



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2014-0870

Issued Date: 05/13/2015

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	<u>Seattle Police Department Manual</u> 13.031 (12) Vehicle Eluding/Pursuits: Only Trained Personnel May Use Pursuit-Ending Tactics (Policy that was issued 02/19/14)
OPA Finding	Not Sustained (Inconclusive)
Final Discipline	N/A

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

The named employee was responding to report of a carjacking as the secondary officer. The primary officer located the stolen vehicle and initiated a pursuit. The named employee joined the pursuit which lasted about four minutes. The pursuit ended when the suspect's vehicle collided with a utility pole. The named employee drove around the primary officer's vehicle and collided with the driver's door of the stolen vehicle.

COMPLAINT

The complainant, a supervisor within the department, alleged that the named employee may have violated Department policy which prohibits ramming as a pursuit-ending tactic except by specially trained personnel.

INVESTIGATION

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Review of the complaint memo
2. Review of In-Car Video
3. Search for and review of all relevant records and other evidence
4. Interviews of SPD employees

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

After reviewing all of the evidence, it could not be determined if the named employee intended to have contact with the stolen vehicle. It is possible that at the speed at which the named employee was driving, possible damage to the steering and front end of the police vehicle before impact, and contact with the curb as he drove around the other police vehicle caused the named employee's vehicle to unintentionally collide with the suspect vehicle.

FINDINGS

Named Employee #1

Allegation #1

There is no evidence to prove or disprove that the named employee intended to ram the stolen vehicle. Therefore a finding of **Not Sustained** (Inconclusive)* was issued for *Vehicle Eluding/Pursuits: Only Trained Personnel May Use Pursuit-Ending Tactics*.

*Training Strongly Recommended

1. Named employee #1 should receive remedial training in pursuit driving and policy as soon as possible.
2. With the permission of employee #1 and the driver of the other police car in the pursuit, the ICV of this pursuit from both cars should be used in EVOC and pursuit driving training.

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.