



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#13-IS-0411

Issued Date: 02/11/2015

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| Named Employee #1 | |
| Allegation #1 | <u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 13.030 Emergency Vehicle Operations / Policy (Policy that was issued 11/21/12) |
| OPA Finding | Sustained |
| Final Discipline | One day suspension without pay |

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

On October 5, 2013, the named employee observed a violator pass his location. The named employee quickly pulled onto the roadway and maneuvered around slower traffic prior to stopping for a traffic light. Once the light changed, the offender vehicle accelerated at a high rate of speed away from the previously stopped cars. The named employee again maneuvered around slower traffic and even though his vehicle was accelerating substantially, the offender vehicle still pulled away and nearly out of sight. An unknown vehicle turned directly into the path of the named employee's vehicle. The named employee's vehicle lost traction as it slid sideways into a power pole and came to a stop.

COMPLAINT

The complainant, a supervisor within the Department, alleged that the named employee drove outside of Department policy resulting in an injury collision.

INVESTIGATION

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Review of In-Car Videos
2. Interviews of SPD employees

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

Based on reviewing all of the evidence available it was determined that the named employee operated his police vehicle in an unsafe manner. He drove more than twice the speed limit, without activating overhead lights or emergency operation equipment, outside of the normal traffic pattern, including by driving southbound in the northbound lane around a blind curve.

FINDINGS

Named Employee #1

The weight of the evidence showed that the named employee drove outside of Department policy. Therefore a finding of **Sustained** was found for *Emergency Vehicle Operations*.

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.