



June 22, 2022

Interim Director Grainne Perkins
Office of Police Accountability
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Perkins,

Please see the below Management Recommendation response

Case Numbers:

2020OPA-0519 / 2021COMP-0039

Topic:

Responding to Subject with Knives

Summary of the Management Action:

It was alleged that the named employee used impermissible deadly force on a person in crisis brandishing a knife.

Original Recommendation:

- Revamp SPD training for responding to subjects with knives. Incorporate dynamic, outdoor role-playing exercises involving subjects with knives who are either moving toward or away from officers. OPA is committed to working with SPD to build out these training scenarios using past and current cases. In making this recommendation, OPA recognizes SPD's current financial and personnel limitations. OPA accordingly urges City leadership to properly fund SPD's development of this training.
- Partner with OIG and OPA to conduct a national/international survey of other agencies' tactics for dealing with subject with knives.
- Research and test other less-lethal tools (e.g., Bola Wrap, net gun) to supplement SPD's existing equipment which may reduce the use of deadly force.
- Set the expectation that shooting in these types of case will not occur again, and work toward that goal.

Action Taken:

- Prior to the issuance of this Management Action, SPD was already in the process of revising our training on edged weapons. An eLearning (Responding to Edged Weapons) was developed and launched on July 28, 2021. This was a mandatory training for all sworn employees and provided to our Accountability Partners for their review.
- The second phase of the edged weapon training plan was to develop an in-person, scenario based interactive training. A site was secured in early 2022 and mandatory training for all Sworn Police Officers began in May of 2022.
- A pilot project using the Bola Wrap is about to be launched. A demonstration was conducted for our Accountability Partners in April of 2022. This included not only the Bola Wrap, but all of SPD's Patrol Less Lethal Weapons options. The pilot project will give us an opportunity to test the



product in real world scenarios and gather information on the effectiveness of this technology and assist in our decision making regarding deploying this new tool throughout the precincts.

- We continue our ongoing engagement with Accountability Partners (CPC, OIG, and OPA) to ensure that training, policy, and practices regarding how SPD responds to individuals with edged weapons is supported and understood throughout the various communities that make up Seattle.
- SPD, OIG and OPA will be setting up a meeting in July of 2022 to discuss the possibility of a national survey to determine if there are other tactics being utilized across the country that have shown to be successful in dealing with these types of incidents.
- As to the last recommendation “Set the expectation that shooting in these types of case will not occur again, and work toward that goal” is addressed in Policy 8.000 – Use of Force Core Principles. This section outlines SPD’s foundational principles related to using force. Among those core principles is the strong statement that officers “*respect the sanctity of every human life and the application of deadly force is a measure to be employed in the most extreme circumstances where lesser means of force have failed or could not be reasonably considered.*” This is the standard that every officer is held to. But setting an expectation as the MAR is worded oversimplifies, if not outright ignores, the complex and unpredictable environment in which officers are asked to work and the reality that even under the most controlled of circumstances, there will be events in which the use of lethal force may be necessary to protect against an imminent threat of serious or deadly harm.

SPD Considers this Management Action:

Fully Implemented

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'ADZ'.

Adrian Z. Diaz
Chief of Police