

**Issued Date:** December 7, 2025

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



**Case Number:** 2025OPA-0249

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**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

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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:**

June 20, 2025, SPD officers, including Named Employee #1 (NE#1) and the witness officers (WO#1, WO#2, and WO#3), responded to a domestic violence (DV) disturbance call involving Community Member #1 (CM#1) and Community Member #2 (CM#2). CM#1 discharged a firearm from an upper apartment window, prompting NE#1 to discharge his firearm at CM#1. OPA investigated whether NE#1 used unauthorized force against CM#1.

**Administrative Note:**

On November 25, 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 Force Investigation Team (FIT) callout, computer-aided dispatch (CAD) call report, body-worn video (BWV), incident, supplement, and use-of-force reports, and FIT records. OPA also interviewed NE#1 and the witness officers.

### A. Force Investigation Team Callout

On June 20, 2025, OPA responded to a FIT callout and learned the following details. SPD officers responded to a DV disturbance call and found CM#2 in the doorway of an apartment, with CM#1 towering over her. As an officer dragged CM#2 into the courtyard, CM#1 retreated up the stairs within the apartment. From a second-story window, CM#1 discharged a firearm at the officers and CM#2, prompting NE#1 to discharge his firearm at CM#1.

### B. Computer-Aided Dispatch Call Report

On June 20, 2025, at 4:51 AM, CAD call remarks noted, "MALE AND FEMALE ARGUING IN THIS UNIT, [REPORTING PARTY] HEARD FEMALE SCREAMING FOR ASSISTANCE AND TO NOT HURT HER, NO [WEAPONS] MENTIONED."

### C. Body-Worn Video

BWV captured the following:

NE#1, WO#1, and WO#2 ran toward an apartment complex, during which CM#2's screams were audible. Upon arriving at an open apartment door, the officers found a shirtless CM#1 standing over CM#2, who laid on her back in a robe and was continuously screaming.



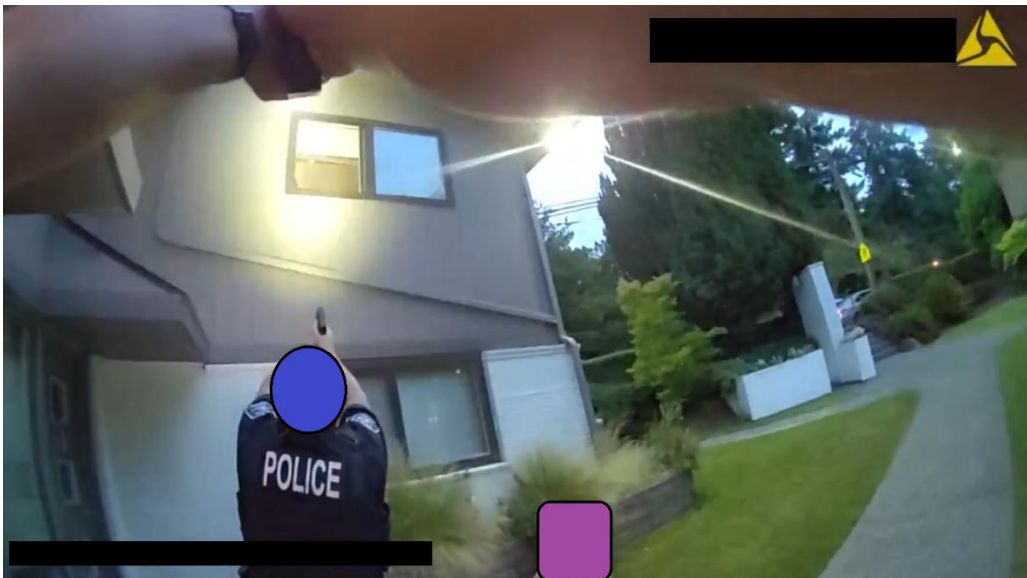
*The image above was taken from WO#2's BWV. The green circle indicates CM#1.*

WO#1 shouted, "Get off her!" WO#2 dragged CM#2 several feet away from the door, while NE#1 and WO#1 aimed their firearms at CM#1. CM#1 briefly raised his left hand and kept his right hand concealed behind his back. NE#1 demanded to see CM#1's hands. CM#1 began turning around and appeared to be holding a black firearm in his right hand.



