



Seattle

Police Department

November 17, 2022

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

Dear Director Betts,

Please see the below Management Recommendation response

Case Numbers: 2021OPA-0529/2022COMP-0013

Topic: East Precinct Garage

Summary of the Management Action:

The complainant alleged that officers are using sirens and air horns on routine exits from the East Precinct garage.

Original Recommendation:

- Improve the East Precinct garage exit onto East Pine Street such that it provides conspicuous auditory and visual warnings when a vehicle is exiting from the garage.
- Issue orders, training or guidance to all SPD employees concerning the use of the siren and air horn that provides appropriate balance between avoiding the unnecessary use of these tools and protecting public safety.

Action Taken:

- The Seattle Police Department relies on the Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) to make major facility improvements and renovations. The Captain at the East Precinct has been working to get the Standard City-approved, "Caution, Vehicle Exiting" audible warning with a more visible strobe installed at the East Precinct for almost a year. He has been working with both SPD Facilities Manager as well as FAS representatives. As of this writing he is still waiting for FAS to install the alarm system.
- In the Closed Case Summary (CCS) OPA documents that the Captain of the Precinct issued several "orders" and guidance to his subordinates regarding this issue. The CCS further stated that "OPA finds that there were legitimate safety concerns motivating officers to chirp their sirens or air horns when exiting the East Precinct garage. When weighing that public safety issue against the Department's desire to address the noise issue in a neighborly way, OPA believes the public safety issue takes precedence."
- The recommendation to "Issue orders, training or guidance to all SPD employees concerning the use of the siren and air horn that provides appropriate balance between avoiding the unnecessary use of these tool and protecting public safety" will do little to address the real problem, which is the unique layout of the East Precinct and the very real dangers associated with exiting the garage. The Captain and Precinct employees are well aware of the safety risks associated with the current configuration and take extra caution when exiting the garage.



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**SPD Considers this Management Action:
In Progress**

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Diaz".

Adrian Z. Diaz
Chief of Police