



October 18, 2021

Director Andrew Myerberg
Office of Police Accountability
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Myerberg,

Please see the below Management Recommendation response

Case Numbers:

2020OPA-0330 & 2020OPA-0332 / 2021COMP-0001

Topic:

Escalation of Crowds

Summary of the Management Action:

Two videos circulated online showed SPD bicycle officers using force to arrest protesters. Many complainants alleged the named employees used excessive force by punching (2020OPA-0330) and using a chokehold (2020OPA-0332) on the subjects.

Original Recommendation:

Modify SPD policy to place more parameters around officer discretion and responses to misdemeanor offenses during protests and to ensure that officers are balancing the potential escalation of tensions within the crowd against the need to make the arrest. This is particularly important to consider in large-scale protests directed towards law enforcement. OPA provides examples of possible policy changes in the Director's Certification Memo for 2020OPA-0330

Action Taken:

SPD does not support policy changes that specifically prohibit arrests during large scale demonstrations based on information that may not always be apparent to officers in the moment. We do, however, agree with the spirit of the recommendation. That being the importance of balancing the potential escalation of the crowd with the need to make an arrest for a low-level crime. To address this Policy 14.090 Crowd Management Intervention and Control was revised to include the Crowd Management, Intervention and Control Concept Strategies (CIMC) Matrix. This Matrix provides guidance to officers who are required to support and/or intervene when any public assembly of individuals or groups occurs.

In addition, Incident Commanders are expected to provide direction and guidance to officers, regarding maintaining that balance, at roll call briefings they are required to attend prior to being deployed. It is here where, based on intelligence gathered, historical (previous operational periods) behavior of the crowd and other issues of concern, Commanders can be more specific about their expectations to officers regarding their discretionary authority to make arrests and their overall responsibility to maintain public safety.

SPD Considers this Management Action:

Partially implemented



Seattle

Police Department

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