



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

KEVIN HALL

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C25-055 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 5/16/2025

Allegation: Harassment, Demeanor and Improper Detention

Chain of Command Finding: Unfounded

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS:

An SPD Officer conducted a traffic stop in Downtown Spokane. The officer stated the reason for the stop was a traffic violation during a right-hand turn. The officer was joined by a second back up officer. During the traffic stop, there were three occupants of the vehicle, including a child in a safety seat. During the stop, the driver was asked to step out and was placed in handcuffs. At the conclusion of the stop, the driver was allowed to leave without being arrested or cited for the traffic violation.

COMPLAINT:

The complainant, stated they, their spouse, and child were driving in Downtown Spokane near the 7-11 store at 2nd / Division. While leaving the area, an SPD patrol car followed them and eventually conducted a traffic stop of them. The complainant alleged the two officers at the stop accused them of being downtown to "score drugs", which they denied. When the driver asserted their rights, a second officer who arrived put them into handcuffs and according to the complainant, told them to "shut up" with an added expletive. The complainant said they were not cited, not provided with a case number, and were eventually allowed to leave. The complainant contacted the Office of the Police Ombuds to file a complaint alleging harassment, demeanor, and improper detention.

INVESTIGATION:

Spokane Police Internal Affairs investigated this incident. CAD details, a police report documenting the traffic stop, and body worn camera video were reviewed. The complainant was interviewed by an IA investigator.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION:

This investigation was completed by SPD Internal Affairs and was reviewed by the officer's chain of command.



The allegations of **Harassment** and **Demeanor** against both officers were determined to be **Closed, Exonerated** - *When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.* Both officers made a lawful detention and used proper police practice during the stop.

The allegation of **Demeanor** against one of the officers was determined to be **Closed, Exonerated** - *When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.* The complainant's statements of improper demeanor were determined to be false and did not occur. The officer did have a pointed conversation with the complainant, but there were no unprofessional or disparaging remarks made.

The allegation of Unlawful/Improper Detention against one of the officers was determined to be **Closed, Unfounded** - *When the investigation discloses that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve department personnel.* The officer was within legal authority to have the complainant step out of the vehicle during the traffic stop, and based on the totality of the circumstances it was reasonable to place the complainant in handcuffs for officer safety reasons.

