



City of Seattle

Office of Professional Accountability

June 1, 2015

Chief Kathleen M. O'Toole
Seattle Police Department
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

RE: MANAGEMENT ACTION RECOMMENDATION (OPA2014-0789)

Dear Chief O'Toole:

The Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) recently completed its investigation into allegations that a Seattle Police Department (SPD) officer, working on a bicycle at a demonstration, quickly rode past the complainant and bumped the complainant's leg with the bicycle pedal, causing an abrasion.

The OPA investigation found that any contact between the named employee's bicycle and the complainant's leg was unintentional and not a reportable use of force. The only relevant policy that OPA could use to determine whether there was any misconduct was SPD Policy 13.030 - Emergency Vehicle Operations: Officers Are Responsible for the Safe Operation of Their Police Vehicle. This policy does not address the unique nature of police bicycle operations.

Given the extent to which bicycles are being deployed by SPD in both daily and special event operations, it is time to have a written policy and/or procedures regarding their operation and use. The absence of written guidelines was made clear in this complaint when OPA struggled to find a standard to use when listing the allegation that the named employee injured the complainant as a result of unsafe bicycle operation.

Recommendation: It is my recommendation that SPD clearly articulate through written policy and/or procedure clear guidelines for the safe operation of police bicycles. This is important for the protection of employees, the Department and the community that SPD serves.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this matter of public trust and confidence in the professional conduct of the SPD and its employees. Please inform me of your response to this recommendation and, should you decide to take action as a result, the progress of this action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pierce Murphy".

Pierce Murphy
Director, Office of Professional Accountability