



CLOSED CASE SUMMARY

ISSUED DATE: JULY 9, 2025

FROM: INTERIM DEPUTY DIRECTOR NELSON R. LEESE (ON BEHALF OF INTERIM DIRECTOR BONNIE GLENN)
OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

CASE NUMBER: 2025OPA-0035

Allegations of Misconduct & Director's Findings

Named Employee #1

Allegation(s):		Director's Findings
# 1	5.140 – Bias-Free Policing, 5.140-POL-2. Officers Will Not Engage in Bias-Based Policing	Not Sustained - Unfounded (Expedited)

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:

Named Employee #1 (NE#1), a parking enforcement officer, issued a parking citation to the Complainant. The Complainant alleged that NE#1 issued the citation due to bias against Chinese people.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

This case was approved for Expedited Investigation. That means OPA, with the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) agreement, believed it could issue a recommended finding based solely on its intake investigation without interviewing the named employee. As such, OPA did not interview the named employee in this case.

On March 7, 2025, OIG certified OPA's investigation as thorough, timely, and objective.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION:

OPA investigated the complaint by reviewing the citation documentation and NE#1's citation log. The Complainant did not respond to OPA's requests for an interview.

The citation issued to the Complainant was dated February 1, 2025, at 2:55 PM, and indicated a violation of Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 11.72.057.¹ The citation included photographs of the Complainant's vehicle, which was parked beside a yellow-painted curb. The vehicle appeared to be unoccupied. An orange sign in front of the vehicle on the sidewalk read, "COMMERCIAL OR PERMIT VEHICLE LOAD ONLY 7 AM – 8 PM EXCEPT SUN – HOL." The citation further stated, "NO VALID COMMERCIAL LOAD PERMIT VISIBLE. NO COMMERCIAL LOGO VISIBLE."

¹ SMC 11.72.057 states, "No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle other than a commercial vehicle or a vehicle displaying a valid commercial loading permit in a commercial load zone during the hours the zone restriction is in effect; provided, that commercial load zone restrictions are not effective on Sundays or parking holidays, except where otherwise indicated by signposting for the load zone."



NE#1's citation log dated February 1, 2025, recorded 19 citations issued in the area where the Complainant was cited. Before the Complainant's citation, NE#1 issued citations to 12 vehicles. NE#1 issued citations to six vehicles following the Complainant's citation. During this period, NE#1 issued four additional citations for violations of SMC 11.72.057.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Named Employee #1 – Allegation #1

5.140 – Bias-Free Policing, 5.140-POL-2. Officers Will Not Engage in Bias-Based Policing

The Complainant alleged that NE#1 issued the citation due to bias against Chinese people.

Biased policing means the different treatment of any person by officers motivated by any characteristic of protected classes under state, federal, and local laws, as well as other discernible personal characteristics of an individual. SPD Policy 5.140-POL. It includes different treatment based on race and national origin. *See id.* Officers are forbidden from making decisions or taking actions influenced by bias and expressing prejudice or derogatory comments concerning discernible personal characteristics. *See* SPD Policy 5.140-POL-2.

The citation showed that the Complainant had parked his vehicle beside a zone designated for commercial vehicles. The Complainant's vehicle was neither a commercial vehicle nor displayed a valid commercial loading permit. It was parked during the hours specified on the sign. February 1, 2025, fell on a Saturday and was not a holiday, rendering the exemptions outlined in the sign inapplicable to the Complainant's case. Moreover, NE#1's citation log showed numerous citations issued before and after the Complainant's citation. Overall, OPA found no evidence supporting the Complainant's interpretation of mistreatment based on race or national origin.

Accordingly, OPA recommends that this allegation be Not Sustained – Unfounded (Expedited).

Recommended Finding: **Not Sustained – Unfounded (Expedited)**