e

Seattle
Office of Police
Accountability

CLOSED CASE SUMMARY

ISSUED DATE: APRIL 1, 2025

FROM: INTERIM DIRECTOR BONNIE GLENN
OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

CASE NUMBER: 2024OPA-0469

Allegations of Misconduct & Director's Findings

Named Employee #1

Allegation(s):		Director's Findings
# 1	11.020 – Transportation of Detainees, 11.020-POL-8. Officers Will Use the In-Car Video System and Body-Worn Video to Record Transports and Escorts	Not Sustained - Training Referral

This Closed Case Summary (CCS) represents the opinion of the OPA Director regarding the misconduct alleged and therefore sections are written in the first person.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Following Community Member #1's (CM#1) release from a hospital, he was transported to the King County Jail (KCJ) via American Medical Response (AMR), accompanied by Named Employee #1 (NE#1). The Complainant, a lieutenant, alleged that NE#1 failed to activate his body-worn video (BWV) during the transport.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

On March 25, 2025, the Office of Inspector General certified OPA's investigation as thorough, timely, and objective.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION:

On December 26, 2024, the Complainant submitted an OPA complaint, stating that on November 1, 2024, CM#1 was taken to a hospital for medical care following a use-of-force incident. The Complainant wrote that NE#1 requested assistance from AMR to transport CM#1 to the KCJ after CM#1 was released from the hospital. The Complainant alleged that NE#1 failed to activate his BWV while accompanying CM#1 in the back of the AMR vehicle during the transport.

OPA investigated the complaint by reviewing the computer-aided dispatch call report and supplement report. OPA also interviewed NE#1.

NE#1's supplement report stated that he responded to a hospital to guard CM#1, who was later released. NE#1 wrote that he requested AMR to transport CM#1 to KCJ. NE#1 wrote that he accompanied CM#1 in the back of the AMR vehicle during the transport but did not discuss the incident with him.

On February 26, 2025, OPA interviewed NE#1. NE#1 said he was either unaware of his BWV not being activated or had forgotten to activate it on during the transport. NE#1 believed health privacy laws prohibited BWV activation both in

the hospital and within the AMR vehicle. NE#1 acknowledged that he is now aware of the requirement to activate his BWV during AMR transport.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Named Employee #1 – Allegation #1
11.020 – Transportation of Detainees, 11.020-POL-8. Officers Will Use the In-Car Video System and Body-Worn Video to Record Transports and Escorts

The Complainant alleged that NE#1 failed to activate his BWV during the transport.

Officers will use the ICV system and BWV to record transports and escorts. SPD Policy 11.020-POL-8. Officers will activate ICV and BWV while following or riding in ambulances or medic units that are transporting detainees. *Id.*

OPA could not locate NE#1's BWV footage of the AMR transport. NE#1 acknowledged that his BWV was not activated, attributing this oversight to either a lack of awareness or forgetfulness. He also noted that health privacy laws prohibited BWV activation in the hospital and believed these laws extended to the AMR vehicle as well. Given NE#1's misunderstanding regarding the requirement for BWV activation during a medical transport and the absence of any BWV policy violation in his record, OPA recommends that NE#1 undergo retraining and counseling. NE#1 is now on notice that any future policy violation related to BWV activation during a medical transport may result in a sustained finding.

Accordingly, OPA recommends this allegation be Not Sustained – Training Referral.

- **Training Referral:** NE#1's chain of command should discuss OPA's findings with him, review SPD Policy 11.020-POL-8 with him, and provide any other retraining and counseling it deems necessary. Any retraining and counseling should be documented and maintained in Blue Team.

Recommended Finding: **Not Sustained – Training Referral**