



# Seattle Office of Police Accountability

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January 17, 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-0577

**Topic**

- De-Escalation

**Summary**

- The Named Employee threatened to tase a subject as a de-escalation tactic, even though the force threatened would have been excessive if used under the circumstances. The most recent version of *SPD Policy 8.100 – De-Escalation* expressly allows for such threats of force and categorizes them as a de-escalation tool.

**Analysis**

- Threats of force undermine de-escalation tools outlined in *SPD Policy 8.100-POL-1*, most notably: “Using verbal techniques, such as Listen and Explain with Equity and Dignity (LEED) Training, to calm an agitated subject and promote rational decision making.”
- A threat of harm or force can serve to amplify a subject and make it more likely that force will be used.

**Recommendation(s)**

- Revise *SPD Policy 8.100* language to clarify that threats of force – and particularly threats of force that would otherwise be excessive – do not constitute a de-escalation tactic.

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

Sincerely,

*AM*

Andrew Myerberg  
Director, Office of Police Accountability