



May 3, 2022

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**

- 2021OPA-0238 / 2022COMP-0009

**Topic**

- Firearm Storage

**Summary**

- It was alleged the named employee lost their duty equipment, including firearm, while on an extended leave from work.

**Analysis**

- The named employee (NE) brought her duty equipment home during an extended absence from work. She stored her department-issued firearm, gun belt and its contents, radio, and ballistic vest in a plastic bag at her residence. The NE believes she inadvertently disposed of the equipment while cleaning out her property in 2020. She noticed the equipment missing in 2021 when she was preparing to return to work.
- [SPD Policy 5.001-POL-3](#) states: “Employees use training to assist in following policy.”
- The SPD training unit only teaches new SPD hires where and how to safely store their firearms. This topic is not covered during annual SPD training.
- The SPD Manual does not contain general requirements for safe firearm handling and storage. This is the subject of a recent OPA [recommendation](#) and a [2021 audit](#) by the Office of Inspector General.

**Recommendation(s)**

- Require all SPD employees to receive training on the Washington State and Seattle safe storage laws.
- Create a policy that references the requirements of these laws and discusses the safe handling and storage of firearms and other sensitive police equipment.

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

Sincerely,

*Gráinne Perkins*

Gráinne Perkins  
Interim Director, Office of Police Accountability