



## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

### Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2015-1822

Issued Date: 05/06/2016

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 16.090 (6) In Car Video System: Employees Will Record Police Activities (Policy that was issued 02/01/2015)
OPA Finding	<b>Not Sustained</b> (Training Referral)
Final Discipline	N/A

#### **INCIDENT SYNOPSIS**

The named employee observed two men fighting. One of the men was knocked to the ground and appeared to be unconscious. The Named Employee was parked a couple of blocks away and drove to the location to detain the assault suspect. Reportable force was used in accordance with department policy during the incident.

#### **COMPLAINT**

The complainant, a supervisor within the Department, handled the Use of Force investigation and alleged that the Named Employee failed to shut off his In-Car Video (ICV) system prior to leaving the area of a call for service and failed to activate his ICV while responding to the above assault call.

## **INVESTIGATION**

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Review of the complaint memo
2. Review of In Car Video (ICV)
3. Search for and review of all relevant records and other evidence
4. Interview of SPD employee

## **ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION**

The Named Employee incorrectly assumed his In-Car Video (ICV) system would begin recording when he changed his emergency lights from one setting to another. This is not the case. As soon as he realized the system was not recording, he manually activated it. The Named Employee's supervisor was able to recover the video (not audio) portion from the "fail safe" back-up.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Named Employee #1**

#### **Allegation #1**

The evidence supported the conclusion that the Named Employee believed that he had activated the record function on his In-Car Video (ICV) system in compliance with policy. Therefore a finding of **Not Sustained** (Training Referral) was issued for *In Car Video System: Employees Will Record Police Activities*.

**Required Training:** The Named Employee's supervisor indicated in his referral of this complaint to OPA that he had counseled the Named Employee regarding the proper activation of the ICV System. The Named Employee in his OPA interview articulated his corrected understanding of how the ICV activation system works. No further training is required.

*NOTE: The Seattle Police Department Manual policies cited for the allegation(s) made for this OPA Investigation are policies that were in effect during the time of the incident. The issued date of the policy is listed.*