



July 12, 2021

Interim Chief Adrian Diaz
Seattle Police Department
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Chief Diaz:

Please see the below Management Action Recommendation.

Case Number

- 2020OPA-0748 / 2021COMP-0035

Topic

- Handcuffing Exception

Summary

- Officers did not handcuff an arrestee prior to transport as required by SPD policy.

Analysis

- Officers attempted to handcuff an arrested subject but were unable to because she was wearing a wrist cast and complained of pre-existing injuries.
- The subject physically struggled with officers as they led her unsecured into a patrol vehicle, and her nose struck the patrol vehicle during the struggle.
- [SPD Policy 11.020-POL-5](#) states that officers will handcuff detainees prior to being transported. If the detainee's physical ability is limited and officer safety is not compromised, officers may apply front handcuffs.
- The policy does not allow for detainees to be transported completely unsecured.

Recommendation(s)

- Evaluate whether there should be an exception to the handcuffing requirement where the officer determines that front handcuffs and double cuffs are not possible due to an arrestee's physical condition. If so, consider what alternative methods could be utilized to secure the arrestee.

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

Sincerely,

AM

Andrew Myerberg
Director, Office of Police Accountability