



## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

### Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2015-0973

Issued Date: 12/30/2015

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Named Employee #1</b> |   |
| Allegation #1            | <u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 12.050 Criminal Records (Policy that was issued 05/24/2011) |
| OPA Finding              | <b>Not Sustained</b> (Training Referral)  |
| Final Discipline         | N/A   |

#### **INCIDENT SYNOPSIS**

The named employee was working in her unit.

#### **COMPLAINT**

The complainant, an attorney for a former Seattle Police Department employee, alleged that the named employee inappropriately conducted a query of license plates of two associates of her client with no apparent legitimate law enforcement purpose. The former employee has filed a civil suit against the City of Seattle. The named employee is not named in the civil suit but the attorney claims the named employee's actions are in retaliation of the civil suit.

#### **INVESTIGATION**

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

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

## **ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION**

The named employee supervised an area that regularly queries license plates for abandoned or stolen vehicles. In her OPA interview, the named employee stated that she is not familiar with the two people whose plates she is alleged to have run. The named employee stated that she and the former employee are former neighbors and friends. The named employee stated that she had checked license plates of vehicles parked in front of her own home or her neighbor's homes if the vehicle appeared to be suspicious, stolen or was parked illegally.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Named Employee #1**

#### **Allegation #1**

The evidence showed that the named employee should receive specific training on the requirements and definitions contained in the current Policy 12.050 Criminal Records. In particular, she should be reminded that all personal and non-law enforcement use of information systems is to be strictly avoided. In the future, should she observe suspicious activity and/or vehicles in her neighborhood, she is to report it through the 911 system or by calling the non-emergency number for SPD. Therefore a finding of **Not Sustained** (Training Referral) was issued for *Criminal Records*.

*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.*