



April 16, 2020

Director Andrew Myerberg  
Office of Police Accountability  
PO Box 34986  
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Myerberg,

Please see the below Management Action response

**Case Numbers:** 2018OPA-1107/2019COMP-0016

**Topic:** Custodial Search (Cross Gender)

**Summary of the Management Action:**

Named Employee violated policy when they conducted a custodial search of a person of the opposite gender.

**Original Recommendation:**

Revise the policy to include an exception to the requirement of a cross-gender search when no officer that shares the arrestee's gender can respond to the scene within a reasonable timeframe. In such cases, officers should be permitted to search the arrestee, regardless of whether there is a reasonable likelihood that the arrestee is armed or possesses evidence that could immediately be destroyed, lost or lose its evidentiary value.

**Action Taken:**

SPD issued Directive 20-0010 notifying personnel that Policy 6.180-POL-2(e), has been revised to read as follows:

*"Suspects will not be searched by officers of the opposite gender unless:*

- there is a reasonable likelihood that the suspect possesses a weapon or other object capable of causing injury or which could facilitate escape; or*
- The officer believes that the suspect possesses objects which constitute evidence, which if not seized immediately could be destroyed, lost, or lose their value as evidence, or*
- There is no officer of the same gender readily available to conduct the search."*

This policy will go into effect May 1, 2020.

**SPD Considers this Management Action:**

Fully implemented

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Assistant Chief Lesley Cordner  
Professional Standards Bureau