



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2014-0680

Issued Date: 05/27/2015

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 5.100 (II.A.4.b.2) Duty Officer Responsibilities – Call 911 for an officer to be dispatched if evidence collection is necessary (Policy that was issued prior to 04/01/15)
OPA Finding	Not Sustained (Training Referral)
Final Discipline	N/A

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The complainant possessed several firearms that he wished to surrender. He called a SPD Precinct to say that he would bring in the firearms in that day but was told by the named employee that he could not do so and he ended the call. The complainant called a different SPD Precinct and was told by a different SPD employee that he would be able to bring in the firearms to surrender.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged that the named employee failed to take appropriate action when she told him over the phone that she could not take his surrendered firearms.

INVESTIGATION

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Review of the complaint email
2. Interview of the complainant
3. Search for and review of all relevant records and other evidence
4. Interviews of SPD employees

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

It seems likely that the conversation between the complainant and the named employee was cut short before the named employee was able to offer to call 911 and have an officer dispatched. This is what should have been done in this instance and may have avoided a complaint and the cost of the resulting OPA investigation. Additionally, since this incident, a new policy has been put into place that more clearly requires officers to accept guns that the public wishes to voluntarily surrender; "7.030 (5) Employee Accept Surrendered Firearms from the Public: Employees will accept, report and place into evidence firearms voluntarily surrendered by the public."

FINDINGS

Named Employee #1

Allegation #1

The evidence showed that the named employee could have been more forthcoming about the ability to accept surrendered firearms. As the policy has changed since this incident, it is recommended that the named employee receive training on this new policy and the procedures to be followed when receiving a surrendered firearm. Therefore a finding of **Not Sustained** (Training Referral) was issued for *Duty Officer Responsibilities – Call 911 for an officer to be dispatched if evidence collection is necessary*.

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.