



Seattle Office of Police Accountability

October 10, 2019

Chief Carmen Best
Seattle Police Department
PO Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Chief Best:

Please see the below Management Action Recommendation.

Case Number

- 2019OPA-0105/2019COMP-0028

Topic

- Canine Deployment

Summary

- It was alleged that the named employee violated Department policy when he caused his canine to bite the subject.

Analysis

- *SPD Policy 8.300-POL-1* directs that a canine may only be used as a force tactic when objectively reasonable. The policy also provides guidance as to when canine bites must be released.
- The named employee used his canine to bite the subject for a period of 37 seconds to encourage the subject to comply with an arrest. OPA found that the canine application in this case was not reasonable, necessary, or proportional under the circumstances. However, the named employee noted during his interview that the use of canines as a pain compliance tool was a common practice and was not prohibited by policy.

Recommendation(s)

- None. Since this incident, the Department revised the policy to prohibit the use of a canine for pain compliance.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

AM

Andrew Myerberg
Director, Office of Police Accountability