



January 13, 2021

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-0344 / 2021COMP-0003

Topic

- Force Reporting in Demonstrations

Summary

- It was alleged that the Named Employee (NE) did not adequately document and justify each individual use of blast balls during a protest.

Analysis

- The NE deployed four blast balls, one of which was thrown overhand and struck an individual in the chest.
- [SPD Policy 8.300-POL-10](#) requires officers to report the use of blast balls. It further instructs that officers must justify each separate blast ball deployment. Lastly, where officers deploy blast balls via an overhand throw, officers must document their deployment method and the reasoning for using such in their use of force report.
- The NE was assigned to the Chemical Agent Response Team and had worked 12 to 14 hour shifts since the protests began. He later submitted a use of force report that covered the entirety of his force used during the June 7, 2020, protest. Due to the quantity of the force he used, coupled with long and sustained shifts, the NE was unable to fully document each use of force as contemplated by policy.

Recommendation(s)

- Improve processes for reporting force in the demonstration context, particularly in sustained protests where reportable force is used multiple times. This could be achieved by, for example, assigning officers to serve as administrative sergeants to screen and assist in the documentation of force in real-time.

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

Sincerely,

AM

Andrew Myerberg
Director, Office of Police Accountability