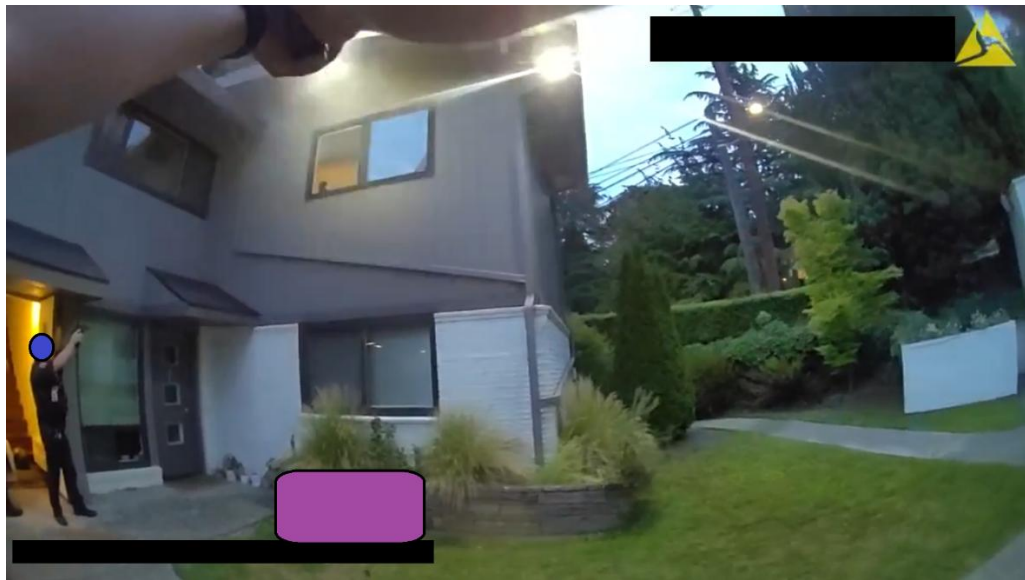
*The image above was taken from NE#1's BWV. The red circle indicates what appears to be a black firearm in CM#1's right hand.*

CM#1 ascended the steps and disappeared. NE#1 remained at the entrance and ordered CM#1 to exit with his hands raised, but CM#1 did not comply. NE#1 remarked, "I don't know what that was in his hand," to which WO#1 replied that he thought it was "some kind of weapon." WO#2 moved CM#2 onto the grass, while CM#2 continuously screamed. CM#1 fired one round from the second-floor window, striking CM#2's back. CM#2 collapsed and exclaimed, "Oh my God! What happened?" NE#1 and WO#2 aimed their firearms at the second-floor window. WO#2 shouted, "Hey!" NE#1 fired one round at that window.



*The image above was taken from NE#1's BWV. WO#2, indicated by the blue circle, stood in front of NE#1. OPA obscured CM#2, indicated by the purple square.*

WO#2 radioed, "Shots fired" and moved toward the entrance, while NE#1 moved to the right. NE#1 then fired four rounds in rapid succession at the window.



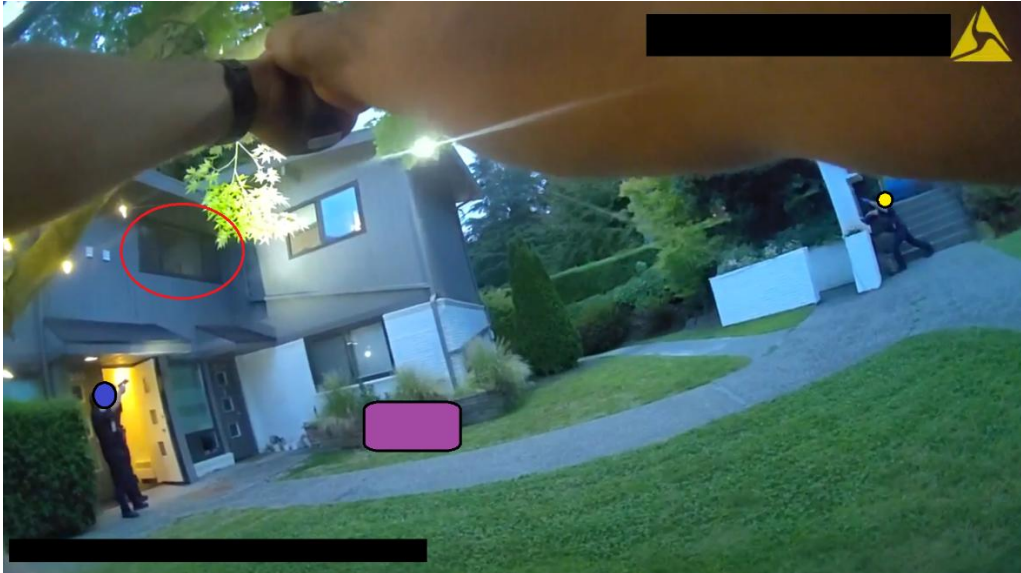
*The image above was taken from NE#1's BWV.*

