



# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### KEVIN HALL

## Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C24-074 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 9/12/2024

Allegation: Harassment

Chain of Command Finding: Closed

Final Discipline: Verbal Counseling

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

The complainant was walking in Downtown Spokane and admittedly spit chewing gum out on the ground toward and near a Spokane Police patrol vehicle as they crossed the street. The officer then moved their patrol vehicle about ½ block away and the complainant heard the officer yell, "God bless you sir" and words to the effect of, "I picked up what you were laying down."

When the complainant looked back, they noticed that the officer was photographing or recording them with a cell phone. The complainant then used their cell phone to record the officer's actions and asked why they were recording. The officer remained in the patrol vehicle and did not initiate contact with the person and drove away.

### COMPLAINT:

The complainant provided video as evidence and said they believed that this interaction was used to intimidate or harass them. The complainant read the officer's name on their uniform and noted the patrol vehicle license plate number. The provided video appeared to show an officer inside a patrol car holding up a cell phone in a manner consistent with capturing a photo or video recording.

### INVESTIGATION:

Spokane Police Internal Affairs investigated the complaint which included an interview with the complainant and the identified officer. The video provided by the complainant was reviewed, as were two photos of the complaint captured by the officer during the interaction using a department issued cell phone. Because the interaction was not part of a call for service or proactive police contact, there was no body worn camera video footage. The officer stated the purpose of the photos was to share intelligence with other Downtown Precinct officers due to the complainant's concerning behavior toward police.



ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

The investigation concluded the officer's conduct during the interaction, while not a policy violation, could have been handled better. The officer and their direct supervisor discussed different ways the incident could have been managed to potentially change the outcome of the contact, without laying fault or blame to anyone involved.

