

8/14/19

Director Andrew Myerberg Office of Police Accountability PO Box 34986 Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Myerberg,
Please see the below Management Action Recommendation response.

Case Numbers

20180PA-0061/2018COMP-0098

Topic

Use of Force Tools (Taser)

Summary of Management Action:

 Concern that Policy 8.300-POL-3 allows for Tasers to be used in a wide variety of situations, effectively permitting a relatively high level of force to be applied in potentially inappropriate situations.

Original Recommendation:

• In a prior case, 2017OPA-0318, OPA issued a MAR requesting that the Department amplify its Taser training in multiple areas. Most relevant to this case was the recommendation that the Department provide: Clearer guidance as to what constitutes an imminent risk of harm, justifying use of a Taser; and more explicit explanations of what constitutes the "public safety interests: that are referenced in the second prong of the Taser policy and what conduct is sufficient to meet the requisite "level of resistance" from the subject. It is unclear whether the Department has accepted OPA's recommendations and instituted these modifications. If not, OPA would like to renew that recommendation.

Action Taken:

The topics listed in this recommendation were re-emphasized in the initial and re-certification
Taser training by the Education and Training Section. At this time, SPD considers this
recommendation complete.

Final Disposition:

Fully Implemented

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lesley Cordner

Assistant Chief, Professional Standards Bureau