



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C23-021 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 3/8/2023

Allegation: Unlawful/Improper Search and Seizure and Property Loss or Mishandling

Chain of Command Finding: Multiple

Final Discipline: Document of Counseling

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

The complainant was stopped by an SPD officer at a retail store after employees of the store accused the complainant of shoplifting. The complainant was handcuffed and searched for weapons. The SPD officer removed some property belonging to the complainant. The complainant was released after the shoplifting claim was determined to be incorrect. The complainant's property was not returned to them.

COMPLAINT:

The complainant alleged that the officer seized and detained them without cause. The complainant alleged that the officer did not return his property to him.

INVESTIGATION:

SPD conducted an internal investigation. That investigation included reviewing officers' reports, body worn camera footage and store security footage. The investigator interviewed the involved officer, a witness officer, and the complainant. The investigator located the complainant's property in an SPD patrol vehicle.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

The investigation revealed that the officer was justified when he contacted and detained the complainant. Store security accused him of shoplifting and provided information to initially support that accusation. Another officer and store security investigated by reviewing video and interviewing the complainant.

The officer's conduct was found to be "EXONERATED" related to the contact and detention of the complainant.

Several minutes later, it was determined that the complainant had not shoplifted. The complainant was released. The officer did not return the complainant's property when he was released at the store.

The complainant left and later realized he had not received his property. The officer was not sure what happened to the complainant's property. Ultimately the complainant was able to receive their property back from the SPD Property Facility.

The allegation of Property loss or mishandling was found to be "SUSTAINED".

