



## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

### Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2015-0367

Issued Date: 11/09/2015

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Named Employee #1</b> |   |
| Allegation #1            | <u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 5.001 (2) Employees Must Adhere to Laws and Department Policy (Policy that was issued 07/16/2014) |
| OPA Finding              | <b>Not Sustained</b> (Unfounded)  |
| Final Discipline         | N/A   |

#### **INCIDENT SYNOPSIS**

The named employee was going through his background investigation during the hiring process to become a Seattle Police Officer.

#### **COMPLAINT**

An anonymous complainant alleged that the named employee was involved in a “straw purchase” of firearms. The complainant believed that the purchase of the weapons were illegal and unethical. Straw purchases are in violation of Federal Law.

#### **INVESTIGATION**

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Review of the complaint email
2. Search for and review of all relevant records and other evidence
3. Interview of SPD employees

## **ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION**

The allegation was initially referred to the Seattle Police Department Criminal Investigations Bureau. A sergeant conducted the criminal investigation to identify if a criminal act occurred. There were no potentially chargeable criminal law violations identified. The investigation was re-classified for administrative investigation by OPA.

The named employee's family purchased a rifle, gun and ballistic vest for his use while he was serving as a reserve (volunteer) police officer in another jurisdiction. There is an exemption in the current Federal Firearms Law that allows family members to "gift" firearms to another family member in certain circumstances. In conclusion, no "straw purchase" of a firearm took place in this instance.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Named Employee #1**

#### Allegation #1

The evidence supports that the named employee did not violate any laws or Department Policy. Therefore a finding of **Not Sustained** (Unfounded) was issued for *Employees Must Adhere to Laws and Department Policy*.

*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.*