City of Seattle

Seattle Police Department

July 5, 2017

Director Pierce Murphy
Office of Professional Accountability
720 Third Avenue, 18th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Management Action Recommendation (2016OPA-0897)

Dear Director Murphy:

I am writing to follow up on your Management Action Recommendation, arising from your investigation in the above-referenced case regarding an employee's use of an unmarked SPD vehicle while off-duty, but on-call. You recommended that the Department revisit SPD Policy 13.080 with regard to (1) the authorization of non-SPD passengers in Department vehicles during "on call" hours; (2) authorization of temporary overnight use of a Department vehicle; (3) reconciling the inconsistency between authorization of a "take-home" vehicle and the prohibition against taking a Department vehicle outside the city limits; and (4) providing clear guidance regarding the use of vehicles by employees who are expected to be on-call and available to respond to an incident.

The Department addressed this Management Action on May 1, 2017, by way of policy revisions to Manual Section 13.080. The revised policy changes address (1) clarification on when passengers are allowed in Department vehicles; (2) Guidelines for authorizing temporary overnight use of a Department vehicle; (3) Clarification that an employee who is assigned a take home vehicle, and who lives outside the city, may take the assigned vehicle outside the city; (4) Guidelines on use of a Department vehicle by employees who are on stand-by and/or on-call status. In addition, sergeants in units with assigned vehicles are reminded of the requirements to maintain a mileage and maintenance log per 13.080 POL #2.

As always, please let me know if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. O'Toole
Chief of Police

Seattle Police Department, 610 Fifth Avenue, PO Box 34986, Seattle, WA 98124-4986
An equal employment opportunity, affirmative action employer.
Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request. Call (206) 233-7203 at least two weeks in advance.