



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-0254 / 2023COMP-0006

Topic

- Use of Force on Restrained Persons

Summary

- It was alleged that the named employee used force on a restrained person to prevent an escape.

Analysis

- SPD Policy Manual 8.200(2) states, “Officers will not use force on restrained persons except where reasonable, necessary, and proportional to protect an officer, the subject, or member of the public from physical injury.”
- SPD Policy Manual Interim Policy 8.200(2) Use of Force: When Prohibited, Effective Date: 04/24/2023 now allows reasonable, necessary, and proportional force to “prevent the escape of a detainee.”

Recommendation(s)

- OPA acknowledges that SPD’s interim policy addresses the policy gap that existed when the incident at hand occurred.
- However, to minimize the need to use force against restrained subjects, SPD should consider acquiring, or jointly acquiring with hospitals, mobile restraint systems like the supplemental prisoner adjustable restraint (SPAR).
 - Other departments currently use SPARs to escort subjects presenting as in crisis.
 - A SPAR would have likely benefited the named employee in the present case when she was alone and physically disadvantaged while trying to escort a resistant subject.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gino Betts, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gino Betts, Jr.
Director, Office of Police Accountability