



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2016-0335

Issued Date: 08/03/2016

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 16.090 (6) In Car Video System: Employees Will Record Police Activity (Policy that was issued 02/01/2015)
OPA Finding	Not Sustained (Training Referral)
Final Discipline	N/A

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The Named Employee responded to a call regarding SPD bike officers who needed immediate back up.

COMPLAINT

The complainant, a supervisor within the Department, alleged that the Named Employee left his In-Car Video (ICV) microphone inside his patrol vehicle during an incident.

INVESTIGATION

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Review of the complaint memo
2. Search for and review of all relevant records and other evidence
3. Review of In-Car Video (ICV)
4. Interview of SPD employee

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The Named Employee was responding to an emergency request for backup by two SPD bicycle officers who were struggling with a resistant subject while being surrounded by a large and hostile crowd. The In-Car Video system (ICV) in the Named Employee's patrol car was activated prior to his arrival at the scene and recorded both audio and video during the duration of the Named Employee's activity with the call. However, the Named Employee had clipped the portable microphone for the ICV system to the sun visor inside the patrol car and failed to remove it and take it with him when he arrived on-scene and got out of the car. The Named Employee realized this error and self-reported on the ICV when he returned to his car. It is clear the situation created within the Named Employee a desire to get out of the car quickly and distracted him from remembering to grab the portable microphone. It is also clear that the Named Employee contributed to the problem by where he routinely attached the microphone on his uniform thus requiring him to take it off when inside the car. During the Named Employee's OPA interview, he displayed a clear grasp of the problem he had created and reported changes he had already made to the placement of the microphone on his uniform to prevent this problem from happening again. This shows a commendable effort on the part of the Named Employee to learn from his mistakes and prevent future errors.

FINDINGS

Named Employee #1

Allegation #1

The evidence supports that the Named Employee would benefit from additional training. Therefore a finding of **Not Sustained** (Training Referral) was issued for *In Car Video System: Employees Will Record Police Activity*.

Required Training: The Named Employee should be commended by his supervisor for the proactive steps taken by the Named Employee to correct and prevent the problem identified in this incident and reminded of the importance of wearing the ICV portable microphone when required by policy.

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.