



Police Department

February 27, 2023

Director Gino Betts
Office of Police Accountability
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Betts,

Please see the below Management Recommendation response

Case Numbers: 2020OPA-0329 / 2022COMP-0007

Topic: Patrol Rifle Storage

Summary of the Management Action:

It was alleged that multiple SPD officers failed to properly store their patrol rifles during a riot in which police vehicles were looted and burned.

Original Recommendation:

Update the Rifle Program Operators Manual and Patrol Rifle Program training to address, at a minimum:

- The secure storage of patrol rifles in SPD vehicles and other fleet
- The appropriateness of deploying to demonstrations with patrol rifles
- Requirements to remain with vehicles containing patrol rifles or other firearms

Action Taken:

Since the mass demonstrations of 2020 SPD has made several changes to both policy and practices as it relates to crowd management. It is important to note that on the day of this demonstration, things escalated quickly and officers who had been prepared for regular patrol duties were dispatched to the downtown core to assist in crowd control. It was not feasible for those carrying patrol rifles to return to the precinct prior to responding to a priority situation.

SPD rifle officers now have lock boxes in their patrol vehicles which allows them a more secure option for storing their rifles. Current practices comply with Washington State Law regarding safe storage of firearms. SPD believes that we have and will continue to consider the appropriateness of who and how to deploy resources. As to the recommendation requiring officers to remain with their vehicles if they contain patrol rifles or other firearms, SPD respectfully declines. With the addition of the lock boxes in the vehicles, SPD believes that the risks associated with leaving the vehicle unattended, is outweighed when confronted with mass demonstrations, property destruction and looting.

SPD Considers this Management Action:

Partially Implemented

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ADZ", written over a light blue circular background.

Adrian Z. Diaz
Chief of Police