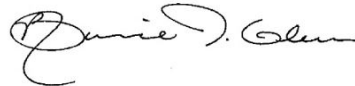


**Issued Date:** May 15, 2026

**From:** Director Bonnie Glenn  
Office of Police Accountability



**Case Number: 2025OPA-0441**

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## **Allegations of Misconduct & Director's Findings**

### **Named Employee #1**

- 1. Allegation #1: 5.001 - Standards and Duties POL-10. Employees Will Strive to be Professional**

**Finding:** Sustained

- **Imposed Discipline: Written Reprimand**
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**This Closed Case Summary (CCS) represents the opinion of the OPA Director regarding the misconduct alleged and therefore sections may be written in the first person.**

### **Executive Summary:**

Named Employee #1 (NE#1) responded to an apartment, where Community Member #1 (CM#1) had committed suicide from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to her head. The Complainant, an SPD deputy chief, alleged that during the death investigation, NE#1 made multiple unprofessional comments to the witness officers (WO#1 through WO#3).

### **Administrative Note:**

On April 3, 2026, the Office of Inspector General certified OPA's investigation as thorough, timely, and objective.

## Summary of the Investigation:

### A. OPA Complaint

On November 20, 2025, the Complainant submitted an OPA complaint via Blue Team. According to the complaint, an officer on scene “made potentially unprofessional commentary in discussing the death investigation.”

OPA investigated the complaint by reviewing the computer-aided dispatch (CAD) call report, body-worn video (BWV), incident report, and photos. OPA also interviewed the witness officers and NE#1.

### B. CAD Call Report and BWV

On February 6, 2023, at 3:02 PM, CAD call remarks noted, “GUN[.] [TRANS]FER FROM VALLEYCOM-[REPORTING PARTY’S] DAUGHTER WAS FEELING SUIC[IDAL] LAST NIGHT, SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS GOING TO SHOOT HERSELF AND THAT SHE HAD A GUN. NO ONE CAN GET AHOLD OF HER NOW[.]”

BWV captured NE#1 and other SPD officers entering an apartment. The officers found CM#1 deceased on the floor beside a bed, having suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound to her head. The officers cleared all rooms within the apartment and initiated an investigation. NE#1 began photographing the apartment’s entrance when he had the following exchange with WO#1:

**WO#1:** Is there a smell?  
**NE#1:** [Sniffs]. No, it’s not bad. [Sniffs].  
**WO#1:** I don’t smell anything, so...  
**NE#1:** It’s nothing. You owe me lunch, though.  
**WO#1:** No, I don’t.  
**NE#1:** Yeah, you do.  
**WO#1:** No, I don’t.  
**NE#1:** Yeah, you do!  
**WO#1:** For?  
**NE#1:** I’m on DOA [dead on arrival] that you’re on.  
**WO#1:** Oh.  
**NE#1:** Yeah.  
**WO#1:** This is David 2.  
**NE#1:** Don’t care. Lunch. Actually, you already bought my lunch that one time, so you paid it already.

NE#1 photographed the inside of a nearby closet. NE#1 pointed out what he believed to be brain matter and a piece of a skull. WO#2 examined the closet using her flashlight and remarked, “Oh, yeah, I see. That explains the splat.” NE#1 replied, “Yeah, the big...” and made six squishing sounds, presumably referring to the brain matter and blood splatter. Following those sounds, NE#1 commented, “That sound effect.”

NE#1 photographed CM#1. While photographing CM#1’s head, NE#1 commented, “Jeez! Aw, dude, I’ve never seen that!” NE#1 indicated that he found the bullet lying on the ground. NE#1 then told a backing officer, “Dude, you should see her head. It’s lit – it’s literally split, like in two.” NE#1 photographed a rifle on the bed and the bullet on the ground. NE#1 then told WO#3, “Have you,

like, actually looked at her head, [WO#3]? Like, dude, it's like split in half. Like if you actually – you can see straight into her brain.” WO#3 aimed his flashlight at CM#1's head and replied, “Yeah, I mean the whole thing is just opened up.” NE#1 exited the apartment after photographing the remaining areas of the apartment.

### **C. OPA Interviews**

#### Witness Officer #1

On January 9, 2026, OPA interviewed WO#1. When OPA asked about the context of NE#1's conversation with him, WO#1 replied that he did not like responding to DOA calls and would usually trade them for different ones or treat officers to lunch if they took his DOA calls. When OPA asked about NE#1's squishing sounds, WO#1 replied that he initially did not recall them but noticed them while reviewing BWV. WO#1 said he had no opinion regarding these sounds at the time. Finally, OPA asked how officers cope with trauma, particularly in response to a suicide call. WO#1 replied that officers might encounter hundreds of traumatic calls, whereas the average person might experience only two or three. WO#1 said police officers cope with trauma differently and in ways that could be “jolting” to the public.

