



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

KEVIN HALL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C24-064 OPO Number: 24-42

Date of Complaint: 8/14/2024

Allegation: Excessive Force and Demeanor

Chain of Command Finding: Exonerated

Final Discipline: None

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

A Spokane Police Officer attempted to stop the complainant for bicycle related traffic offenses. The complainant decided to ride away from the officer, and in doing so, crashed their bicycle and ran away on foot. A second officer chased the complainant on foot, and as the complainant slowed and turned toward the officer, the officer pushed the complainant to the ground. The complainant advised their arm was broken, so the officer did not handcuff the complainant and immediately summoned medics to the scene. The complainant admitted they ran away because they knew they had a warrant for their arrest.

COMPLAINT:

The complainant contacted the Office of Police Ombuds and stated they were riding a bicycle and passed two Spokane Police Officers who were in their patrol cars. The complainant said they realized an officer was behind them but did not realize the officer was signaling them stop despite hearing a siren. The complainant admitted they did not stop, and said one of the officers ran them into a fence and an officer pushed them to the ground which caused a fracture of their arm. The complainant stated that there were no verbal commands to stop, and the force used was excessive. The complainant requested the body worn camera video, and was concerned because they said the officers were mocking them and commented on how good the tactics were on video.

INVESTIGATION:

Spokane Police Internal Affairs investigated the complaint which included an interview with the complainant. The police reports and several body worn camera videos were reviewed.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

Based upon the results of this investigation, the allegation of excessive force is considered Closed – Exonerated - *When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.* The suspect had fled from the officer on a bicycle and on foot.



The complainant initially refused to stop and quickly turned towards officer. The officer documented that fearing for their safety, and because they were so close to them at the time, they pushed the complainant away. The complainant fell to the ground where an injury was discovered. The push was considered to be appropriate given the facts and circumstances known at the time.

The allegation of demeanor is considered Closed – 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 the complainant’s assertion they were mocked or that the officers commented inappropriately on their tactics.

