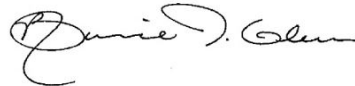


**Issued Date:** February 26, 2026

**From:** Director Bonnie Glenn  
Office of Police Accountability



**Case Number: 2025OPA-0149**

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## **Allegations of Misconduct & Director's Findings**

### **Named Employee #1**

1. **Allegation #1: 5.001 - Standards and Duties POL-2. Employees Must Adhere to Laws, City Policy, and Department Policy**  
**Finding:** Sustained
  2. **Allegation #2: 5.001 - Standards and Duties, 5.001-POL 10. Employees Will Strive to be Professional**  
**Finding:** Sustained
- **Proposed Discipline: 108 Hours (12 Days) to 135 Hours (15 Days) Suspension**
    - **Imposed Discipline: 135 Hours (15 Days) Suspension**
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**This Closed Case Summary (CCS) represents the opinion of the OPA Director regarding the misconduct alleged and therefore sections may be written in the first person.**

### **Executive Summary:**

On April 25, 2025, the Washington State Patrol (WSP) and Bonney Lake Police Department (BLPD) responded to several incidents involving Named Employee #1 (NE#1). WSP recommended NE#1 be charged with fourth-degree domestic violence (DV) assault when he allegedly assaulted his girlfriend, Community Member #1 (CM#1); reckless endangerment for allegedly operating a vehicle while intoxicated, with CM#1 as a passenger; and hit and run for allegedly striking another vehicle and then fleeing the scene. BLPD found NE#1's vehicle parked near CM#1's residence. The vehicle partially blocked a driveway, had damage on its front and passenger side, and contained open alcohol containers. OPA investigated whether NE#1's conduct constituted criminal acts and undermined public trust in SPD and himself.

### **Administrative Note:**

On December 9, 2025, the Office of Inspector General certified OPA's investigation as thorough, timely, and objective.

## **Summary of the Investigation:**

OPA investigated this incident by reviewing the OPA complaint, WSP incident report, BLPD incident report, BLPD body-worn video (BWV), CAD Incident Inquiry, photographs, 911 audio recordings, and Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PCPAO) declination notice. OPA also interviewed NE#1, while CM#1 declined OPA's request for an interview.

### **A. OPA Complaint**

On April 25, 2025, the Complainant, an SPD captain, submitted an OPA complaint via Blue Team, documenting several incidents involving NE#1 that prompted a response from BLPD and WSP. According to the OPA complaint, on April 25, 2025, BLPD officers found a suspicious vehicle, registered to NE#1, blocking the driveway between two homes. The vehicle sustained damage and contained open alcohol containers. The vehicle was associated with a reckless driving incident that occurred earlier that day, according to WSP. CM#1 reported to WSP that she was a passenger in the vehicle when NE#1 assaulted her. WSP also suspected that NE#1 was involved in a hit-and-run incident.

### **B. Washington State Patrol Incident Report**

WSP Trooper #1 documented the following in an incident report:

On April 25, 2025, at around 3:53 AM, WSP communications broadcasted an erratic vehicle associated with a DV incident. When WSP Trooper #1 was unable to locate the vehicle, he interviewed CM#1 at a police station. CM#1 reported that she was with NE#1, whom she described as her friend, while attempting to visit a hospital to check on another friend involved in a vehicular collision. CM#1 said NE#1 was intoxicated and drove erratically.<sup>1</sup> CM#1 said NE#1 repeatedly entered different alleyways, provided excuses for not taking her to the hospital, and insisted that they needed to resolve their issues. CM#1 then admitted to being in an unofficial dating relationship with NE#1. CM#1 alleged that NE#1 grabbed her wrists, pushed her, and threw her head back inside the vehicle. CM#1 said she was not wearing a seatbelt when he drove erratically and slammed on the brakes, causing her head to strike the dashboard. CM#1 declined a medical evaluation and refused to prepare a victim statement. WSP Trooper #1 used a flashlight to examine CM#1 but found no marks, scratches, or bruises. CM#1 said she left her purse inside NE#1's vehicle. WSP Trooper #1 gave CM#1 a courtesy ride to her home in Bonney Lake. At 7:55 PM, WSP Trooper #1 contacted CM#1 and asked whether she wanted her purse returned from NE#1's vehicle, but she said she had already retrieved it and that it had never been in NE#1's vehicle.

WSP Trooper #1 became aware of a hit-and-run incident occurring at around 4:32 AM. The description of the fleeing vehicle matched that of NE#1's vehicle. Another WSP trooper later observed the damage on NE#1's vehicle and found it to be consistent with the damage on the victim's vehicle. Based on this account, WSP Trooper #1 recommended charges against NE#1 for fourth-degree DV assault, reckless endangerment, and hit and run attended.

