

Issued Date: November 24, 2025

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

Case Number: 2025OPA-0214

Allegations of Misconduct & Director's Findings

Named Employee #1

1. **Allegation #1:** 8.200 Using Force – POL – 5 – Use of Deadly Force

Finding: Allegation Removed

Named Employee #2

1. **Allegation #1:** 8.200 Using Force – POL – 5 – Use of Deadly Force

Finding: Allegation Removed

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 alleged unidentified “undercover” police officers slapped and pepper sprayed him.

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 recommended findings based solely on its intake investigation without interviewing the named employees. As such, OPA did not interview the named employees in this case.

On June 30, 2025, OIG certified OPA’s investigation as thorough, timely, and objective.

On review of this case, OPA observed that the Complainant clearly alleged that he was slapped and pepper sprayed by two individuals he believed to be “undercover” police officers prior to the

uniformed response by Named Employee #1 (NE#1) and Named Employee #2 (NE#2). Separately, OPA recognized it erroneously classified policy violations against both named employees under SPD Policy 8.200-POL-5 – Use of Deadly Force. No officer was alleged to have used deadly force. Accordingly, OPA is removing the allegations against both named employees.

Summary of the Investigation:

The Complainant called OPA on June 2, 2025. The Complainant said he was assaulted by NE#1 and NE#2. The complaint was made by live phone call that was not recorded. OPA cannot now determine from the records on file whether the Complainant provided the names of the officers himself, from paperwork he received, or if OPA filled these in from SPD paperwork. The Complainant said that one officer slapped him, and another pepper sprayed his eyes.

The computer-aided dispatch call report showed that, on May 31, 2025, Community Member #1 (CM#1) called 911 and reported that the Complainant had attacked another person, causing CM#1 to pepper spray the Complainant. NE#1 and NE#2 were dispatched to investigate.

Body-worn video (BWV) showed that the Complainant was naked and walking in the roadway when the officers arrived. NE#1 and NE#2 detained the Complainant, who was uncommunicative, and spitting constantly. NE#1 and NE#2 requested Seattle Fire Department medics who screened the Complainant. NE#1 interviewed CM#1 and a second witness, Community Member #2 (CM#2). CM#1 stated she saw the Complainant following CM#2. CM#1 said the Complainant was acting crazy, she told the Complainant to back away from her, but the Complainant kept coming at her. CM#1 said she used “bear mace” and sprayed the Complainant. NE#1 interviewed CM#2 who said he was sitting in his car and saw the Complainant trying to get into a car behind him. CM#2 said he knew the owner of the car, and it was not the Complainant. CM#2 said he told the Complainant to leave the car alone and the Complainant told him to “get the fuck out of here.” CM#2 said he walked away but the Complainant followed him. CM#2 said the Complainant kept coming at him. CM#2 said he “got him up off me.” NE#1 asked CM#2 what this meant, and CM#2 said that he had pushed the Complainant. NE#1 investigated the vehicle that CM#2 reported the Complainant trying to get into. NE#1 located no damage but found exterior mirrors moved. The Complainant provided no information to NE#1, NE#2, or the SFD medics who responded. The officers detained the Complainant under the Involuntary Treatment Act as a danger to himself and others.

OPA interviewed the Complainant by phone during the intake. The Complainant stated he was walking down the street when he was approached by a male who he believed was “undercover” who offered to sell him drugs. The Complainant said he refused and told the male undercover to leave, but the male undercover slapped him. The Complainant said that a second female undercover then pepper sprayed him. The Complainant provided no reason for believing the male and female were undercover police officers. The Complainant’s description of the male and female undercovers was consistent with the description of CM#1 and CM#2, who admitted

pushing and slapping the Complainant. When asked why he was naked in the street, the Complainant stated he was covered in bear mace. Asked why he did not tell either officer about the “undercovers” at the time, the Complainant said he was “confused.”

Analysis and Conclusions:

Named Employee #1 – Allegation #1

8.200 Using Force – POL – 5 – Use of Deadly Force

The Complainant alleged that an unknown male and female “undercovers” slapped and pepper sprayed him

SPD Policy 8.200-POL-5 concerns the use of deadly force on a fleeing suspect.

As discussed above in the administrative note, OPA should not have classified any allegations against either named employee based on the allegations raised by the Complainant. The Complainant clearly sought to allege unknown male and female “undercovers” slapped and pepper sprayed him before NE#1 and NE#2—two uniformed, male police officers—arrived on scene. Moreover, the Complainant did not allege anyone used deadly force.

OPA will be removing the allegations against both named employees and listing them as witness officers only. OPA is not reclassifying this allegation against an “unknown” officer because all the alleged facts indicate the Complainant’s allegations relate to CM#1 and CM#2, two community members who are not Seattle police officers.

Accordingly, this allegation is removed.

Recommended Finding: **Allegation Removed**

Named Employee #1 – Allegation #2

8.200 Using Force – POL – 5 – Use of Deadly Force

For the reasons listed at Named Employee #1, Allegation #1, this allegation is removed.

Recommended Finding: **Allegation Removed**