and procedures correctly. There were no restrictions placed on the assault report in question. Internal Affairs closed this complaint upon initial review.

