



# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE

### JUSTIN C. LUNDGREN

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C24-034 OPO Number: 24-18

Date of Complaint: 4/22/2024

Allegation: Biased Policing and Excessive Force

Chain of Command Finding: Unfounded

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

Spokane Police officers were in the area of Downtown Spokane searching for a suspect involved in an argument in which the suspect pulled a handgun on the victim. Officer located the complainant who closely resembled the described suspect and was in close proximity to the scene of the crime. Due to the nature of the crime with a firearm possibly involved, the complainant was detained in handcuffs. During the detention of the complainant, the actual suspect was located nearby, and the complainant was released from detention and walked away.

### COMPLAINT:

The complainant contacted the Office of Police Ombuds and said they were walking in Downtown Spokane when a group of Spokane Police Department officers approached them “aggressively” assuming they were the suspect they had been looking for. The complainant believed they were profiled because of their race. The complainant alleged the officers told them to follow directions, or they would shoot. The complainant stated only one officer at the scene remained calm and tried to de-escalate the situation. The complainant also alleged that a few days after being interviewed by Spokane Police Internal Affairs and a Police Ombuds Representative, they were walking in Downtown Spokane and SPD officers were “heckling and following” them because they filed a complaint.

### INVESTIGATION:

Spokane Police Department Internal Affairs investigated this complaint after the complainant was interviewed by the Office of Police Ombuds. The associated police reports and body worn camera videos were reviewed. Spokane PD Internal Affairs interviewed the complainant at the Office of Police Ombuds and allowed the complainant to watch the associated body worn camera videos during the interview.



ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

Spokane Police Department Internal Affairs determined this allegation would be closed as Unfounded - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve department personnel.

There was no evidence to support that racially based biased policing occurred. This incident was based upon a 9-1-1 call for service regarding a suspect potentially armed with a handgun, and the complainant closely resembled the described suspect by the victim (same gender, same race, similar clothing, black backpack).

Officers did not use any force tactics prohibited by departmental policy or otherwise by law. No reviewable or reportable use of force was used against the complainant during their detention in handcuffs. The two-officer standing handcuffing technique was consistent with Spokane Police Department training. The complainant was promptly released from handcuffs as soon as they were determined to be uninvolved. There was no evidence to support the complainant's allegation that officers were "heckling and following" them a few days after being interviewed by Spokane PD Internal Affairs. The investigation and interview of the complainant were only known to Spokane PD Internal Affairs and the Office of Police Ombuds.

