



January 16, 2024

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: 2022OPA-0042 / 2022COMP-0015

Topic: Deadly Force Clarification

Summary of the Management Action:

The Named Employee used deadly force on a community member armed with an edged weapon in defense of another police officer. The NE used deadly force after the community member fatally stabbed a police dog (K-9) deployed to apprehend the community member.

Original Recommendation:

- Provide a department-wide eDirective making it clear officers may only use deadly force to defend a human being.
- Develop a training module as recommended by FIT and FRB.
- Consider amending SPD Policy 8.200-POL-4 to clarify that “or others” refers to human beings, not animals or property.

Action Taken:

Per SPD Interim Policy 16.300-POL-6 “Canine Officers will coordinate with on-scene officers and develop plans as to how they will safely track (i.e., cover officer, shutting down vehicle traffic, etc.) as well as an arrest plan if a subject is located unless exigent circumstances exist.” Additionally, Canine officers routinely provide officers supporting them with information about how to work effectively with the handler and the dogs and an admonishment that it is against policy to use deadly force on a person to protect the life of the K-9.

Following this incident an OIS Force Review Board was convened. One of the recommendations they made was to develop a training module to address this issue. The Training Unit has completed the curriculum, and the module is currently in the Video Unit for production. It is scheduled for distribution in the first quarter of 2024.

SPD Considers this Management Action:

Fully Implemented

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Adrian Diaz
Chief of Police