NE#1 instructed CM#2 to stand, but she remained on the ground, groaning in pain with blood staining the back of her robe. WO#1, positioned at the door's threshold and guarding the stairway, announced, "He's back here!" WO#2 joined WO#1 at the entrance, while NE#1 aimed his firearm at the second-floor window. NE#1 radioed, "We're right here in the front unit. He's shooting out of this window and this door." WO#3 arrived and asked about CM#1's location. NE#1 reiterated, "He's shooting out of this window and this door. He keeps moving back and forth." The sound of a firearm being loaded was audible, prompting WO#1 to announce, "He's loading!" WO#2 radioed, "He's reloading. We need additional units now." WO#1 then re-aimed his firearm at the upper window. NE#1 fired one round at that window. About three seconds later, NE#1 fired five rounds in rapid succession at the window.



*The image above was taken from NE#1's BWV. The yellow circle indicates WO#3.*

CM#2 groaned, "Fuck, fuck, fuck!" NE#1 shouted, "Drop the gun, sir! Seattle Police Department!" WO#2 shouted, "Drop the gun! It's the Seattle Police!" WO#1 shouted, "Come out with your hands up!" NE#1 took cover behind a tree in the courtyard and aimed his firearm at the upper window. WO#2 radioed, "He is moving in the unit." CM#2 announced that CM#1 was an army ranger. NE#1 instructed CM#2 to "keep dragging this way" and pointed to the right. CM#2 began to crawl away from the door but announced that she was a "little injured." WO#3 pointed to a different window and asked whether that window belonged to CM#2, to which CM#2 confirmed it did.



*The image above was taken from NE#1's BWV. The red circle indicates the window in question.*

WO#2 radioed a request for medics for CM#2. NE#1 joined WO#3 and told her that he was unable to identify the window from which CM#1 was firing. NE#1 then aimed his firearm at the other window indicated by WO#3. Meanwhile, WO#1 and WO#2 remained at the door's threshold. WO#2 asked WO#1, "You see him?" WO#1 replied, "No. He said, 'Fuck you,' though." NE#1 shouted, "Show me your hands, sir!" From the top of the stairway, CM#1 fired one shot toward WO#1 and WO#2.



*The image above was taken from WO#2's BWV. The red circle indicates CM#1.*

WO#1 announced, "He just shot from here." WO#2 instructed WO#1 to "back up." WO#1 and WO#2 gradually retreated from the door. NE#1 radioed CM#1's physical description, while WO#2 radioed CM#1's status as a former army ranger.

WO#1 and WO#2 aimed their firearms at the window from which CM#1 had initially fired, while NE#1 and WO#3 aimed their firearms toward the door and the window above it. Additional backing officers arrived. WO#3 announced, "It's this unit on the right. That window – we keep seeing his head in there. He's also shooting out of this door." NE#1 announced, "There he is" and spotted CM#1 at the window above the door. NE#1 shouted, "Seattle Police! Show me your hands!" NE#1 announced, "Our victim is right here" and pointed to her. At this point, CM#2 had maneuvered herself around the corner of the building. NE#1 then fired one round at the window above the door.



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

Multiple backing officers provided cover as NE#1 and WO#3 approached CM#2 and carried her away from the scene.

Officers with Special Weapons And Tactics and the Hostage Negotiation Team responded, established containment, secured a search warrant, and engaged with CM#1. The officers eventually entered the apartment and found CM#1 deceased.<sup>1</sup>

#### **D. OPA Interview**

##### Named Employee #1

On November 10, 2025, OPA interviewed NE#1. NE#1 provided an account consistent with the evidence summarized above. NE#1 believed his uses of force were objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional in response to CM#1's threat directed at the officers and CM#2 when he discharged his firearm at them. NE#1 also believed his uses of force were effective because he had struck CM#1 twice and gave the officers additional time. NE#1 said he had nothing new to add or change from his FIT interview.

