



June 9, 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-0398 / 2022COMP-0010

Topic

- Case Management

Summary

- It was alleged a follow-up unit did not refer a felony case for charges until after the expiration of the statute of limitations.

Analysis

- On July 6, 2019, the complainant employee arrested the Subject driver on two counts of Violation of the Uniform Controlled Substance Act (VUCSA) and alternate and/or misdemeanor charges of DUI and hit and run. SPD Traffic Collision Investigation Squad reviewed the case and assigned it to the Narcotics Section.
- On August 4, 2021, the named employee (NE), a sergeant in the Narcotics Section, referred the case to the City Attorney for charges. The City Attorney declined charges because the two-year statute of limitations had expired.
- The NE told OPA the Narcotics Section received the case more than a year before he was assigned to the unit. Additionally, he did not initially receive proper access to the records management system or on-the-job training in case management, and there was a backlog of over 2,000 cases.

Recommendation(s)

- Review, audit, and develop a comprehensive plan to improve case management processes and training for employees in follow-up units. The audit may include consultation with the vendor and analysis of case management best practices employed by other large departments. The plan should achieve the following:
 - Timely access, permissions, and training on relevant systems for employees assigned to follow-up units.
 - Automated safeguards to ensure that cases are not neglected beyond their statute of limitations.
 - Training and/or reminders for officers to ensure alert packets are sent to follow-up units.
 - As future staffing allows, the reallocation of resources to follow-up units to effectively management the volume of cases received.

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