



April 29, 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-0613 / 2021COMP-0018

Topic

- Providing Medical Aid

Summary

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

Analysis

- Officers working a demonstration observed individuals within a group damage property. Bicycle officers attempted to make a targeted arrest of a subject in the group. Other protesters physically interfered with the arrest, and an officer deployed pepper spray at two individuals, who were ultimately arrested.
- None of the officers on scene made an effort to rinse the eyes of the two protesters who were pepper sprayed, nor were officers equipped with supplies to decontaminate the arrestees' eyes.
- SPD Policy 8.300-POL-4 #7 (previously 8.300-POL-5 #9) instructs that "officers shall assist exposed subjects with decontamination and medical aid, as soon as reasonably possible." The policy does not explain what decontamination measures officers should take beyond moving the subject into fresh air.

Recommendation(s)

- 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.

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

Sincerely,

AM

Andrew Myerberg
Director, Office of Police Accountability