



February 15, 2022

Interim Director Grainne Perkins  
Office of Police Accountability  
PO Box 34986  
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Perkins,

Please see the below Management Recommendation response

**Case Numbers:** 2021OPA-0125 / 2021COMP-0042

**Topic:**

Traffic Section Mask Compliance

**Summary of the Management Action:**

The complainant alleged the named employee failed to wear a face mask during a traffic stop.

**Original Recommendation:**

Consult the Traffic Section regarding this matter. If an exemption is sought, OPA asks SPD to provide it with both the written request for an exemption and SPD's response to the request.

- If an exemption is granted, make the terms of the exemption public (e.g., on the SPD Blotter), and train all Traffic officers on the specifics of the exemption.
- If an exemption is not granted, instruct all Traffic officers, including those on motorcycles, to put on face masks prior to contacting members of the public.

**Action Taken:**

Because exemptions contain medical information, SPD cannot share, nor publicly post information regarding the terms of an employee's exemption. However, On October 21, 2021, the Captain of the Traffic Section sent an email to all Traffic Section Sergeants directing them to meet with their officers to go over his expectations regarding wearing masks. In the email the Captain wrote:

*From now forward, until directed differently, - all Traffic officers will wear a city accepted COVID mask;*

- *While inside, all Traffic employees will follow the City of Seattle COVID directive regarding masking. You can wear any City accepted COVID mask inside.*
- *When making Traffic Stops, all Motorcycle officers will wear a city accepted COVID mask. After significant consideration, the "Gator" type masks are being provided by SPD for motor officers safety. The "gator" mask enables officers to put-on COVID masks safely - while dismounting, removing equipment, logging out with radio while continually observing a stopped motorist and before approaching and contacting them. Masks will be worn while interacting less than 6 feet from a stopped motorist or pedestrian violator.*
- *When Traffic Section officer/detectives are contacting/speaking with people outside, at a distance of less than 6 feet, (collision investigation, clearing/directing traffic, handling on-views or 911 calls, etc.), all will wear a City of Seattle accepted COVID mask.*



**Seattle**

Police Department

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**SPD Considers this Management Action:**

Fully Implemented

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ADRIAN DIAZ".

Adrian Diaz  
Chief of Police