



**Seattle Office of  
Police Accountability**

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August 10, 2023

Chief Adrian Diaz  
Seattle Police Department  
PO Box 34986  
Seattle, WA 98124-4986

Dear Chief Diaz:

Please see the below Management Action Recommendation.

**Case Number**

- 2022OPA-0126 / 2023COMP-0005

**Topic**

- Un-handcuffing Screenings

**Summary**

- During a domestic violence investigation, officers handcuffed a subject while interviewing his partner. The subject was later unhandcuffed, and the named employee, a supervisor, screened the detention.

**Analysis**

- Policy Manual 6.220-POL-2(8) [Supervisors Will Screen All Incidents In-Person When an Officer Places Handcuffs on a Subject] does not state the purpose or criteria for screening a subject handcuffed during a *Terry* stop.
- The named employee told OPA that his inadequate screening was due to insufficient guidance from the department. OPA believes articulating the purpose and process for un-handcuffing screenings will promote consistency and thoroughness.

**Recommendations**

- SPD should revise Policy Manual 6.220-POL-2(8) to instruct the screening sergeant to:
  - Tell the subject the reasons for the detainment, why they were handcuffed and confirm their understanding.
  - Verify the subject's detention was consistent with SPD policy.
  - Inquire as to whether the subject experienced pain or injury.
  - Document and photograph observable injuries.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gino Betts, Jr.".

Gino Betts, Jr.  
Director, Office of Police Accountability