

Issued Date: October 21, 2025

From: Interim Deputy Director Nelson Leese (on behalf of Interim Director Bonnie Glenn)
Office of Police Accountability



Case Number: 2025OPA-0172

Allegations of Misconduct & Director's Findings

Named Employee #1

1. **Allegation #1:** 5.140 – Bias-Free Policing, 5.140-POL-2. Officers Will Not Engage in Bias-Based Policing

Finding: Not Sustained - Unfounded (Expedited)

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:

The Complainant, a motorcyclist, was involved in a collision with Community Member #1 (CM#1) and subsequently cited by Named Employee #1 (NE#1). The Complainant alleged that NE#1 was biased against him as a motorcyclist.

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 June 6, 2025, OIG certified OPA's investigation as thorough, timely, and objective.

Summary of the Investigation:

OPA's investigation included reviewing the OPA complaint, computer-aided dispatch call report, body-worn video, police traffic collision report, infraction, and interview statements from the Complainant. Based on these records, a preponderance of the evidence showed the following:

On April 23, 2025, NE#1 arrived at the scene of the collision, where the Complainant and CM#1, the other driver involved, were present. NE#1 interviewed CM#1 and the Complainant separately and then spoke with two witnesses who had observed the collision. CM#1 and the two witnesses consistently reported that the Complainant—attempting to overtake several stopped vehicles, including CM#1's, at a green-light intersection—drove his motorcycle in the bicycle lane on the right and struck CM#1's vehicle while trying to cut in front of CM#1, who was moving forward. The Complainant admitted to driving on the bicycle lane but denied responsibility for the collision. NE#1 issued a citation to the Complainant for violating Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 11.53.340. The citation noted that the bicycle lane was "not a legal lane of travel," as the road "only has 1 lane of travel in the [westbound] direction."

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 was biased against him as a motorcyclist.

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. Discernible characteristics include the "use of a motorcycle or motorcycle-related paraphernalia." 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 of bias. Rather, NE#1 interviewed both parties involved in the collision and two witnesses. The citation was based on those consistent accounts and the damage that NE#1 observed at the scene. The Complainant cited NE#1's comments about his possibly expired insurance and improperly mounted plate as evidence of bias. However, the Complainant clarified NE#1's misunderstanding about his insurance status. NE#1 also did not allude to an improperly mounted plate. He indicated that dispatch might have attached the wrong plate number to the Complainant's motorcycle. Neither of these comments indicated bias against the Complainant as a motorcyclist. The Complainant's citation was based on a violation of SMC 11.53.340.

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

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