



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C21-037 OPO Number: 21-19
Date of Complaint: 6/15/2021
Allegation: Inadequate Response and Demeanor
Chain of Command Finding: Administratively Suspended
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

A person at a Downtown Spokane restaurant was asked to leave for conduct that was not welcome and not allowed inside their establishment. The police arrived, and the restaurant asked that the person be asked to leave and be trespassed from the location. The police asked the person to leave, and the person claimed the restaurant staff wanted him to leave due to their race.

COMPLAINT:

This complaint was accepted by the Spokane Police Ombudsman's Office. The complaint was that the restaurant staff exhibited racism, and the police furthered this position by issuing a trespass notification and did not listen to their side of the story.

INVESTIGATION:

Spokane Police Department Internal Affairs investigated this complaint. The complainant was interviewed, and body worn camera video was reviewed. SPD Policies and Training Bulletins were referenced.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

Spokane Police Department Internal Affairs determined this incident would be administratively suspended. There was no evidence to show that the officers were disrespectful to the complainant or indifferent to their perception of the event. At the time, there was not clear guidance on the difference between trespassing a person and simply asking them to leave on behalf of an approved representative of the business. However, on 06/22/21, almost two weeks after the incident, SPD was given directives on this matter.

