



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2014-0277

Issued Date: 02/17/2015

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 5.001 (VII) (2) Professionalism/Courtesy (Policy issued prior to 7/16/14)
OPA Finding	Not Sustained (Inconclusive)
Final Discipline	N/A

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The named employee was driving his patrol vehicle to a collision investigation when he was flagged down by the complainant. The complainant had been calling 911 but hung up when the named employee stopped his patrol vehicle. The complainant stated that his car had been stolen. The named employee informed the complainant that he had 911 calls to respond to. The complainant asked for the employee's badge number. The named employee reported to OPA that he provided his badge number and his name. The complainant called back to 911 to report that his car was stolen. Eventually a 911 supervisor was able to tell the complainant that his car had been towed for being parked illegally in a bus zone.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged that the named employee was rude and unprofessional in telling the complainant he was too busy with other calls. The complainant also alleged that the named employee gestured with his middle finger toward him as he drove away.

INVESTIGATION

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Review of the complaint voicemail
2. Interview of SPD employees
3. Review of Seattle Parking Infraction issued

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

Based on the investigation, the totality of circumstances must be considered when determining if the standard of professionalism/courtesy was satisfied. Department employees must strive to be courteous. The complainant was understandably upset because he believed that his car had been stolen and felt that the named employee had been discourteous. The named employee was busy given the high number of waiting 911 calls, including a shooting, but stopped to see if he could assist the complainant. The named employee suspected that the complainant's car had been towed due to being illegally parked and informed the complainant of this possibility. The named employee stated that the complainant might have mistaken his brevity for rudeness. The named employee emphatically denied the allegation that he "flipped off" the complainant.

FINDINGS

Named Employee #1

There was insufficient evidence to either substantiate or refute the allegation of rudeness; therefore a finding of **Not Sustained** (Inconclusive) was issued for *Professionalism/Courtesy*.

NOTE: The Seattle Police Department Manual policies cited for the allegation(s) made for this OPA Investigation are policies that were in effect during the time of the incident. The issued date of the policy is listed.