



October 18, 2021

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

Dear Director Myerberg,

Please see the below Management Recommendation response

Case Numbers:

2020OPA-0613 / 2021COMP-0018

Topic:

Providing Medical Aid

Summary of the Management Action:

It was alleged that officers failed to provide medical assistance to arrestees who were pepper sprayed.

Original Recommendation:

- Revise SPD policy 8.300-POL-4 to define what it means to decontaminate individuals affected by OC spray and instruct officers to assist in decontaminating subjects' eyes when requested.
- Assign at least one bicycle officer in each squad (perhaps a supervisor) to carry a sterile saline solution that can be used to rinse individuals' eyes.

Action Taken:

SPD does not support changing policy, rather feels this is better addressed through training. Per policy (8.300-POL-4-1), officers are required to train every two years on the use of OC Spray. This training covers "After Care" including proper decontamination steps. Additionally, the policy requires Officers to "assist exposed subjects with decontamination and medical aid, as soon as reasonably possible" (8.300-POL-4-7).

Due to the dynamic nature of demonstrations, assigning a bike bicycle officer to carry sterile saline solution and attend to individuals who have been exposed to pepper spray is not feasible and can be unsafe to both the individual and the officer. Unfortunately, in large scale demonstrations where OC spray has been deployed, there may be some delay in an officer's ability to respond to requests. Rather, SPD uses the prisoner processing vans, which are equipped with water and provide a safer venue to administer to those who have been impacted.

SPD Considers this Management Action:

Declined

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Adrian Z. Diaz
Chief of Police