



March 2, 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-0263 / 2022COMP-0005

Topic

- Vehicle Arrest Scenarios

Summary

- It was alleged that officers did not communicate or plan the extraction of a burglary suspect from a vehicle attempting to flee.

Analysis

- Officers responded to an in-progress burglary and found the subject running toward and starting a vehicle. The officers quickly engaged the subject to stop him from leaving. During the struggle with the subject, one officer used his flashlight and knee, and a second officer used his fist, to strike the subject and generate compliance. A third officer arrived and delivered a knee strike to the subject, at which point the officers collectively took the subject into custody.
- OPA has concerns with the officers' tactics and decision-making. Officers ran toward the vehicle to extract the subject without planning or communication with each other, leading to a dangerous and volatile situation. OPA has seen a number of recent cases in which officers engage and extract subjects from vehicles with little communication, resulting in significant uses of force.

Recommendation(s)

- Develop scenario-based training on detaining subjects in and around vehicles. Incorporate instruction on team tactics and decision making, de-escalation, removing subjects from vehicles, appropriate levels of force, and specific dangers and risks.

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