



March 21, 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

- 2020OPA-0329 / 2022COMP-0007

Topic

- Patrol Rifle Storage

Summary

- It was alleged that multiple SPD officers failed to properly store their patrol rifles during a riot in which police vehicles were looted and burned.

Analysis

- On May 30, 2020, approximately 5,000 demonstrators gathered in downtown Seattle. A riot ensued, in which numerous protesters and officers were injured, multiple police vehicles were vandalized and set on fire, and businesses were heavily damaged and looted.
- A private security officer for a news agency observed two individuals remove two rifles from SPD patrol vehicles. One of the individuals fired multiple rounds into the SPD vehicle and a nearby building. The security officer approached both individuals, disarmed them, and disabled the rifles. He returned both rifles to an SPD officer.
- Several other SPD patrol rifles were either reported stolen or presumably destroyed by fire.
- The SPD Patrol Rifle Manual states: “When deploying with the patrol rifle, Officers will store the weapon either in the trunk of their patrol car (in the department approved carrying case) or locked into the approved locking rack inside the passenger compartment of the patrol car.” The manual further states that deploying with a patrol rifle is “not recommended” for “a typical crowd control response.”
- What constitutes the trunk of an SPD Ford Explorer vehicle has not been specifically discussed in the rifle training curriculum. Similarly, the curriculum does not discuss the proper storage of rifles in police vans.

Recommendation(s)

- Update the Rifle Program Operators Manual and Patrol Rifle Program training to address, at a minimum:
 - The secure storage of patrol rifles in SPD vehicles and other fleet
 - The appropriateness of deploying to demonstrations with patrol rifles
 - Requirements to remain with vehicles containing patrol rifles or other firearms

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



Sincerely,

Gráinne Perkins

Gráinne Perkins
Director, Office of Police Accountability