



October 18, 2021

Director Andrew Myerberg
Office of Police Accountability
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Myerberg,

Please see the below Management Recommendation response

Case Numbers:

2020OPA-0628 / 2021COMP-0020

Topic:

Leaf Blower in Demonstrations

Summary of the Management Action:

It was alleged that the named employee fired a less-lethal impact munition at a protester who was aiming a leaf blower at officers.

Original Recommendation:

- Develop a training and engagement plan for officers responding to leaf blowers in protests.
- Make clear publicly what the engagement plan will be with leaf blowers so that demonstrators who choose to use them at protests in the future will be aware of the attendant risks of being subjected to force.

Action Taken:

SPD does not have the resources or staffing to develop and provide training to officers specific to leaf blowers. Rather, we have (and continue to) revise our training based on lessons learned. The breadth of the protests experienced in the Summer of 2020 have led to not only policy revisions but additions to our "Crowd Management" training curriculum.

In terms of publicly providing our Operational Plans and tactics, SPD respectfully declines. Singling out a specific item (i.e. leaf blower) and issuing a public statement regarding how police will respond if confronted with that item takes away the discretionary authority that allows officers to respond to the behavior in the context in which it is occurring, rather than a hard and fast rule. As with any threat faced by police, the response extends far beyond a specific instrument and relies heavily upon the behaviors being displayed.

SPD Considers this Management Action:

Decline

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Adrian Z. Diaz
Chief of Police