



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number OPA#2014-0278

Issued Date: 02/11/2015

Named Employee #1	
Allegation #1	Seattle Police Department Manual 7.020 Evidence, Private Property Collection & Release (Policy that was issued 10/15/2009)
OPA Finding	Not Sustained (Training Recommended)
Final Discipline	N/A

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

During a July 2014 inspection of the firearms inventory of the Seattle Police Quartermaster unit, an SPD Audit Unit inspector discovered a shotgun in the firearms storage room along with a print out of an email from 2011. The email was from the Kokomo (Indiana) Police Department (KPD) asking for assistance in returning a stolen shotgun that was located in a Seattle Pawnshop to its rightful owner in Kokomo.

COMPLAINT

The complainant, a supervisor within the Department, determined that during a firearms inventory inspection discovered a shotgun that was determined not to be SPD property, but rather a stolen shotgun that was recovered and brought to the Quartermaster for some reason in 2011. The email from KPD was to the named employee. It appears that neither the named employee nor any other employee documented the recovery, submission for evidence or request for shipment.

INVESTIGATION

The OPA investigation included the following actions:

1. Review of the firearms inventory inspection
2. Interviews of witnesses
3. Interviews of the named employees

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

Department policy in effect at the time of this incident stated that employees will make every effort to recover lost or stolen property, to identify the rightful owners, and ensure its prompt return. While the named employee thought he submitted a follow-up report regarding the shotgun, SPD policy required that the named employee submit a complete General Offense (GO) report and submit the shotgun to the Evidence Unit. This did not occur. There appeared to be confusion as to the roles in place regarding the Evidence and Quartermaster Units. The named employee said he was told by the Evidence Unit to take the shotgun to the Quartermaster Unit for shipping. The Quartermaster Unit accepted the shotgun but held it while waiting for shipping instructions. KPD assumed that the shotgun had been shipped as discussed and did not follow up with SPD.

FINDINGS

Named Employee #1

Allegation #1: The weight of the evidence showed that training is recommended for the named employee and supported a finding of **Not Sustained** (Training Recommended) for *Evidence, Private Property Collection & Release 7.020 (issued 10/15/2009)*.

NOTE: The Seattle Police Department Manual policies cited for the allegation(s) made for this OPA Investigation are policies that were in effect during the time of the incident. The issued date of the policy is listed.