



September 20, 2023

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

- 2023OPA-0058 / 2023COMP-0007

Topic

- Vehicle Tactics and Joint Taskforce Agreements

Summary

- It was alleged that the named employee used their vehicle to pin a suspect's vehicle while acting as a United States Marshals Task Force member operating in Snohomish County.

Analysis

- Per Chief Diaz's email dated January 13, 2022, vehicle "pinning is prohibited for patrol [unless]...officers have been practically trained in the tactic."
- It was unclear whether the named employee's prior training from SPD and the U.S. Marshals qualified.
- Separately, the named employee expressed uncertainty about which agency's policies control task force operations. OPA was told that standard practice was for a "guest" agency to act consistent with the "home" agency's policies for joint task force operations in the "home" agency's jurisdiction.
- The governing Memorandum of Understanding states, "Direction and coordination of the [task force] shall be the responsibility of the USMS district chief deputy. Administrative matters which are internal to the participating agencies remain the responsibility of the respective agencies. Furthermore, each agency retains responsibility for the conduct of its personnel." (Page 2)

Recommendation(s)

- SPD should identify qualifying courses that meet the practical training requirements outlined in Chief Diaz's January 13, 2022, email.
- SPD should consider a process to inventory which officers have qualifying practical training and permit officers to petition for the qualification of prior training.
- SPD should consider whether officers have qualifying training when selecting officers for task force assignments.
- While the MOU is clear, SPD should ensure its task force members understand they are subject to SPD policies regardless of where the task force operation takes place.

I appreciate your consideration, and I look forward to your response.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gino Betts, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gino Betts, Jr.
Director, Office of Police Accountability