

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **OPA releases 11 more completed investigations into Seattle police behavior at protests**

Seattle — Today the Office of Police Accountability (OPA) released 11 more completed investigations into alleged Seattle Police Department (SPD) employee misconduct at protests following the murder of George Floyd.

In case [2020OPA-0326](#), multiple complainants alleged a widespread failure by SPD to record Body-Worn Video (BWV) when interacting with protesters, and that this was purposed to conceal acts of misconduct. OPA's investigation found no basis to conclude that this occurred. In fact, the policy in place at the outset of the demonstrations prohibited recording of many of the incidents in question. This was due to both City law and a 2015 determination by SPD, the City, and community stakeholders to not allow recording of First Amendment-protected activities in order to avoid privacy concerns. To bridge this gap, Mayor Durkan issued an executive order in June directing SPD officers to record BWV during demonstrations. OPA subsequently [recommended](#) that SPD collaborate with the City and community groups when revising the BWV policy to discuss ways to ensure transparency while still upholding privacy and constitutional protections.

Case [2020OPA-0325](#) comprised multiple complaints alleging that officers covered their badges with black tape to conceal their identities at protests. At the time, City leaders explained that these were "mourning badges" to honor law enforcement officers who had recently passed away. OPA's investigation found no evidence of a deliberate and systemic attempt of officers to hide their identities. Moreover, OPA discovered that most officers wore name tags that provided their last names and first initials. To clarify the issue, City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting the covering of serial numbers when wearing mourning badges.

The remainder of the allegations within the investigations released today were found to be not sustained. Those case numbers are as follows: [2020OPA-0371](#), [2020OPA-0379](#), [2020OPA-0406](#), [2020OPA-0417](#), [2020OPA-0420](#), [2020OPA-0454](#), [2020OPA-0457](#), [2020OPA-0553](#), and [2020OPA-0548](#).

Since May 30th, OPA has been contacted over 19,000 times about SPD's conduct at and response to various demonstrations. So far, the emails, phone calls, and other feedback have resulted in 137 investigations. OPA updates its [website dashboard](#) every three weeks to show progress into investigations.

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