



Seattle

Police Department

September 11, 2019

Director Andrew Myerberg
Office of Police Accountability
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Director Myerberg,

Please see the below Management Action Recommendation response.

Case Numbers:

- 2017OPA-1218; 2018OPA-0231/2018COMP-0095

Topic:

- Use of Force Reporting

Summary:

- Employee failed to report a complainant's allegation that his neck was grabbed

OPA Recommendation:

- Add "complaint of contact with a subject's neck" as a trigger for Type I Use of Force reporting and investigation to ensure that such complaints will be critically reviewed in all cases moving forward.

Action Taken:

- On August 16, 2019 revisions to Seattle Police Department Policies and Procedures Manual were approved by Federal Court Judge Robart. Specific to this recommendation, new language was added to Policy 8.300-POL-9 Use of Force-Neck Holds and Carotid Restraints addressing inadvertent contact to a subject's neck. The Policy now reads:
 - *"Known inadvertent contact with a subject's neck during the application of a head control tactic, or other control technique which results in momentary contact with the neck of a subject without the risk or intention or restricting the flow of blood or oxygen is not a neck or carotid restraint, **but must be screened with a supervisor**. Any contact with the neck, causing or reasonably likely to cause injury or loss of consciousness will be screened with FIT."*

SPD Considers this Action:

- **Partially Implemented** – The act of supervisory screening ensures that complaints are critically reviewed, if the inadvertent contact constitutes reportable force the supervisor will ensure it is documented and reviewed according to policy.

If you have further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lesley Cordner
Assistant Chief, Professional Standards Bureau