



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C22-012 OPO Number: 22-04

Date of Complaint: 3/17/2021

Allegation: False and Misleading statements

Chain of Command Finding: Unfounded

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

On 2/23/22 an SPD officer made a traffic stop on a vehicle for the driver not wearing a seatbelt. The driver was in a mid-sized moving truck who admitted to not wearing a seat belt but only for a short distance. The driver was cited for the seatbelt violation and told that the paperwork was a level 3 DOC inspection form that was going to be sent to the company.

COMPLAINT:

The driver of the vehicle felt that when the officer told him he did a level 3 inspection he was not telling the truth. The driver said there was no possible way there was enough time for the officer to have done any type of inspection. The driver also admittedly did not know what a level 3 inspection entailed.

INVESTIGATION:

The officer stopped the driver for a primary stop, not wearing a seatbelt. He then wrote the driver an infraction for the violation. As the officer hands the driver the infraction, he tells him that this is a level 3 DOC inspection form with the only infraction on it being the seatbelt violation. The officer also advised the driver that the form would be sent to the company, however they did not need to respond. A level 3 DOC inspection means that the officer just gets the drivers credentials and is given infraction, which is what happened.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

Internal Affairs conducted a preliminary review and classified the case as disproven upon initial review. The officer made a valid traffic stop for a primary violation. The officer wrote the driver a ticket on a level 3 DOC inspection for with the seat belt violation on it. The Level 3 DOC inspection is just the form that the infraction is written on. The officer's conduct is appropriate.

