



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C23-059 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 8/10/2023

Allegation: Abuse of Authority and Discrimination

Chain of Command Finding: Unfounded

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

SPD officers responded to an argument call alleged to be taking place in an RV parked on a city street. Upon arrival, officers found the RV parked on the city street. The RV's registration was expired by 4 years. The alleged participants in the argument left as police officers arrived. One of the officers on scene decided to tow the RV, due to length of time its registration had been expired. There were other vehicles parked in the area, some with expired registrations. Some of those vehicles drove away, but no other vehicles were towed. The involved parties in the argument returned to their RV.

COMPLAINT:

The complainant alleged that the SPD officer towed their RV when they should not have. The officer was biased against her. Her RV was the only vehicle towed from that street.

INVESTIGATION:

SPD conducted an internal investigation into these allegations. The investigator viewed officers' body worn camera footage, interviewed the complainant, and reviewed the reports written for this incident. The investigator also viewed applicable portions of the Revised Code of Washington.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

The SPD officer was within his authority and law when he towed the RV. During his encounter with the complainant, he explained that he could only deal with one vehicle at a time. The other vehicles parked in the area drove away. One other vehicle was there that could not be immediately moved. The officer said he would check back in several hours and tow the vehicle if it was not moved. The other vehicles' registrations were not expired nearly as long as the complainant's registration was.

