



Seattle

Police Department

July 25, 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-0418 / 2024COMP-0004

Topic: *De Minimis* Force on Restrained Persons

Summary of the Management Action: A named employee used de minimis force on a handcuffed person inside a holding room.

Original Recommendation:

- SPD should modify Interim Policy 8.200-POL-2 by inserting the word “reportable” before referencing “use of force on restrained persons.” This would clarify that objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional de minimis force on restrained persons is permissible.
- Alternately, SPD could modify Interim Policy 8.200 by adding a new exception for de minimis force to separate, guide, and/or control a restrained individual.

Action Taken:

- SPD has modified Policy 8.200-POL-2 to read as follows:
 - Sworn employees will not use **reportable** force on restrained persons except, where reasonable, necessary, and proportional to:
 - Protect a sworn employee, the subject, or member of the public from physical injury.
 - Prevent the escape of a detainee.
 - Get subjects into or out of a law enforcement vehicle only after reasonable attempts to gain voluntary compliance have failed. When feasible, sworn employees will obtain supervisor approval prior to using force to remove a subject from a department vehicle.

SPD Considers this Management Action:

Fully Implemented

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Sue Rahr, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes.

Sue Rahr
Interim Chief of Police