



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C23-061 OPO Number: 23-36
Date of Complaint: 9/1/2023
Allegation: Improper Driving and Demeanor
Chain of Command Finding: Multiple
Final Discipline: Verbal Counseling

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

SPD officers were stopped alongside a residential street adjacent to an arterial, conducting traffic enforcement on motorcycles. A citizen approached the officers to tell them they were not allowed to park/stop there and that it wasn't an appropriate spot for them to be. One of the SPD employees spoke to the complainant.

COMPLAINT:

The complainant alleged that the officers were violating parking statutes by parking too close to a stop sign and a business's driveway. The complainant also alleged that the SPD employee he spoke to was rude to him.

INVESTIGATION:

SPD conducted an investigation. The investigator reviewed photos taken by the complainant, CAD records, and interviewed the complainant. The investigator reviewed relevant portions of Washington state law.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

Washington state law (RCW 46.61.035) governs emergency vehicle operations. Among other things, it states that drivers of emergency vehicles are permitted to park and stand irrespective of traffic laws. The position of the officers' motorcycles did not impede or interfere with other traffic on the roadway. The discourteous demeanor allegation was referred to the officer's supervisor for informal follow up.

