



November 18, 2021

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

- 2021OPA-0165 & 2021OPA-0171 / 2021COMP-0042

Topic

- Traffic Section Mask Compliance

Summary

- The complainants alleged the named employee (NE) failed to wear a face mask during multiple traffic stops.

Analysis

- These complaints involve the same SPD employee, facts, and allegations as OPA's previous [MAR](#) issued on 9/21/2021.
- The NE was assigned to a motorcycle when he conducted traffic stops and investigated collisions. He did not wear a face mask during these incidents.
- At the time of these incidents, all officers were required to comply with a face mask mandate.
- The NE told OPA he does not wear a face mask when riding his motorcycle because it causes his protective glasses to fog up. He also stated he was not trained to remove his helmet while conducting traffic stops (to put on a face mask) and that doing so could pose a safety risk.
- OPA does not believe that removing a helmet to put on a face mask is impractical or unsafe. If the Traffic Section disagrees with OPA, it should formally seek an exemption in writing.

Recommendation(s)

- Consult the Traffic Section regarding this matter. If an exemption is sought, OPA asks SPD to provide it with both the written request for an exemption and SPD's response to the request.
 - If an exemption is granted, make the terms of the exemption public (e.g., on the SPD blotter), and train all Traffic officers on the specifics of the exemption.
 - If an exemption not granted, instruct all Traffic officers, including those on motorcycles, to put on face masks prior to contacting members of the public.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AM".

Andrew Myerberg
Director, Office of Police Accountability