



4/30/2026

Director Bonnie Glenn
Office of Police Accountability
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Glenn,

Please see the Management Recommendation response below:

Case Numbers: 2023OPA-0552 / 2025COMP-0004

Topic: Executing Search Warrants and Money Handling

Summary of the Management Action:

- The named employees found \$6,000 cash while executing a search warrant at the Complainant's residence. The money was counted, photographed, and packaged in a paper bag during the search. The money was then intentionally left at the Complainant's residence following the search.
- The Complainant alleged the named employees either stole or lost the \$6,000.

Original Recommendation:

- SPD should revise SPD Policy 7.010 to provide clearer guidance for circumstances in which officers should collect high value property or cash for community caretaking.
- SPD should evaluate requiring plain clothes officers to wear body cameras in certain circumstances, such as while executing a search warrant.

Action Taken:

As every such situation is unique and highly fact-dependent, establishing a list of when to collect non-evidentiary property and when not to do so would ultimately be inexhaustive, and would serve to remove discretion on the part of the officer. Thus, we are of the opinion that when determining to collect high-value items for safekeeping, it is better addressed through officers on scene in consultation with supervisors. SPD has evaluated requiring plain clothes officer to wear body worn cameras when conducting operations and have determined that this is not feasible. As it stands, many search warrant operations are in part already captured on body worn video by either Patrol or follow-up units. In the event of collecting (for safekeeping or otherwise), property is documented on the Return of Service, in officer statements, photographs, etc. Officers/detectives in plainclothes will make an effort to have valuables in excess of \$1000 accounted for in front of uniformed officers equipped with body worn video.

SPD Considers this Management Action:

Respectfully Declined

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Shon F. Barnes Ph.D.
Chief of Police
Seattle Police Department