



CLOSED CASE SUMMARY

ISSUED DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

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

CASE NUMBER: 2025OPA-0117

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, cited the Complainant for parking on a “planting strip.” The Complainant alleged that NE#1 engaged in bias-based policing by failing to contact him before issuing the citation and by citing him instead of another individual who had unlawfully parked his vehicle.

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 May 8, 2025, OIG certified OPA's investigation as thorough, timely, and objective.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION:

OPA's investigation included reviewing the OPA complaint, infraction packet, photographs, and interview statements from the Complainant. Based on these records, OPA finds the following has occurred.

On April 2, 2025, NE#1 cited the Complainant for a planting strip parking violation pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 11.72.320.¹ The infraction included a public note that read, “NO PARKING ON PLANTING STRIP BETWEEN SIDEWALK AND CONSTRUCTED CURB. PICTURE TAKEN.” It also included a private note that read, “VEHICLE FULLY PARKED ON PLANTING STRIP. PLANTING STRIP PAVED.” Photographs of the Complainant's vehicle showed it parked on a planting strip.

¹ SMC 11.72.320 states, “No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle on a planting strip unless the vehicle bears a special placard or license plate issued under RCW Chapter 46.19.”



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 engaged in bias-based policing.

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. *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.

OPA found no evidence indicating bias-based policing. The infraction packet, including photographs, showed the Complainant's vehicle unlawfully parked on a planting strip, which the Complainant acknowledged. Although the Complainant stated that NE#1 did not cite another vehicle that he claimed was unlawfully parked, the circumstances of that decision-making process were unclear. Nevertheless, the Complainant acknowledged that a similarly situated vehicle parked behind him was also cited, undermining the allegation that NE#1 had engaged in bias-based policing.

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

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