



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2016-1070

Issued Date: 03/20/2017

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 March 1, 2016)
OPA Finding	Sustained
Final Discipline	Written Reprimand

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The Named Employee transported a subject from the hospital to the jail.

COMPLAINT

The complainant, a supervisor within the Department, alleged the Named Employee failed to activate his In-Car Video (ICV), per policy, while transporting a subject.

INVESTIGATION

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

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

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The Named Employee was operating a prisoner transport van and assigned to transport a prisoner from the hospital emergency room to the jail. The van was a marked SPD vehicle equipped with two ICV cameras, one front-facing out the windshield and one rear-facing into the passenger compartment where prisoners are seated during transport. The ICV, both front and back, were not activated by the Named Employee as he began his transport of the prisoner from the area of the emergency room. The Named Employee did not activate the ICV audio and video recording function until the van was driving several blocks away. At this point both video and audio in the front and the back of the van began recording. Because the van's ICV system, when activated, recovers the previous 60 seconds of video, but not audio, from both the front and back cameras, the video portion of the Named Employee's recording started when the van was stopped in traffic at a previous intersection. Both videos lasted approximately 2 minutes and 38 seconds. The distance travelled from the emergency room to the intersection was approximately seven blocks. For this portion of the transport there was neither video nor audio available. The Named Employee admitted to failing to activate the ICV in his van as soon as he began the prisoner transport. His only explanation was that he was focused on getting the prisoner transported to jail as soon as possible and just forgot to activate the ICV until he was partway there. The preponderance of the evidence from this investigation showed the Named Employee failed to video and audio record his police activity in its entirety and there were no known situational or technical reasons that prevented the Named Employee from recording.

FINDINGS

Named Employee #1

Allegation #1

A preponderance of the evidence showed that the Named Employee failed to video and audio record his police activity in its entirety. Therefore a **Sustained** finding was issued for *In-Car Video System: Employees Will Record Police Activity*.

Discipline Imposed: Written Reprimand

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.