#### Witness Officer #2

On February 4, 2026, OPA interviewed WO#2. WO#2 confirmed that WO#1 did not like responding to DOA calls and would trade them for other calls. When OPA asked about NE#1's squishing sounds, WO#2 replied that she believed NE#1 was attempting to mimic how blood splatter ended up so far away from CM#1, as she and the officers were perplexed by the physics involved. WO#2 did not believe those squishing sounds were meant to be “negative” or “make light of the situation by any means.” WO#2 said officers cope with traumatic calls differently, with some using “gallows humor,” while others react with anger. WO#2 noted that coping was a “hard thing to process.”

#### Witness Officer #3

On January 26, 2026, OPA interviewed WO#3. When OPA asked about NE#1's comments regarding CM#1's head injury, WO#3 replied that this incident was one of the most gruesome, tragic, and sad DOAs he had seen, requiring much mental processing. WO#3 said he and NE#1 had previously responded to other DOA calls and, drawing from those experiences, believed that NE#1 was merely “processing” the scene. WO#3 said there was never a moment when NE#1 was “insensitive to human life.” WO#3 noted that officers occasionally use “dark humor” during traumatic situations to cope with tension and anxiety but believed that NE#1 was merely trying to cope with this situation.

#### Named Employee #1

On February 23, 2026, OPA interviewed NE#1. NE#1 confirmed that he had an agreement with WO#1, which involved investigating DOA cases in exchange for WO#1 providing lunch. NE#1 acknowledged making squishing sounds and regretted doing so, believing those sounds to be “inappropriate.” However, NE#1 noted that this incident occurred three years ago, making it difficult for him to remember his thoughts at the time. When OPA asked about NE#1's comments regarding CM#1's head injury, NE#1 replied that “seeing something very jarring” was so rare as a police officer that it amplified the shock value. NE#1 believed, at the time, that he intended these comments to convey, “Wow, did you see this shocking thing?” Although NE#1 reiterated his difficulty in recalling the incident from three years ago, he acknowledged that his comments sounded “inappropriate.” After reviewing BWV, NE#1 noted his surprise at the extent of damage a single shot could inflict on a human body but again acknowledged that his comments were “maybe insensitive.” NE#1 said

responding to welfare checks was common, but encountering someone who had committed suicide was uncommon. NE#1 said he had only three years of experience at the time, so he was uncertain about how he would cope with this incident, as no one could train for it. NE#1 expressed uncertainty regarding his coping mechanisms, as he did not think about them at the time.

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## **Analysis and Conclusions:**

### **Named Employee #1 – Allegation #1**

#### **5.001 – Standards and Duties, 5.001-POL-10. Employees Will Strive to be Professional**

The Complainant alleged that NE#1 made several unprofessional comments during a death investigation.

SPD employees must “strive to be professional.” SPD Policy 5.001-POL-10. Further, “employees may not engage in behavior that undermines public trust in the Department, the officer, or other officers,” whether on or off duty. *Id.* Employees will avoid unnecessary escalation of events, even if those events do not end in reportable uses of force. *Id.* Employees representing the Department or identifying themselves as police officers or Department employees will not use profanity directed as an insult or any derogatory, contemptuous, or disrespectful language at anyone. *Id.*

This allegation is sustained based on three independent grounds. NE#1 was expected to be professional during a death investigation, show respect for the deceased, and appreciate the gravity of a serious situation. In all three instances, NE#1 failed to meet SPD’s professionalism standards.

First, NE#1’s persistent request for WO#1 to provide him with lunch was unprofessional because it trivialized the seriousness of the investigation and introduced an inappropriate and irrelevant topic. NE#1 should have prioritized the investigation by photographing the scene, rather than bantering with WO#1. Although there appeared to be an informal agreement regarding DOA calls between WO#1 and the other officers, NE#1’s choice to raise and press this issue at the scene of a suicide was inappropriate and insensitive. It also diminished the gravity of the situation. This conduct alone would have been sufficient to sustain this allegation.

Second, NE#1’s squishing sounds to WO#2 were unprofessional because they were an unnecessary performative reenactment of the injury. NE#1 repeated the squishing sounds six times, apparently to add theatrics or levity to the situation. However, these sounds ultimately contributed no value to the investigation and again diminished its seriousness. NE#1 could have communicated his observations in a clear, respectful manner, but he instead did so in a way that overly dramatized the injury. Similarly, this conduct alone would have been sufficient to sustain this allegation.

Third, NE#1’s comments regarding CM#1’s head injury to WO#1 were unprofessional because, for similar reasons described above, they were graphic, sensationalized, and unnecessary for the investigation. NE#1’s comments about being able to see CM#1’s “split” head and “straight into her brain” inappropriately encouraged his fellow officers to view CM#1, thereby diminishing her dignity as a deceased individual. NE#1’s comments treated the scene as if it were a spectacle rather than an investigation. Although OPA recognizes that officers cope with traumatic experiences in various ways, they are still expected to maintain professional conduct when facing trauma. SPD’s

professionalism standards require officers to “treat all people with dignity” while “refraining from language, demeanor, and actions that may cause the individual feeling belittled, ridiculed, or intimidated.” SPD Policy 5.001-POL. The fact that CM#1 was deceased should have elevated NE#1’s responsibility to treat CM#1 with the dignity she deserved.

Accordingly, OPA recommends that this allegation be Sustained.

Recommended Finding: **Sustained**