### **C. Bonney Lake Police Department Incident Report**

BLPD Officer #1 documented the following in an incident report:

On April 25, 2025, at around 7:30 AM, BLPD Officer #1 and another BLPD officer responded to a suspicious vehicle that was parked, had significant damage on the front and passenger side, had its emergency lights activated, was locked, and was partially blocking a driveway. BLPD Officer #1 observed open and unopened alcohol containers inside the vehicle. The vehicle's description matched that of a reckless vehicle that had been observed at around 5:51 AM. A reporting party observed the reckless vehicle speeding, changing lanes erratically, and nearly striking the reporting party's vehicle. Due to the vehicle blocking a driveway and concerns that NE#1 might return while impaired, BLPD Officer #1 had the vehicle towed. BLPD Officer #1 learned that NE#1 might have been inside a nearby residence, although this could not be confirmed.

BLPD's BWV and photographs were consistent with the BLPD incident report. They showed damage on the front and passenger side of NE#1's vehicle. They also showed open and unopened alcohol containers inside the vehicle.

#### **D. Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office Declination Notice**

On July 10, 2025, a PCPAO deputy prosecuting attorney declined to file a fourth-degree DV assault charge against NE#1, writing, "In this case, I cannot prove that an assault occurred – there is no injury, what appears to be inconsistent statements from the victim, no statements from the suspect[,] and no corroboration of the event. Without more evidence that is admissible, I am unable to proceed."

#### **E. OPA Interview**

On October 15, 2025, OPA interviewed NE#1. He acknowledged being in an intimate relationship with CM#1 but denied being her boyfriend. He admitted to drinking alcohol that night but was unable to recall the amount he drank. He said he did not drink with CM#1, as CM#1 and her friend drank together elsewhere before he picked CM#1 up to take her home. He also admitted to driving afterward but acknowledged that he should not have done so. He said he and CM#1 argued because he wanted to return home after a long night, while CM#1 wanted to locate her friend who had been involved in a vehicular collision and hospitalized. He said he was unable to recall much from the drive. When OPA asked about the alleged assault, he replied that he was unable to recall any physical altercation. He did not believe that CM#1 struck her head on the dashboard. He said CM#1 exited his vehicle when he stopped near a police station. He said CM#1 contacted him later that morning, requesting his presence at her residence, so he spent the night there. He confirmed that he operated the vehicle parked in front of CM#1's residence that was later discovered by BLPD. He said he was asleep inside CM#1's residence at the time the BLPD officers were investigating the vehicle. He maintained that he was unaware of their presence because he was asleep.

When OPA asked about the alleged hit and run, NE#1 replied that he was unable to recall striking anything or being involved in a collision, yet he acknowledged that he should not have been driving due to his intoxication. He said he was unable to recall what caused the damage to his vehicle. He was unable to explain WSP's determination that the damage to his vehicle was consistent with the damage to the victim's vehicle. He assumed that the damage occurred while he was driving. He said he was unable to recall whether he drank any of the open alcohol containers in his vehicle. He believed CM#1 removed the alcohol from her friend's vehicle and placed it in his vehicle to protect her friend from the consequences of drunk driving. He said he was unaware of the reason for being

placed on administrative leave the following day until he received the OPA notification. He said he did not report the incident to his supervisor because he was unaware of the need to report anything, especially since he was unaware of another agency investigating him. He expressed remorse regarding the incident and described personal difficulties he was experiencing at the time.

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## **Analysis and Conclusions:**

### **Named Employee #1 – Allegation #1**

#### **5.001 – Standards and Duties, 5.001-POL-2. Employees Must Adhere to Laws, City Policy, and Department Policy**

NE#1 allegedly committed fourth-degree DV assault, reckless endangerment, and hit and run.

Employees must adhere to laws, city policy, and department policy. SPD Policy 5.001-POL-2. Under the Seattle Police Officers' Guild Collective Bargaining Agreement (SPOG CBA), for termination cases where "the alleged offense is stigmatizing to a law enforcement officer," an "elevated standard of review (i.e. – more than preponderance of the evidence)" applies. SPOG CBA article 3.1.

A person is guilty of assault in the fourth degree if, under circumstances not amounting to assault in the first, second, or third degree, or custodial assault, he or she assaults another. RCW 9A.36.041(1). OPA finds insufficient evidence to prove that NE#1 assaulted CM#1, even when evaluating the evidence under the elevated standard of review ("more than preponderance of the evidence"), rather than the more stringent beyond a reasonable doubt standard governing criminal investigations. CM#1 was reportedly intoxicated during the alleged assault but showed no visible marks, scratches, or bruises when WSP Trooper #1 evaluated her for injuries. Although CM#1 alleged multiples instances of assault, she declined a medical evaluation for unknown reasons. CM#1's credibility was also called into question. She told WSP Trooper #1 that NE#1 was her friend, only to later acknowledge that they were in an unofficial dating relationship. She also told WSP Trooper #1 that her purse was in NE#1's vehicle before contradicting herself by claiming it had never been in his vehicle. Finally, she refused to prepare a victim statement and declined an OPA interview, hindering OPA's ability to further investigate her assault allegation. NE#1 also claimed that he was unable to recall any physical altercation occurring inside his vehicle. Thus, the only evidence of the alleged assault was contained in WSP Trooper #1's incident report. Without more, OPA cannot prove fourth-degree DV assault. Accordingly, OPA recommends that the allegation against NE#1 for committing fourth-degree DV assault be Not Sustained – Inconclusive.

