



April 8, 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-0620 / 2021COMP-0016

**Topic**

- Arresting SPD Employees

**Summary**

- It was alleged that SPD command staff gave preferential treatment to an employee when he was arrested.

**Analysis**

- An off-duty SPD employee was arrested in an undercover SPD operation.
- OPA investigated allegations that the arresting sergeant gave preferential treatment to the employee under case 2018OPA-0834. During that investigation, OPA found that SPD command staff may also have given preferential treatment to the arrested employee.
- Commanding officers brought the arrested employee to police headquarters and met with him in his office rather than the precinct, citing greater privacy. They sought expedited booking for him at King County Jail. The employee was not handcuffed for most of the arrest.
- An involved command staff employee expressed that SPD policy lacks guidance on how to handle similar situations, which are exceptionally rare.

**Recommendation(s)**

- Create a policy governing how arrests of SPD employees are to be handled. The policy should provide guidance on the steps that should be taken by all ranks from officer to chief and SPD HR. It should discuss handcuffing and booking SPD employees among other issues that arose in this case. OPA requests to be included in drafting and reviewing this policy.
- Provide training to all SPD officers, supervisors, and command staff concerning this policy.

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

Sincerely,

*AM*

Andrew Myerberg  
Director, Office of Police Accountability