



January 3, 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-0583 & 2020OPA-0618 / 2022COMP-0002

Topic: Bicycles as Impact Weapons

Summary of the Management Action:

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

Original Recommendation:

- Work with SPD bicycle and crowd management experts to outline the allowed method and scope of bicycle techniques to 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 Blue Team. This should be required even when an incident commander ordered the crowd control and dispersal.
- Engage with community stake holders 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.

Action Taken:

- Following the widespread protests of 2020, SPD participated in the Sentinel Event Reviews that were conducted by the Seattle Inspector General. Over the course of several months, SPD, Community Members and Accountability Partners met to identify root causes of critical incidents that occurred during the 2020 protests. These meetings allowed SPD to hear from community members and accountability partners and provided valuable information that was used in the annual revisions to Use of Force Policies.
- In the most recent revisions to Title 8, language that was under policy 8.500-POL-6 has been moved to 8.400 Pol-6 Use of Force – Crowd Management, Intervention, and control. This policy applies to the review of the investigation of uses of force that occur during the course of crowd management, intervention, or crowd dispersal. The following language has been added to this section:
 - *“Exception: If a sworn employee uses force that deviates from training, or what was directed by the commander, the sworn employee who used the force must report the force using established use of force reporting and investigation protocols. The level of force reporting will be based on the nature of the force used and any injury sustained.”*



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- The Bicycle Training curriculum has been revised to include a significant portion of training to address the issues that were identified through the sentinel event report and in discussion with prior OPA Director Myerberg.

SPD Considers this Management Action:

Completed

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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

Adrian Z. Diaz
Chief of Police