



July 29, 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-0529 / 2022COMP-0013

Topic

- East Precinct Garage

Summary

- The complainant alleged that officers are using sirens and air horns on routine exits from the East Precinct garage.

Analysis

- The East Precinct building garage exits onto to East Pine Street. The ramp is very steep, and visibility while exiting the garage is poor. Moreover, because of the grade of the exit, it is difficult for pedestrians to observe whether a vehicle is exiting until it crests the top of the ramp.
- It is a long-standing practice for officers to briefly engage their siren—called “chirping”—or sound their air horn to alert those on the sidewalk or the street that a vehicle is exiting.
- Neighbors of the East Precinct
- The City and SPD have installed an audible signal and mirrors to improve the safety of this exit.
- The West Precinct garage has a device that announces, “caution: vehicle exiting” along with a bright strobe.

Recommendation(s)

- Improve the East Precinct garage exit onto East Pine Street such that it provides conspicuous auditory and visual warnings when a vehicle is exiting from the garage.
- Issue orders, training, or guidance to all SPD employees concerning the use of the siren and air horn that provides an appropriate balance between avoiding the unnecessary use of these tools and protecting public safety.

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