



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2015-1167

Issued Date: 12/31/2015

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 5.140 (2) Bias-Free Policing Officers Will Not Engage in Bias-Based Policing (Policy that was issued 01/01/15)
OPA Finding	Not Sustained (Inconclusive)
Final Discipline	N/A

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The Parking Enforcement Officer was working in her assigned area.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged that the named employee was marking chalk on tires of parked cars that did not need to be marked. He stated that when he asked her why she was doing that she replied because they were “mostly black people’s cars anyway.”

INVESTIGATION

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Interview of the complainant
2. Search for and review of all relevant records and other evidence
3. Interviews of SPD employees

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

OPA interviewed the named employee. She stated that she had responded to a parking complaint in a Residential Permit Zone area. The named employee said that she started chalking the tires of all of the cars in a three-block area. If a car did not have the permit, it could be parked in the area for two hours in one spot. If a car did have the permit, it could be parked up to 72 hours in one spot. She stated that she chalked every single car on the block so that she could return later to see which ones were in violation of the time limit. The named employee said that the complainant approached her to ask why she was marking his car. She stated that she was giving the above explanation when the complainant cut her off and rambled about something. The named employee was on another street when she saw the complainant standing next to a different car. She said that she bypassed that car and did not chalk it in order to avoid a confrontation with the complainant. The complainant modified his initial complaint to indicate that he overheard a conversation the named employee had with a female citizen where the named employee stated that she was marking the cars because they were “mostly black people’s cars anyway.” The complainant could not provide sufficient information to enable OPA to identify and interview this other potential witness. The named employee denied that she had such a conversation with anyone in the area.

FINDINGS

Named Employee #1

Allegation #1

The evidence could not prove or disprove the allegation of misconduct by the named employee. Therefore a finding of **Not Sustained** (Inconclusive) was issued for *Bias-Free Policing Officers Will Not Engage in Bias-Based Policing*.

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.