


Issued Date: January 13, 2026

From: Deputy Director Nelson R. Leese (on behalf of Director Bonnie J. Glenn) ¹
Office of Police Accountability 

Case Number: 2025OPA-0315

Allegations of Misconduct & Director's Findings

Named Employee #1

- 1. Allegation #1:** 6.220 – Voluntary Contacts, Terry Stops, and Detentions, 6.220-POL-2 Conducting a Terry Stop, 1. Terry Stops are Seizures Based Upon Reasonable Suspicion
Finding: Not Sustained - Lawful and Proper (Expedited)
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Named Employee #2

- 1. Allegation #1:** 6.220 – Voluntary Contacts, Terry Stops, and Detentions, 6.220-POL-2 Conducting a Terry Stop, 1. Terry Stops are Seizures Based Upon Reasonable Suspicion
Finding: Not Sustained - Lawful and Proper (Expedited)
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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:

The named employees (NE#1 and NE#2) responded to a robbery call involving four suspects. The Complainant alleged that the named employees unlawfully detained Community Member #1 (CM#1).

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 September 4, 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 call report, body-worn video, incident and supplement reports, and email correspondence from the Complainant. Based on these records, a preponderance of the evidence showed the following:

On August 2, 2025, the named employees and other SPD officers responded to a call involving an armed robbery occurring at a QFC store. The descriptions of four suspects—one of whom included a Black female wearing a black shirt and black pants—were broadcast. The named employees responded to the scene and established a perimeter around the area. They observed CM#1—a Black female wearing a black shirt and black pants—in the area and detained her in handcuffs. CM#1 denied involvement in the robbery and declined to answer questions. After the primary officer identified CM#1 as one of the suspects, CM#1 was arrested for robbery.

Analysis and Conclusions:

Named Employee #1 – Allegation #1

6.220 – Voluntary Contacts, Terry Stops, and Detentions, 6.220-POL-2 Conducting a Terry Stop, 1. Terry Stops are Seizures Based Upon Reasonable Suspicion

The Complainant alleged that the named employees unlawfully detained CM#1.

Terry stops are seizures of an individual and, as such, must be based on reasonable suspicion to be lawful. SPD Policy 6.220-POL-2(1). A *Terry* stop is a brief, minimally intrusive seizure of a subject based on reasonable articulable suspicion to investigate possible criminal activity. SPD Policy 6.220-POL-1. Reasonable suspicion means specific, objective, articulable facts, which, taken together with rational inferences, would create a well-founded suspicion that there is a substantial possibility that a subject has engaged, is engaging, or is about to engage in criminal conduct. *Id.* The reasonableness of a *Terry* stop is based on the totality of the circumstances, the officer's training and experience, and what the officer knew before the stop. *Id.* While information learned during the stop can lead to additional reasonable suspicion or probable cause that a crime has occurred, it cannot justify the original stop. *Id.*

The named employees had reasonable suspicion to detain CM#1. SPD officers initially arrested a male robbery suspect who was with CM#1 at the time. The named employees subsequently focused their attention on CM#1, who matched a suspect description. Given these circumstances, the named employees were justified in detaining CM#1 in handcuffs until further investigation could either confirm or dispel their reasonable suspicion. Following the primary officer's identification of CM#1 as one of the four robbery suspects, CM#1's detainment was elevated to an arrest.

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

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

Named Employee #2 – Allegation #1

6.220 – Voluntary Contacts, Terry Stops, and Detentions, 6.220-POL-2 Conducting a Terry Stop, 1. Terry Stops are Seizures Based Upon Reasonable Suspicion

For the reasons articulated in Named Employee #1 – Allegation #1, OPA recommends that this allegation be Not Sustained – Lawful and Proper (Expedited).

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

Footnote 1. The OPA Director may designate a civilian OPA Deputy Director to “perform such duties and have such powers as the OPA Director may prescribe and delegate.” Seattle Ordinance 125315, Council Bill 118969, subchapter I, section 3.29.100(B).