



July 29, 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-0753 / 2022COMP-0014

Topic

- Vehicle-to-Vehicle Contact

Summary

- OPA alleged that the named employees may have failed to report vehicle-to-vehicle contact which may have amounted to a collision.

Analysis

- Officers were serving a search warrant at a residence. The supervising sergeant ordered officers to use a patrol vehicle to block the suspect's vehicle from leaving. An officer made vehicle-to-vehicle contact with the back of the suspect's car. The officers on scene discussed how the contact caused the suspect's bumper to "flex."
- Per [SPD Manual 8.300-POL-5 #4](#), "using a police vehicle for containment is not reported as a use of force."
- [SPD Manual 8.050](#) defines vehicle-to-vehicle contact as "contact between vehicles designed to guide or prevent movement of a vehicle, but without significant impact (ramming) and not reasonably likely to cause injury."
- There is ambiguity in SPD policy of what distinguishes a vehicle-to-vehicle collision versus a use of force.

Recommendation(s)

- Consider reconciling sections of SPD Manual Title 13 and 8 to eliminate ambiguity in the vehicle-to-vehicle context of what constitutes a reportable collision as opposed to a use of force, specifically with respect to de minimis contact during approved containment.

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