



January 16, 2024

Director Gino Betts, Jr.  
Office of Police Accountability  
PO Box 34986  
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Betts,

Please see the below Management Recommendation response

**Case Numbers:** 2022OPA-0254 / 2023COMP-0006

**Topic:** Use of Force on Restrained Persons

**Summary of the Management Action:** It was alleged that the named employee used force on a restrained person to prevent an escape.

**Original Recommendation:**

- OPA acknowledges that SPD's interim policy addresses the policy gap that existed when the incident at hand occurred.
- However, to minimize the need to use force against restrained subjects, SPD should consider acquiring, or jointly acquiring with hospitals, mobile restraint systems like the supplemental prisoner adjustable restraint (SPAR).
  - Other departments currently use SPARs to escort subjects presenting as in crisis.
  - A SPAR would have likely benefited the named employee in the present case when she was alone and physically disadvantaged while trying to escape a resistant subject.

**Action Taken:**

- The SPD respectfully declines this Management Action for the following reasons:
  - As noted in the recommendation, the interim policy addresses the issue of using force on a restrained individual who is attempting to escape. This will become part of the overall Use of Force Policy when revisions are done in 2024.
  - The SPAR equipment is not a viable option.
    - Most law enforcement agencies that are using it currently limit its use to moving individuals inside jails and prisons.
    - Using this tool for a combative subject increases the likelihood of needing to use force to get them into and out of the equipment, will require additional officers to complete a task that is currently managed by a single officer and logistically presents issues in storing and moving heavy equipment.
    - The cost associated with the purchase, training, upkeep and deployment of the equipment is too high for the limited value it brings to the department. In a time when we are struggling to prioritize essential services, the purchase of such equipment is not feasible.
  - **SPD Considers this Management Action:**  
Declined



**Seattle**  
Police Department

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Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ADZ'.

Adrian Z. Diaz  
Chief of Police