



# Seattle Office of Police Accountability

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June 11, 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-0740

**Topic**

- Taser Application

**Summary**

- It was alleged that the Named Employee violated Department policy during a use of force incident.

**Analysis**

- *SPD Policy 8.300-POL-2(4)* governs when the use of a Taser is objectively reasonable. The policy provides two possible scenarios: “when public safety interests dictate that a subject needs to be taken into custody and the level of resistance presented by the subject is (1) likely to cause injury to the officer; or (2) if hands-on control tactics or other force options would be likely to cause greater injury to the subject than the use of CEW.
- The Named Employee’s actions were consistent with Department policy and training because virtually any Taser application could be deemed objectively reasonable under the broadness of the second prong of this policy.

**Recommendation(s)**

- Revise the second prong of the policy concerning when a Taser application is objectively reasonable; as it stands, the language is too broad. (*Note: OPA made a similar recommendation in 2017OPA-0318, 2018OPA-0061, and 2018OPA-0872.*)

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

Sincerely,

*AM*

Andrew Myerberg  
Director, Office of Police Accountability