



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2014-0780

Issued Date: 06/15/2015

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 7.150 Detainee Property for Safekeeping (Policy that was issued 02/19/14)
OPA Finding	Sustained
Final Discipline	No Discipline – additional training to be provided

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The named employee arrested the complainant based on a warrant. The named employee took custody of the complainant's property during the arrest. The complainant was taken to a precinct holding cell to wait for transportation to the jail. He was later taken to jail by a different SPD officer.

COMPLAINT

The complainant alleged that the named employee took his wallet from him when he was arrested but it was not with the rest of his property when he was released from jail.

INVESTIGATION

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Review of the complaint statement
2. Interview of the complainant
3. Search for and review of all relevant records and other evidence
4. Review of In-Car Videos
5. Interviews of SPD employees

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The investigation showed that the complainant was in possession of a wallet when he was arrested. In-Car Video shows that the named employee put the complainant's wallet and other items into a brown paper bag and then placed the bag in the trunk of his patrol car. However, the jail property sheet does not show that a wallet was turned in at the time the complainant was booked into the jail. As there was a delay from the date of the incident to the time that the complainant made the complaint, the holding cell video at the precinct could not be obtained and reviewed because it was not saved beyond the standard 90-day retention period. A search was made for the wallet at the precinct and the patrol vehicle, but it could not be located. The named employee failed to follow the policy to ensure the safekeeping of a detainee's personal property.

FINDINGS

Named Employee #1

Allegation #1

The weight of the evidence showed that the named employee failed to follow the policy. Therefore a **Sustained** finding was issued for *Detainee Property for Safekeeping*. However, the named employee was still in training as a police officer at the time of the incident and additional training is to be provided.

Discipline imposed: No Discipline – additional training to be provided

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.