



February 27, 2023

Director Gino Betts
Office of Police Accountability
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Betts,

Please see the below Management Recommendation response

Case Numbers: 2020OPA-0082 / 2021COMP-0002

Topic: Vehicle as Deadly Weapons

Summary of the Management Action: It was alleged that Named Employee used his vehicle as an improvised weapon to stop the subject from fleeing on foot.

Original Recommendation:

- Clarify in SPD Policy 8.300-POL-6 whether vehicles may be used as an impact weapon only against other vehicles or also against a person's body.
- Ensure SPD Policy 8.200-POL-5 is consistent with the modifications to 8.300-POL-6.
- Update relevant trainings to ensure that officers are familiar with the policies of using vehicles as deadly force tools.

Action Taken:

SPD Policy 8.050 – Use of Force Definitions have been revised to include “*Intentionally striking with a vehicle a person who is not inside a vehicle*” under the definition of Deadly Force. With this additional language, SPD feels the question of whether vehicles may be used as an impact weapon against a person is clarified (allowing the tactic but classifying it as deadly force.) SPD Policy 8.300-POL-5(2) states that vehicle-related force tactics may be considered deadly force, depending on the circumstances. Policy 8.300-POL-5(3) directs officers to consider secondary risks to the subject and other persons when determining whether to deploy vehicle related force tactics. As with any use of force, using a vehicle as an impact weapon requires the officer to articulate why the force used was reasonable, necessary, and proportional.

SPD Considers this Management Action:

Fully Implemented

Sincerely,

Adrian Z. Diaz
Chief of Police