



## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

### Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number 2017OPA-0095

Issued Date: 08/09/2017

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 13.010 (2) Collisions Involving Department Vehicles: Officers Shall Document All Collisions Involving Department Employees (Policy that was issued August 1, 2015)
OPA Finding	<b>Sustained</b>
Allegation #2	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 13.010 (3) Collisions Involving Department Vehicles: A Sergeant Will Respond to Every Employee-Involved Collision (Policy that was issued August 1, 2015)
OPA Finding	<b>Allegation Removed</b>
Allegation #3	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 13.010 (13.010-TSK-1) Collisions Involving Department Vehicles: Department Employee Involved in a Collision (Policy that was issued August 1, 2015)
OPA Finding	<b>Sustained</b>
Final Discipline	No Discipline Imposed

#### **INCIDENT SYNOPSIS**

The Named Employee was operating a Department-owned vehicle which had a collision with another vehicle.

## **COMPLAINT**

The complainant, a supervisor within the Department, alleged that the Named Employee was involved in a collision and did not report this collision to a supervisor at that time as required.

## **INVESTIGATION**

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

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

## **ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION**

The preponderance of the evidence from this OPA investigation showed that the Named Employee was operating a Department-owned vehicle when that vehicle had a low speed collision with a van. The Named Employee told OPA he was aware of the collision when it happened and immediately stopped to inspect for any property damage. He saw no damage to the SPD vehicle. However, the front license plate and holder on the van were bent. The Named Employee also told OPA he did not document the collision in any way until after the owner of the van filed a claim for damage. The Named Employee was then ordered by his supervisor to complete a General Offense Report (GOR). SPD Policy 13.010(2) requires SPD employees to document all collisions involving Department Vehicles. Those collisions involving only property damage below a value of \$1,000 to any one vehicle are to be documented in a GOR.

Allegation #2 placed a duty on Sergeants to respond to every employee involved collision. It did not apply to the Named Employee, who was not a Sergeant and was the employee involved in the collision. For this reason, the allegation was removed.

SPD Policy 13.010 TSK-1 requires employees involved in a collision while operating a Department vehicle to perform the following tasks:

1. Checks for injuries and renders first aid.
2. Notifies a supervisor immediately.
3. Remains on the scene until relieved by an on-scene supervisor.
4. Completes a Statement (form 9.27) and a diagram of the scene on a Sketch Sheet (form 5.7.1)
5. Provides the completed forms to the investigating Traffic or Patrol officer.

The preponderance of the evidence from the OPA investigation showed that, while the Named Employee did check for injuries, he did not notify a supervisor at the time, nor complete a Statement and Diagram as required.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Named Employee #1**

#### Allegation #1

A preponderance of the evidence showed that the Named Employee did not document the collision at the time as required. Therefore a **Sustained** finding was issued for *Collisions Involving Department Vehicles: Officers Shall Document All Collisions Involving Department Employees*.

#### Allegation #2

This allegation was removed.

#### Allegation #3

A preponderance of the evidence showed that the Named Employee did not notify a supervisor of the collision at the time, nor complete a Statement and Diagram as required. Therefore a **Sustained** finding was issued for *Collisions Involving Department Vehicles: Department Employee Involved in a Collision*.

**Discipline Imposed:** No Discipline Imposed

*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.*