

Issued Date: November 13, 2025

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

Case Number: 2025OPA-0225

Allegations of Misconduct & Director's Findings

Named Employee #1

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:

SPD officers, including Named Employee #1 (NE#1), were conducting crowd control during a protest occurring at Cal Anderson Park. During the officers' attempt to arrest a protester, Community Member #1 (CM#1) engaged in a physical altercation with NE#1 and NE#1's police bicycle. CM#1 alleged that NE#1 used unauthorized force by assaulting her with his police bicycle.

Administrative Note:

During its intake investigation, OPA noted NE#1 did not attempt to determine the nature and cause of CM#1's alleged injury. OPA sent NE#1's potential violation of SPD Policy 16.130-POL-2(1) (Recognizing the Urgency of Providing Medical Aid and the Importance of Preserving Human Life, Sworn Employees Will Request Medical Aid, if Needed, and Render Appropriate Medical Aid Within Their Training as Soon as Reasonably Possible) (effective April 1, 2023) to his chain of command for Supervisor Action.

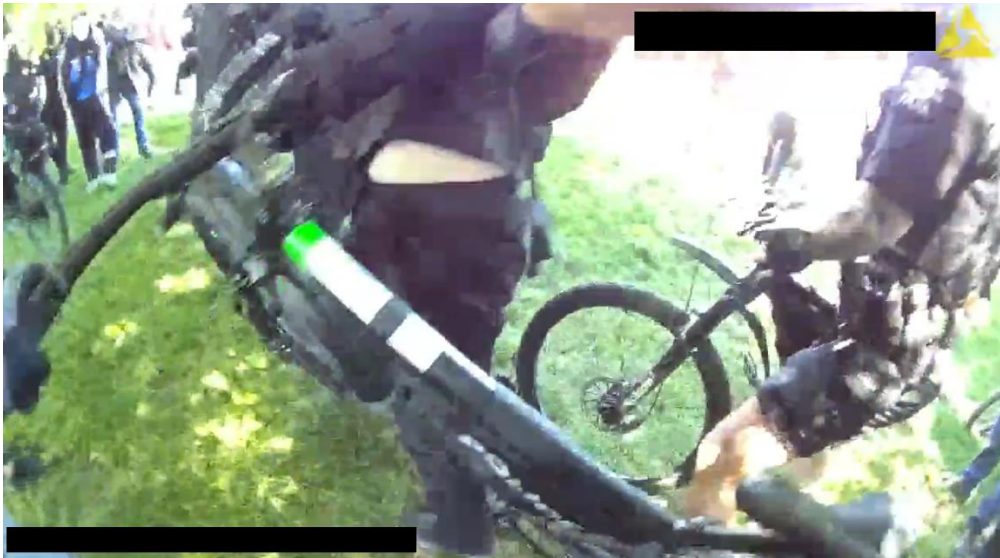
This case was approved for Expedited Investigation. That means OPA, with the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) agreement, believed it could issue a recommended finding based solely on its intake investigation without interviewing the named employee. As such, OPA did not interview the named employee in this case.

On July 17, 2025, OIG certified OPA’s investigation as thorough, timely, and objective.

Summary of the Investigation:

OPA investigated this incident by reviewing the unsubstantiated misconduct screening form, computer-aided dispatch call report, body-worn video, and incident, supplement, and use-of-force reports. CM#1 did not respond to OPA’s request for an interview. Based on these records, a preponderance of the evidence showed the following:

On May 24, 2025, SPD officers, including NE#1, responded to a protest occurring at Cal Anderson Park to conduct crowd control. The officers identified a person within the crowd whom they intended to arrest, so they rode their police bicycles into the crowd. NE#1 instructed the protesters to “move” and “get back” while the officers executed the arrest. CM#1 inserted her left leg through NE#1’s bicycle while her left hand grasped the right handlebar.



The image above was taken from NE#1’s BWV.

NE#1 ordered CM#1 to move back, to which CM#1 replied, “I can’t.” Witness Officer #1 (WO#1) (shown on the right in the image above) intervened by attempting to dislodge CM#1 from the bicycle. CM#1 freed her left leg from the bicycle but continued to grip the right handlebar.



The image above was taken from WO#1's BWV.

NE#1 took CM#1 to the ground while positioned on top of her and shouted, "You're under arrest!" NE#1 handcuffed CM#1 while she lay on her stomach.

Analysis and Conclusions:

Named Employee #1 – Allegation #1

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

CM#1 alleged that NE#1 used unauthorized force by assaulting her with his police bicycle.

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.

NE#1 did not assault CM#1 with his police bicycle as alleged. Rather, CM#1 stepped into NE#1's bicycle and grasped its handlebar. Even after CM#1 freed her leg from the bicycle, CM#1 continued to grip the handlebar and seemingly tried pulling the bicycle away from NE#1. Due to circumstances in which CM#1 was noncompliant, obstructive, and possibly trying to take NE#1's bicycle, NE#1 was authorized to use force to dislodge CM#1 from his bicycle and subsequently arrest her. Here, NE#1 acted accordingly. NE#1 used objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional force to overcome CM#1's resistance, subdue her, and effectuate her arrest. NE#1's use of force was lawful and proper under these circumstances.

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

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