



September 11, 2019

Director Andrew Myerberg
Office of Police Accountability
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Myerberg,

Please see the below Management Action Recommendation response.

Case Numbers

- 2018OPA-0740 (2019COMP-0015)

Topic

- Taser Application

Summary

- It was alleged that employee violated policy when he used his taser during a use of force incident. OPA believed that the policy governing when officers could use tasers was so broad that virtually any Taser application could be deemed “objectively reasonable” and therefore within policy.

OPA Recommendation:

- Revise the second prong of the policy concerning when a Taser application is objectively reasonable; as it stands the language is too broad.

Action Taken:

- On August 16, 2019 revisions to the Seattle Police Department Policies and Procedures Manual Title 8 – Use of Force were approved by Federal Court Judge Robart. While the Seattle Police Department policy manual has always required the Use of Force to be reasonable, necessary and proportional, in response to the recommendation, language was added to 8.300-POL-2(4) that affirmatively states and requires that deployment of a taser under each prong outlined in policy “must be objectively reasonable, necessary and proportional.”

SPD Considers this Management Action:

- Fully Implemented

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Lesley Cordner, Assistant Chief,
Professional Standards Bureau