



**Seattle**

Police Department

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11/21/2024

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:** 2023OPA-0155 / 2024COMP-0003

**Topic:** Releasing Evidence

**Summary of the Management Action:**

Following a shooting, the victim's car was taken as evidence. Later, the vehicle was allegedly auctioned without notifying the victim's family.

**Original Recommendation:**

- SPD should: (1) clarify which policy applies to the release of property held as evidence; (2) consider requiring verified notice, like certified mail, for vehicles or high-value items; and (3) consider notifying the property owner's family—particularly when, like here, family were identified and their contact information was documented— when SPD knows the owner is unavailable or incapable of retrieving the item.

**Action Taken:**

SPD will make attempts to contact identified next of kin when an individual is incarcerated or incapacitated. As stated in SPD Policy 7.060-TSK-1 – *Sworn Employees Releasing Evidence*, Sworn Employees are required to release property to the owner using the Mark43 Evidence/Property Disposition Instructions and complete and mail the owner a hardy copy of the Evidence and Property Release Letter.

When no family is noted, identifying next of kin can be challenging as it may require notice to be promulgated in a publication of record.

**SPD Considers this Management Action:**

Fully Implemented

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SR'.

Sue Rahr  
Interim Chief of Police