

SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF POLICE CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C21-065

OPO Number: 21-30

Date of Complaint: 9/30/2021

Allegation:

Bias Policing - Policy 328.3.1 - Discriminatory Harassment.

Policy Violation 463.5.1 – If an arrestee appears ill or injured or claims injury or illness, they should be medically cleared prior to booking.

Chain of Command Finding: Closed

Final Discipline: None

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

On 09/30/21 complainant was contacted by officers regarding a domestic violence incident. During this incident officers contacted both halves of the involved parties, documented their statements, and photographed injuries. Officers determined probable cause existed for a felony domestic violence assault and arrested the subject. While being transported to jail, subject complained of high blood sugar levels but exhibited no outward symptoms of distress. Officers completed their transport, and the arrestee was medically checked at jail. Subject was transported to the hospital by ambulance. The subject left the hospital prior to receiving medical treatment.

COMPLAINT

The citizen contends that the officers discriminated against him because of their gender, failed to give the RCW number for which he was being charged, did not properly provide him with his Constitutional notifications post arrest, did not summon a supervisor, did not arrive with a statutorily required mental health counselor, and allowed the other party to steal his house keys and cell phone. In addition, the complainant alleged that officers did not provide him with timely medical care.

INVESTIGATION

A patrol sergeant took the statement from complainant and completed an initial investigation into the complaint. The complainant filed an additional complaint with the Office of the Police Ombudsman and these concerns were added to the complaint.

Internal Affairs reviewed the Body Worn Camera and written reports of the officers involved. The Arrest Guide for Police Officers published by the WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys was referenced. SPD Policy was referenced. The Domestic Violence Unit was consulted reference training regarding DV arrests.

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ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSON

Officers followed proper investigative and arrest procedures with the complainant. The supervisor was properly notified and did contact complainant at the hospital per their request at the time of the incident. In addition, based off the facts presented to the officers at the time, proper policies were followed in regards to providing appropriate medical treatment to their arrestee. There was no indication at the time of the incident that any property had been stolen or taken from the complainant.

Officers performed their duties appropriately and the allegations were disproven upon initial review.

