



CLOSED CASE SUMMARY

ISSUED DATE: JUNE 10, 2025

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

CASE NUMBER: 2025OPA-0044

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:

The Complainant alleged that Named Employee #1 (NE#1), a parking enforcement officer, issued him a parking infraction based on his religion.

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 February 21, 2025, OIG certified OPA's investigation as thorough, timely, and objective.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION:

OPA investigated the complaint by reviewing the infraction documentation, text messages, and a citation log. OPA also interviewed the Complainant.

Infraction documentation showed that on January 8, 2025, NE#1 cited the Complainant for failing to pay for parking in violation of Seattle Municipal Code 11.76.015 ("No person shall stop, stand, or permit a vehicle within the person's control to be parked on any blockface, or portions thereof, controlled by pay-to-park signage without properly making payment for parking under Section 11.76.005"). NE#1 noted that the Complainant parked his vehicle between pay-to-park signs, which required payment between 8 AM and 8 PM, Monday through Saturday. NE#1 also noted the absence of valid proof of payment. NE#1 photographed the vehicle.



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 him a parking infraction based on his religion.

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 religion. *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.

This allegation is unfounded. The reason for the infraction—the Complainant’s failure to pay for parking—was appropriately documented. NE#1’s citation log also showed that NE#1 issued multiple infractions in that area—many of which pertained to the same violation. OPA found no evidence supporting the Complainant’s interpretation of religion-based mistreatment.

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

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