



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

KEVIN HALL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C24-056 OPO Number: 24-35

Date of Complaint: 7/11/2024

Allegation: Demeanor, Inadequate Response and Making a False Statement

Chain of Command Finding: Unfounded

Final Discipline: Verbal Counseling

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

A minor was involved in a traffic collision with an SPD patrol car. The involved officer and several other officers responded to the scene and investigated the traffic collision.

COMPLAINT:

The complainant reviewed the body worn camera footage from the collision scene, and they were frustrated to see the involved officer and another officer were “laughing and making comments” about the minor. In addition, the complainant said the officer and the responding sergeant admitted the officer was at fault for the collision and the officer lied about their speed at the time of the collision.

INVESTIGATION:

Spokane Police Department Internal Affairs investigated this complaint. Police reports and body worn camera video was reviewed. The BWC video content that showed the responding officers did not laugh at or at the expense of the minor involved in the collision. It should be noted the on-scene officers did engage in “small talk,” banter, and occasional laughter about the police being involved in a collision, as well as the status of the damaged older patrol car. The sergeant who responded to the scene determined the collision was in fact caused by the officer’s actions.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

Regarding the allegation of the officer’s demeanor, “laughing and making comments” about the collision and the complainant’s minor child, this was classified as Closed – Unfounded.

The BWC video content showed the involved and responding officers did not laugh at or at the expense of the minor. It should be noted the on-scene officers did engage in “small talk,” banter, and occasional



laughter about the police being involved in a collision, as well as the status of the damaged older patrol car. There was no obvious laughter or commentary directed at the persons involved in the collision.

Regarding the allegation the involved officer and the responding sergeant admitted the officer was at fault in the collision, but “*nothing was done about it,*” this was classified as Closed - Unfounded

A comprehensive Chain of Command review was completed reference the collision. Spokane Police Administration issued a Collision Review Case Finding Notice and determined the collision was preventable and the officer’s sanction was verbal counseling.

Regarding the allegation the involved officer lied about their speed at the time of the collision, this was classified as Closed - Not Sustained.

Although the observed evidence was consistent with the officer’s stated speed of “about 5 miles per hour,” there was no physical or digital evidence to prove or disprove the speed the officer was travelling at the time of the collision.

