



Seattle Office of Police Accountability

March 13, 2019

Chief Carmen Best
Seattle Police Department
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Chief Best:

Please see the below Management Action Recommendation.

Case Number

- 2018OPA-0661

Topic

- Spit Sock Hood Screening and Reporting

Summary

- A spit sock hood was applied to the Complainant; however, the Named Employee, who was the on-scene supervisor, did not screen or document its use in the Arrest Screening Report, contrary to *SPD Policy 11.010 - Detainee Management in Department Facilities 11.010-PRO-2 Application of the Spit Sock*.
- The Named Employee reasoned that because the spit sock hood was applied in the field and the Complainant was not brought to a Department facility, this policy was inapplicable by its terms.

Analysis

- The policy refers to the management of detainees in “Department Facilities”; however, it appears to be the intent of the policy to ensure that any application of a spit sock hood is screened and documented by a supervisor, regardless of whether the application and screening occurs in the field or later at a precinct.

Recommendation(s)

- The Department should clarify whether supervisors should always screen and document the use of a spit sock hood, regardless of whether the subject is later brought to a Department facility.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AM'.

Andrew Myerberg
Director, Office of Police Accountability