



# Seattle Office of Police Accountability

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January 9, 2020

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**

- 2019OPA-0479 / 2020COMP-0001

**Topic**

- Body-Worn Video Recording

**Summary**

- It was alleged that the Named Employee violated Department policy by failing to record an arrest screening on body-worn video.

**Analysis**

- *SPD Policy 16-090-POL-1(5b)* states that employees will record activity when “[q]uestioning victims, suspects or witnesses”.
- Both screenings conducted by the Named Employee were captured on the precinct’s holding cell cameras.
- The Named Employee and their chain of command interpreted the policy as not requiring screening conversations to be recorded.
- OPA believes the policy is clear that all questioning of a suspect must be recorded. There is no distinction in the policy concerning questioning performed in an investigative versus an administrative capacity.

**Recommendation(s)**

- Revise SPD Policy 16.050-POL-1(5) to clarify that supervisors are required to record screening conversations on body-worn video, regardless of whether the questioning is performed in an investigative versus administrative capacity; or
- Provide an e-learning or other training to ensure the policy is fully understood by supervisors.

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

Sincerely,

*AM*

Andrew Myerberg  
Director, Office of Police Accountability