



## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

### Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2016-1470

Issued Date: 05/25/2017

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 16.090 (6) In-Car Video System: Employees Will Record Police Activity (Policy that was issued March 1, 2016)
OPA Finding	<b>Sustained</b>
Final Discipline	Written Reprimand

#### **INCIDENT SYNOPSIS**

The Named Employee was working as a patrol supervisor and responded to a felony harassment incident.

#### **COMPLAINT**

The complainant, a supervisor within the Department, alleged that the Named Employee failed to activate her In-Car Video (ICV) while responding to, and arriving on an active investigation.

#### **INVESTIGATION**

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Review of the complaint memo
2. Review of In-Car Videos (ICV)
3. Search for and review of all relevant records and other evidence
4. Interview of SPD employee

## **ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION**

The Named Employee, a supervisor, was asked by a fellow supervisor to come to the scene of an arrest and Use of Force incident to assist that supervisor with his investigation of the Use of Force. The Named Employee, who was driving an ICV-equipped SPD patrol car, responded to the scene and made contact with the other supervisor. After a conversation with the supervisor that lasted several minutes and after being at the scene for over 20 minutes, the Named Employee left the scene. The preponderance of the evidence from this investigation showed that the Named Employee did not record her police activity at the scene using the ICV system in her police car as required by SPD Policy 16.090(6), which states:

*“Employees will record the following police activity:*

- Response to dispatched calls, starting before the employee arrives on the call and ending consistent with paragraph 8 below*
- Terry stops*
- Traffic stops*
- On-View Infractions and Criminal Activity*
- Arrests and seizures*
- Searches and inventories of vehicles or persons*
- Transports (excluding ride-alongs and passengers for meetings)*
- Vehicle Eluding/Pursuits*
- Questioning suspects or witnesses”*

It was clear from the evidence of the OPA investigation that the Named Employee responded to the scene of a dispatched call and did not have her ICV recording activated prior to arriving on the scene, nor was it activated at any time while the Named Employee was there at the scene. No evidence was located to suggest there was any technical or other reason why the Named Employee was unable to ICV record her police activity at the scene of this incident, nor was there any reason to believe this failure to record was intentional on the part of the Named Employee.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Named Employee #1**

#### **Allegation #1**

A preponderance of the evidence showed that the Named Employee did not record her police activity using the ICV system in her police car as required by SPD Policy. Therefore a **Sustained** finding was issued for *In-Car Video System: Employees Will Record Police Activity*.

*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.*