



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2014-0699

Issued Date: 06/03/2015

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 5.001 (9) Professionalism (Policy that was issued 07/16/2014)
OPA Finding	Not Sustained (Training Referral)
Allegation #2	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 6.180 Searches: General (Policy that was issued 05/16/2012)
OPA Finding	Not Sustained (Inconclusive)
Final Discipline	N/A

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The named employee stopped a bicyclist for not wearing a bicycle helmet. The named employee asked the bicyclist for identification. The bicyclist stated that she did not have any and the named employee asked her to search her bag to see if she did in fact have identification.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged that the named employee made her empty out her tote bag onto the sidewalk and that he was disrespectful and irrational in his behavior towards her.

INVESTIGATION

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Review of the complaint email
2. Interview of the complainant
3. Search for and review of all relevant records and other evidence
4. Interview of SPD employees

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

Without video or audio of the contact between the named employee and the complainant, it is impossible to know how the contact was started and the words and tone used by the named employee. While there was insufficient evidence, due to just the conflicting viewpoints between the complainant and the named employee about how their interaction occurred, it appears that the complainant felt coerced and humiliated by the named employee in having to empty her bag in front of him.

FINDINGS

Named Employee #1

Allegation #1

It is recommended that the named employee's supervisor spend some time observing how the named employee interacts with members of the public while conducting traffic enforcement to determine the most effective way to improve the named employee's skills in this area.

Therefore a finding of **Not Sustained** (Training Referral) was issued for *Professionalism*.

Allegation #2

The evidence could not prove or disprove the allegation that the named employee acted against policy by requesting the search for identification. Therefore a finding of **Not Sustained** (Inconclusive) was issued for *Searches - General*.

NOTE: The Seattle Police Department Manual policies cited for the allegation(s) made for this OPA Investigation are policies that were in effect during the time of the incident. The issued date of the policy is listed.