



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C22-085 OPO Number: 22-37
Date of Complaint: 5/10/2023
Allegation: Abuse of Authority and Demeanor
Chain of Command Finding: Closed
Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

A Spokane Police Officer conducted a traffic stop in Downtown Spokane. A person not involved in the traffic stop decided to video record the officer and engage the officer in conversation about his interactions with the subject of the traffic stop.

COMPLAINT:

Abuse of Authority-Policy 340.3.5(e) The wrongful or unlawful exercise of authority.

Demeanor – Policy 340.3.2 (k) Discourteous or disrespectful treatment of member of the public or this department.

The complainant contacted the Spokane Police Ombudsman's Office and alleged the officer pulled up behind a vehicle and turned on the patrol car's emergency lights without probable cause. They stated it looked like the vehicle was already stopped prior to police contact. The complainant stated they were within their 1st Amendment Rights to record the officer, but the officer turned all of their attention directly on the complainant with inappropriate demeanor.

INVESTIGATION:

Spokane Police Department Internal Affairs investigated this complaint. Police reports and body worn camera videos were reviewed.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

Spokane Police Department Internal Affairs determined the complaint would be classified as Closed-Exonerated. The body worn camera video showed the officers response was appropriate given the circumstances of the interaction. The officer did express frustration during the interaction but was not discourteous or disrespectful.

