

Issued Date: November 10, 2025

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

Case Number: 2025OPA-0196

Allegations of Misconduct & Director's Findings

Named Employee #1

Allegation #1: 8.200 – Using Force, 8.200-POL-1. Using Force: When Authorized

Finding: Not Sustained - Lawful and Proper (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:

Named Employee #1 (NE#1) and other SPD officers responded to a protest at Cal Anderson Park. The Complainant, who was present in the crowd, alleged NE#1 used unauthorized force by pushing them, causing them to fall.

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 23, 2025, OIG certified OPA's investigation as thorough, timely, and objective.

Summary of the Investigation:

OPA investigated this incident by reviewing the OPA complaint, computer-aided dispatch (CAD) call report, body-worn video (BWV), and incident report. Based on these records, a preponderance of the evidence showed the following:

On May 24, 2025, SPD officers, including NE#1, were conducting crowd control at Cal Anderson Park. NE#1 and multiple officers ordered the protesters to move back. NE#1 faced the Complainant, repeatedly ordered, "Please move back," and used his baton to guide them away. The Complainant complied with the order. NE#1 advised the protesters to watch their step. NE#1 then encountered Community Member #1 (CM#1), who defied NE#1's order by remaining still with their arms crossed. NE#1 repeated his order and then pressed his baton against CM#1's arms, causing them to move backward. The Complainant suddenly appeared behind CM#1 while on the ground. NE#1 pushed CM#1 again, causing them to bump into the Complainant. NE#1 shouted, "Hold" to his fellow officers. CM#1 helped the Complainant onto their feet, after which the Complainant walked away.

Analysis and Conclusions:

Named Employee #1 – Allegation #1

8.200 – Using Force, 8.200-POL-1. Using Force: When Authorized

The Complainant alleged that NE#1 used unauthorized force by pushing them, causing them to fall.

Sworn employees will only use objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional force to the threat or urgency of the situation to achieve a law enforcement objective while protecting the life and safety of all people. SPD Policy 8.200(1). Reasonableness must consider that sworn employees are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force necessary in a particular situation in tense, uncertain, dynamic, and rapidly evolving circumstances. *Id.* The question is whether the sworn employee's actions were objectively reasonable considering the facts and circumstances confronting them, without regard to their underlying intent or motivation. *Id.* Several factors should be weighed when evaluating reasonableness. *See id.* Force is necessary under the totality of the circumstances when there is no reasonably effective alternative to using physical or deadly force, and the type and amount of physical or deadly force used is a reasonable and proportional response to effect the legal purpose intended or to protect against the threat posed to the sworn employee or others. SPD Policy 8.050 (effective September 1, 2024). Proportional force must reflect the totality of circumstances of the situation, including the nature and immediacy of any threats posed to sworn employees and others. *Id.* Sworn employees must rely on training, experience, and their assessment of the situation to decide an appropriate level of force. *Id.*

Accordingly, OPA recommends that this allegation be Not Sustained – Lawful and Proper (Expedited).

Recommended Finding: **Not Sustained – Lawful and Proper (Expedited)**