According to FIT interview transcripts, FIT interviewed NE#1 on June 20, 2025. NE#1's account was generally consistent with the evidence summarized above. NE#1 believed the black item in CM#1's hand before he ascended the stairway was a firearm magazine. NE#1 defended his decision to discharge his firearm at CM#1 to protect WO#1 and WO#2, especially since he later observed a firearm in CM#1's hand and heard CM#1 reloading it at one point. NE#1 said he discharged his firearm again when he noticed CM#1 reemerging at the window. NE#1 said CM#1 moved back and forth between the two windows and occasionally raised his head. NE#1 believed CM#1 intended to fire again when he stood and extended his arm toward the officers. NE#1 noted that CM#1 was unresponsive to police commands and did not change his behavior. NE#1 described this incident as a worst-case scenario, where officers arrived at an apartment with insufficient information, the victim was unable to provide details, and the suspect retreated to the second floor of the apartment, where he had a clear line of sight of the officers.

##### Witness Officers

On November 12, 2025, OPA interviewed WO#2 and WO#3 separately. WO#2 denied discharging his firearm during the incident. WO#2 and WO#3 believed NE#1's uses of force were objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional due to CM#1's active shooting. WO#2 opined that he could have been struck and killed had NE#1 not returned fire.

On November 20, 2025, OPA interviewed WO#1, who identified himself as a student officer on the incident date, with NE#1 as his field training officer. WO#1 said he guarded the door to prevent CM#1 from descending the stairway to engage the officers. WO#1 expressed uncertainty about CM#1's location at the time he discharged his firearm, as CM#1 was not within his sight. WO#1 believed NE#1's uses of force were objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional due to CM#1's active shooting. WO#1 said NE#1's return fire was the only effective way to prevent CM#1 from continuously shooting.

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## **Analysis and Conclusions:**

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

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

NE#1 allegedly used unauthorized force against CM#1.

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-POL-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.*

A preponderance of the evidence showed NE#1 using objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional force by discharging his firearm at CM#1. Each instance of NE#1's firearm discharge was objectively reasonable. NE#1 arrived at an in-progress DV assault, which had already elevated the threat level. Despite two firearms being aimed at him, CM#1 disappeared and, shortly thereafter, discharged his firearm at CM#2, striking her in the back. At this point, CM#1 was exceptionally dangerous and posed an immediate threat to the officers and CM#2. After CM#1 shot CM#2, he defied police commands and refused to surrender, as BWV captured the sounds of CM#1 reloading his firearm. CM#1 also held a tactical advantage. He had the ability to hide within the apartment and use three different avenues—two windows and a door—to target the officers or CM#2. He exploited this layout by initially shooting at CM#2, catching everyone by surprise. He then alternated between two windows and the top of the stairway before discharging a second round toward the witness officers. CM#2's identification of CM#1's status as a former army ranger further elevated an already dangerous situation, as the officers were now faced with an armed suspect who had presumably undergone advanced combat training with firearms and tactics.

NE#1's firearm discharges were necessary. The situation became more dangerous when CM#2, hindered by her gunshot wound, was unable to seek cover. She continuously voiced pain and gradually crawled away on her stomach while remaining dangerously exposed to further gunfire.

The officers could not pull CM#2 to safety due to the immediate risk of being shot at any moment. The urgency to protect CM#2, along with the two witness officers near the door, necessitated NE#1's use of lethal force. There was no reasonable alternative to NE#1's use of lethal force. NE#1's firearm discharges were also proportional to counter and neutralize the lethal threat he, CM#2, and the witness officers faced. In total, NE#1 discharged twelve rounds at CM#1 within five minutes. More likely than not, NE#1 struck CM#1 twice. OPA finds that each discharge was objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional because all the risk factors described above persisted during this period. There was no indication that CM#1 intended to surrender; the sounds of a reloading firearm indicated the opposite. NE#1 was authorized to use lethal force under these life-threatening circumstances.

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

Recommended Finding: **Not Sustained – Lawful and Proper**

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**Footnote 1.** According to the King County Medical Examiner's Office, CM#1 sustained two gunshot wounds to his head—injuries FIT considered to be consistent with self-infliction. CM#1 also sustained a gunshot wound to his right forearm and left shoulder—injuries FIT considered to be consistent with NE#1's shots.