



## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

### Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2015-0136

Issued Date: 08/13/2015

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 5.001 (10) Employees Shall Be Truthful and Complete In All Communications (Policy that was issued 07/16/14)
OPA Finding	<b>Not Sustained</b> (Unfounded)
Final Discipline	N/A

#### **INCIDENT SYNOPSIS**

The named employee was called in as a supervisor to review use of force incident that had occurred. The named employee needed to get witness statements and did not have a functioning Digital Audio Recorder so the other responding supervisors took the statements.

#### **COMPLAINT**

The complainant, a supervisor within the department, alleged that the named employee may have made a false statement regarding whether or not he had been trained in using a Digital Audio Recorder.

#### **INVESTIGATION**

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

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

## **ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION**

The investigation was focused on whether the named employee's communication in his Use of Force documentation was truthful and complete. The named employee explained to OPA that he had successfully completed the required training on the Digital Audio Recorder but had not utilized the device before this incident occurred. Rather than using a functioning recorder from another supervisor, the named employee deferred to the other supervisors to take the statements digitally. This is not the best practice when conducting a post use of force investigation. The named employee subsequently replaced the recorder after this incident occurred and before the OPA referral.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Named Employee #1**

#### **Allegation #1**

The weight of the evidence showed that the named employee was truthful and complete in his Use of Force documentation. Therefore a finding of **Not Sustained** (Unfounded) was issued for *Employees Shall Be Truthful and Complete In All Communications*.

*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.*