A person is guilty of reckless endangerment when he or she recklessly engages in conduct not amounting to drive-by shooting but that creates a substantial risk of death or serious physical injury to another person. RCW 9A.36.050(1). OPA finds sufficient evidence to show that NE#1 committed reckless endangerment under the elevated standard of review. Both NE#1's and CM#1's accounts indicated that CM#1 was a passenger while NE#1 operated a vehicle. NE#1 also admitted to operating his vehicle while intoxicated. Additionally, OPA found strong evidence indicating a high level of intoxication. First, multiple community members called 911 to report an erratic driver who ran a red light, crossed a median, accelerated rapidly, and swerved back and forth. Second, NE#1 repeatedly claimed that he was unable to recall much of what occurred while he drove. He even claimed to have been unaware of striking another vehicle. Third, NE#1 parked his vehicle in a way that partially blocked two driveways, with the emergency lights activated. His vehicle displayed

extensive damage on its front and passenger side, and the center console contained open alcohol containers. NE#1's intoxication while driving erratically posed a "substantial risk of death or serious physical injury to" CM#1, his passenger. Accordingly, OPA recommends that the allegation against NE#1 for committing reckless endangerment be Sustained.

The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting only in damage to a vehicle which is driven or attended by any person or damage to other property must move the vehicle as soon as possible off the roadway or freeway main lanes, shoulders, medians, and adjacent areas to a location on an exit ramp shoulder, the frontage road, the nearest suitable cross street, or other suitable location. RCW 46.52.020(2)(a). The driver shall, among other obligations, remain at the suitable location until he or she has given his or her name, address, insurance company, insurance policy number, and vehicle license number. See RCW 46.52.020(2)(a) and (3). A driver failing to stop or comply with any of these requirements shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. See RCW 46.52.020(5). OPA finds sufficient evidence to prove that NE#1 committed hit and run under the elevated standard of review. Although NE#1 claimed that he could not recall striking anything or the cause of the damage to his vehicle, the physical evidence and the victim's account indicated a hit and run. The victim identified NE#1's vehicle. The damage on the front and passenger side of NE#1's vehicle was clearly visible, extensive, and "fresh," as one BLPD officer commented. NE#1 was unable to counter WSP's determination that the damage to his vehicle was consistent with the damage to the victim's vehicle. There was no evidence to suggest that the damage occurred prior to his driving that evening. In fact, NE#1 told OPA that he assumed the damage occurred while he was driving. NE#1 did not remain at the collision scene and failed to provide information to the other driver, as RCW 46.52.020 required. Instead, NE#1 left the scene for whatever reason, parked his vehicle in front of CM#1's residence, and fell asleep inside her residence. Accordingly, OPA recommends that the allegation against NE#1 for committing hit and run be Sustained.

Recommended Finding: **Sustained**

## **Named Employee #1 – Allegation #2**

### **5.001 – Standards and Duties, 5.001-POL-10. Employees Will Strive to be Professional**

NE#1 allegedly undermined public trust in SPD and himself.

SPD employees must "strive to be professional." SPD Policy 5.001-POL-10. Further, "employees may not engage in behavior that undermines public trust in the Department, the officer, or other officers," whether on or off duty. *Id.*

OPA sustains this allegation. Based on the evidence provided, NE#1's conduct undermined public trust in SPD and himself. He operated a vehicle while intoxicated with a passenger present and ultimately struck another vehicle and fled the scene. His conduct also endangered public safety. His erratic driving was so severe that it generated multiple 911 calls. Observations of CM#1's driving—running a red light, crossing a median, accelerating rapidly, swerving erratically, and causing a collision—demonstrated an out-of-control driver showing reckless disregard for public safety. In fact, CM#1 felt compelled to exit NE#1's vehicle when he stopped due to his dangerous driving and other alleged conduct. Exacerbating the situation was NE#1's failure to report his conduct to either his supervisor or the appropriate law enforcement agency. He said he did not do so because he claimed that he was unaware of the need to report anything. OPA finds this reasoning unpersuasive. At the very least, NE#1 knew that he operated a vehicle while intoxicated, as he recalled arguing with CM#1 while driving. He also expressed remorse for driving while intoxicated. His claim that he was

unable to recall much else, including the amount he drank or causing a collision, reflected the extent of his intoxication. NE#1 was aware that something had occurred, whether it involved his drinking, driving, or dispute with CM#1, yet he failed to report anything. OPA is also concerned about NE#1's failure to report his belief that CM#1 removed alcohol from her friend's vehicle and placed it in his vehicle to protect her friend from the consequences of drunk driving. If true, NE#1 witnessed evidence tampering and did nothing about it. Overall, the overwhelming evidence showed that NE#1's conduct undermined public trust in SPD and himself.

Accordingly, OPA recommends that this allegation be Sustained.

Recommended Finding: **Sustained**

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**Footnote 1.** Multiple community members called 911 to report an erratic driver. They reported observing a vehicle possibly operated by an intoxicated person who ran a red light, crossed a median, accelerated rapidly, swerved back and forth, and caused a collision. They provided a vehicle description that matched that of NE#1's vehicle.