



March 2, 2022

Interim Chief Adrian Diaz  
Seattle Police Department  
PO Box 34986  
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Chief Diaz:

Please see the below Management Action Recommendation.

**Case Number**

- 2020OPA-0513 / 2022COMP-0004

**Topic**

- Car Brigades

**Summary**

- It was alleged that the named employee failed to use de-escalation tactics when he broke the window of a vehicle that was part of a car brigade in a protest.

**Analysis**

- During a protest in August 2020, demonstrators engaged in repeated property destruction. A car brigade surrounded the demonstrators to create distance between officers and demonstrators. A supervisor gave approval for officers to stop the vehicles in the car brigade and arrest drivers for rendering criminal assistance to demonstrators.
- The named employee (NE) knocked on the driver's side window of a vehicle and told the driver to stop. When the driver continued to move, the NE tapped on the window with his baton and again ordered the driver to "stop" and "open the door." The NE then used a window punch to shatter the window. The incident described lasted approximately 11 seconds. The driver was then removed from the vehicle and arrested.
- The NE told OPA that his goal was to get the driver out as quickly as possible. He felt that the crowd could become hostile, so he needed to act quickly.
- Another officer successfully convinced a different driver in the brigade to exit their vehicle after more than a minute of attempting various de-escalation tactics. That officer was successful in gaining voluntary compliance from the driver.

**Recommendation(s)**

- Develop a policy and training scenarios for interacting with car brigades and vehicles involved in protests. Understanding that protest scenes are fluid, the policy and training should emphasize de-escalation and providing multiple opportunities for voluntary compliance before property may be damaged, including the breaking of windows.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

*Gráinne Perkins*

Gráinne Perkins  
Interim Director, Office of Police Accountability

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