



Seattle Office of Police Accountability

March 15, 2019

Chief Carmen Best
Seattle Police Department
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Chief Best:

Please see the below Management Action Recommendation.

Case Number

- 2018OPA-0772

Topic

- Impact of swatting

Summary

- Named Employees took law enforcement action against the subject based on a 911 call of an armed individual in a library. The subject was later determined to be innocent and the call was identified to be false.

Analysis

- OPA's investigation revealed that "swatting" (fake 911 calls that indicate a dangerous, ongoing situation that often causes officers to incorrectly subject an innocent victim to law enforcement action and high levels of force) has become more and more common.
- OPA determined that the caller who made the fake report here had made approximately 50 other calls from three different untraceable phones. OPA also learned that the Department receives around 1,000 "swatting" or fake calls per month.

Recommendation(s)

- Research national best practices in dealing with "swatting" calls and determine whether there are any mechanisms available to weed out these false crime reports.
- Determine whether such mechanisms can also be utilized to identify frivolous, racially-motivated reports in order to limit the inappropriate use of law enforcement to further systemic racism.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

AM

Andrew Myerberg
Director, Office of Police Accountability