



February 8, 2022

Interim Chief Adrian Diaz
Seattle Police Department
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Chief Diaz:

Please see the below Management Action Recommendation.

Case Number

- 2020OPA-0583 & 2020OPA-0618 / 2022COMP-0002

Topic

- Bicycles as Impact Weapons

Summary

- Multiple complainants alleged that officers used excessive force, specifically their bicycles, to strike and move demonstrators at two demonstrations in September 2020.

Analysis

- Dispersal orders were given at these events and officers were instructed to move the crowds.
- Some officers used their bicycles to strike demonstrators. In some cases, this was done by raising up the front tire or pushing the front tire forward into the backs or legs of demonstrators (“tire bump”). These tactics were used on demonstrators who linked arms and walked backwards, as well as against individual demonstrators who were walking forward, but at a slower pace.
- The tire bump is trained as a type of *de minimis* force and is not designed to cause pain; however, pushes and strikes with bicycles constitute higher levels of force.
- SPD [Policy 8.400-POL-1](#) requires that officers report all uses of force except *de minimis* force.
- OPA found that the vast majority of the bicycle pushes did not violate policy. However, OPA recognizes the ad hoc nature of these tactics and recommends that SPD training and policy be altered to provide guidelines for when they constitute reportable force and by whom.
- From its ongoing discussions with SPD crowd management instructors and observation of the 2021 curriculum, OPA notes that some of the concerns regarding training have been addressed.

Recommendation(s)

- Work with SPD bicycle and crowd management experts to outline the allowed method and scope of bicycle techniques as uses of force, if any.
- Expand 8.300-POL-3 to specifically require that officers who use variations of trained bicycle techniques in untrained manners resulting in greater than *de minimis* force must individually report the force in BlueTeam. This should be required even when an incident commander ordered the crowd control and dispersal.
- Engage with community stakeholders and accountability system partners for policy development.
- Include the results of this evaluation in future bicycle crowd control trainings and instruct officers on the proper use of these tactics.



Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Gráinne Perkins

Gráinne Perkins
Interim Director, Office of Police Accountability