



Seattle Office of Police Accountability

June 30, 2025

Chief Shon F. Barnes
Seattle Police Department
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Chief Barnes:

Please see the Management Action Recommendation below.

Case Number

- 2025OPA-0125 / 2025COMP-0011

Topic

- Ending Foot Pursuits

Summary

- It was alleged that a named employee's use of force on a community member was not proportional to the crime or threat posed.

Analysis

- When responding to a shoplifting call a named employee confronted the Subject with two other employees and it was determined the Subject provided false identification information.
- The Subject ran away, so the named employee pursued them through the store at a "sprint." The named employee pushed the Subject from behind, causing them to fall headfirst into a metal shopping cart. The Subject hit their head and received multiple stitches.
- SPD Policy 8.200, Using Force, states "sworn employees will only use objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional force to the threat or urgency of the situation, to achieve a law enforcement objective..."¹
- SPD's force review unit determined the use of force was not proportional to the crime or threat posed.²
- During its investigation, OPA learned the named employee was not trained on methods to end foot pursuits, nor does SPD policy or training provide specific considerations for ending a foot pursuit.
 - IACP defines force as "the amount of effort required by police to compel compliance by an unwilling subject." They address the conditions and assessments for determining when to end a foot pursuit but not specific techniques.³
 - Beginning in 2025 SPD training began teaching a method to end foot pursuits that involves scooping a subject from behind using an arm around the waist to slow the subject and "corral" them.⁴

¹ SPD Manual. Policy 8.200 – [Using Force](#). Revised 09/01/2024.

² See closed case summary for case [2025OPA-0125](#).

³ International Association of Chiefs of Police. [Foot Pursuits – Considerations](#). 2019.

⁴ Conversation with training department representative on 5/28/2025.



- OPA reviewed policies from comparable cities but did not find any that addressed foot pursuit ending options in policy.⁵

Recommendations

- SPD should develop a training module concerning different tactics for ending foot pursuits, including different force options, relevant considerations, practical exercises, and anticipated risks. Any such training should review practices from comparable, large law enforcement agencies and incorporate any identified best or promising practices.
- SPD should consider reviewing a representative sample of recent foot pursuits terminated by use of force to determine the relative safety of different methods.
- SPD should consider whether to address specific expectations and considerations for officers ending a foot pursuit in policy.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie D. Glenn".

Bonnie Glenn
Interim Director, Office of Police Accountability

⁵ Cities consulted include San Jose, Portland, Chicago, Denver and Charlotte.