



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2015-0188

Issued Date: 08/21/2015

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 5.140 (2) Bias-Free Policing: Employees Will Not Engage in Biased-Based Policing (Policy that was issued 01/01/15)
OPA Finding	Not Sustained (Unfounded)
Final Discipline	N/A

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

While on routine uniformed patrol in a marked Seattle Police Department vehicle, the named employee conducted a traffic stop. He contacted the driver of the vehicle and later issued him a citation for speeding, expired tabs, and no proof of insurance.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged that the named employee engaged in bias policing and only stopped him because of his race. He further alleged that the named employee kept his hand on his handgun as he approached the vehicle.

INVESTIGATION

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Review of the complaint email
2. Review of the In-Car Video
3. Search for and review of all relevant records and other evidence

4. Interviews of SPD employees

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The evidence showed that the named employee followed the complainant's vehicle for a period of time to establish that the vehicle was speeding 10 miles over the marked speed zone. The In-Car Video showed that the named employee's hand was not on his gun, but alongside his holster as he approached the vehicle. The named employee explained why he had stopped the complainant and that he was issuing him a citation for speeding, expired tabs and no proof of insurance.

FINDINGS

Named Employee #1

Allegation #1

The evidence showed that the named employee paced the vehicle for speed and he could not see the driver's race, sex, or any other physical characteristics prior to pulling the vehicle over. Therefore a finding of **Not Sustained** (Unfounded) was issued for *Bias-Free Policing: Employees Will Not Engage in Biased-Based Policing*.

NOTE: The Seattle Police Department Manual policies cited for the allegation(s) made for this OPA Investigation are policies that were in effect during the time of the incident. The issued date of the policy is listed.