



CLOSED CASE SUMMARY

ISSUED DATE: JULY 17, 2018

CASE NUMBER: 2018OPA-0078

Allegations of Misconduct & Director’s Findings

Named Employee #1

Allegation(s):		Director’s Findings
# 1	8.300-POL-10 Use of Force - Neck and Carotid Restraints 1. Officers Are Prohibited from Using Neck and Carotid Restraints Except When Deadly Force is Justified	Not Sustained (Unfounded)

This Closed Case Summary (CCS) represents the opinion of the OPA Director regarding the misconduct alleged and therefore sections are written in the first person.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Complainant alleged that an unknown Seattle Police Officer strangled her.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Named Employee #1 - Allegation #1

8.300-POL-10 Use of Force - Neck and Carotid Restraints 1. Officers Are Prohibited from Using Neck and Carotid Restraints Except When Deadly Force is Justified

SPD Policy 8.300-POL-10 governs the use of neck or carotid holds by SPD officers. The policy indicates that these tactics are strongly disfavored by the Department and may not be used unless deadly force would be justified. (SPD Policy 8.300-POL-10.)

The Complainant alleged to employees at the King County Jail that she was strangled by an unknown Seattle Police Officer. An officer at the jail heard the comment and notified a Department supervisor. The incident was screened with the Department’s Force Investigation Team (FIT) and it was advised that a supervisor interview the Complainant. A supervisor responded to the jail and spoke with the Complainant. The Complainant repeated her allegation that she had been strangled. The supervisor noted that there were no apparent injuries to the subject’s neck; however, he took photographs of her. The supervisor spoke with a jail employee who reported that he saw the Complainant pushing her neck against her seatbelt when she was seated in the patrol vehicle. The supervisor also reviewed the Body Worn Video (BWV) of the officers that interacted with the Complainant. The supervisor noted that there was no evidence that any officer ever strangled the Complainant. However, based on the nature of the allegation, the supervisor referred this matter to OPA and this investigation ensued.

As part of its investigation, OPA reviewed the documentation compiled by the supervisor. OPA also watched the Department video of the involved officers’ interactions with the Complainant. Lastly, OPA interviewed the Complainant. The Complainant indicated that she did not recall being strangled by any officer and stated that she no longer wished to proceed with this complaint. Ultimately, OPA reached the same conclusion as the supervisor –



there is no evidence that any officer strangled the Complainant. Accordingly, I recommend that this allegation be Not Sustained – Unfounded.

Recommended Finding: **Not Sustained (Unfounded)**