



Seattle Office of Police Accountability

November 15, 2018

Chief Carmen Best
Seattle Police Department
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

RE: MANAGEMENT ACTION RECOMMENDATION

Dear Chief Best:

Please see the below Management Action Recommendation.

Case Number(s)

- 2018OPA-0074

Topic

- Emergency Vehicle Operations

Summary

- It was alleged that the Named Employees violated Department policy by performing a vehicle takedown without lights and sirens and nearly colliding with several vehicles.

Analysis

- SPD Policy *13.030-POL-4* directs that: “Officers will use audible signals when necessary to warn others of the emergency nature of the situation.”
- The Named Employees recognized the general obligation to use their lights and sirens when involved in emergency vehicle obligations, but stated they did not do so in this case because of the risk that it could cause the vehicle takedown to fail and result in the subject car fleeing the scene and an eventual pursuit.
- The policy does not have an exception for when use of emergency equipment would undermine vehicle operations, such as a takedown; rather, it directs that emergency equipment be used “when necessary” not “when appropriate.”

Recommendation(s)

- Amend SPD Policy *13.030-POL-4* to allow for an exception to the use of lights and sirens during emergency vehicle operations when it would jeopardize an approved vehicle operation.

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

Sincerely,

AM

Andrew Myerberg
Director, Office of Police Accountability