



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

KEVIN HALL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C24-093 OPO Number: 24-53

Date of Complaint: 12/3/2024

Allegation: Biased Policing and Demeanor

Chain of Command Finding: Unfounded

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

The complainant was driving in North Spokane and was travelling 49 miles per hour in a posted 30 miles per hour zone. The traffic violation was captured by in car RADAR. A Spokane Police Traffic Officer stopped the complainant and issued a citation for the traffic violation.

COMPLAINT:

The complainant said they were driving when they passed an unmarked police vehicle. They alleged that the officer pulled out into traffic in what they perceived to be an unsafe manner. The complainant stated they believed the officer thought they were a black male and that was why the officer's reaction was so extreme. The complainant said they asked the officer for their name and badge number and were told they could get it off of the ticket. The complainant said that during the whole interaction the officer was rude.

INVESTIGATION:

Spokane Police Internal Affairs investigated the complaint. The submitted citation, CAD notes, and body worn camera video were reviewed. It should be noted that during this investigation, the complainant contacted Spokane Police Internal Affairs to rescind their complaint.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

Based upon the results of this investigation, the allegation of biased based policing and demeanor were both Unfounded - *When the investigation discloses that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve department personnel.* The complainant's principal concern appeared to be that the officer was engaged in biased-based policing (based upon the perceived race and gender of the driver) and that the officer drove in an unsafe manner prior to the traffic stop. Body worn camera confirmed that the officer's demeanor was appropriate, and the officer did offer to provide their name and badge number.



Regarding the unsafe driving and biased based policing, because the traffic violation occurred a considerable distance from where the officer would have seen the driver's race or gender (RADAR), a biased reason for the traffic stop was not proven. A check of the officer's numerous traffic stops did not show any history of unsafe driving nor bias toward or against a particular race or gender.

