



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C23-057 OPO Number: 23-25

Date of Complaint: 8/4/2023

Allegation: Excessive Force and Demeanor

Chain of Command Finding: Unfounded

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

SPD officers contacted a disorderly and intoxicated male after receiving calls/complaints from a local business. The male was detained. The male exhibited assaultive behavior and was subsequently arrested and handcuffed. While being handcuffed, officers used control techniques to control his movements. The individual was later transported for medical treatment and charged with multiple crimes.

COMPLAINT:

The complainant witnessed the incident and alleged that officers “beat up”, stomped, and assaulted the male. The complainant also alleged that an SPD supervisor responded and spoke to him, but dismissed his concerns.

INVESTIGATION:

SPD conducted an internal investigation. The investigator reviewed the officers’ reports, the body worn camera footage, surveillance footage from the affected business, and the complainant’s recorded interview and written allegations.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

The investigation concluded that SPD officers did use physical force to detain the involved male. Probable cause existed to arrest him for a crime, and the involved male kicked and spit on one of the officers. One officer placed his open hand on the side of the male’s face and held it away from the officer. Another officer used his knee to hold the involved male down while he was being handcuffed. At no point in the encounter did officers strike, knee, or otherwise assault the involved male. The SPD sergeant contacted the complainant and briefly spoke to him. The Sergeant then spoke to the officers on scene to find out what happened.

