



Seattle Office of Police Accountability

March 15, 2019

Chief Carmen Best
Seattle Police Department
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Chief Best:

Please see the below Management Action Recommendation.

Case Number

- 2018OPA-0872

Topic

- Taser Application

Summary

- The Named Employee used his Taser on a fleeing, non-violent subject.

Analysis

- OPA believes that this force was not reasonable, necessary, or proportional.
- OPA has concerns about the training provided on Taser applications generally and, specifically, concerning tasing fleeing suspects. OPA has verified that such applications are being trained as appropriate and that, when the Named Employee acted in this case, his conduct was consistent with training.

Recommendation(s)

- OPA reiterates the need to rethink the purpose of the two prongs in *Policy 8.300-POL-2(4)* and the possible confusion that may result. Consider the sole requirement that all Taser applications be reasonable, necessary and proportional, like any other use of force.
- OPA recognizes that the Department began incorporating more detailed training concerning the application of Tasers to fleeing individuals, as recommended in cases 2017OPA-0119, 2017OPA-0318, and 2018OPA-0661.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

AM

Andrew Myerberg
Director, Office of Police Accountability