OLEO2024-001

Executive Summary

Date of Incident	September 13, 2018
Location of Incident	SeaTac
Date of Complaint	October 24, 2024
Corresponding IIU Case Number	IIU2024-267
Allegation Types	Excessive Use of Force; Bias-Based Policing; Inappropriate Conduct

Complainant alleged that King County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) personnel committed misconduct in September of 2018 by engaging in bias-based policing and/or inappropriate conduct when they detained and arrested him on the basis of his religion. Further, complainant alleged Sheriff's Office personnel committed misconduct by using excessive force in his arrest.

As a part of its investigation, OLEO conducted a cognitive interview of the complainant; obtained medical records; contacted and attempted to interview civilian eyewitnesses; reviewed Sheriff's Office reports, medical records and court records; and conducted interviews of the witness employee and the subject employees jointly with IIU investigators.

OLEO finds that the allegation of Excessive Use of Force against one subject employee is Unfounded because they did not engage with the complainant physically, while the allegations of Excessive Use of Force against the other three subject employees are Non-Sustained because there is not enough evidence to prove or disprove them.

OLEO further finds that the allegations of Bias-Based Policing and Inappropriate Conduct against all subject employees are Unfounded; the deputies involved were enforcing a protective order prohibiting the complainant's presence at the school from which he was being removed and they did not otherwise engage in inappropriate conduct related to the complainant's membership in a protected class.

Allegations and Findings

Sheriff's Office Personnel	Allegation	Finding
Deputy Jason R. Klinger (Retired)	Excessive Use of Force	Non-Sustained
	Bias-Based Policing	Exonerated
	Inappropriate Conduct	Unfounded
Deputy Brian K. Taylor	Excessive Use of Force	Non-Sustained
	Bias-Based Policing	Exonerated
	Inappropriate Conduct	Unfounded
MPO George Ireland (Retired)	Excessive Use of Force	Non-Sustained
	Bias-Based Policing	Exonerated
	Inappropriate Conduct	Unfounded
Detective William Bisesto	Excessive Use of Force	Unfounded
	Bias-Based Policing	Unfounded
	Inappropriate Conduct	Unfounded

Applicable Laws and GOM Policies[1]

1. GOM 3.00.015(1)(g): Discrimination, Harassment, Incivility, and Bigotry
2. GOM 3.00.015(2)(d): Excessive or Unnecessary Use of Force Against a Person
3. GOM 3.00.030: Bias-Based Policing
4. GOM 6.00.005: Use of Force

Investigative Summary

Interviews

OLEO conducted interviews with:

1. [redacted] (complainant), with aid of a live interpreter
2. Sergeant. Jeff Barden (witness employee)
3. Detective. William Bisesto (subject employee)
4. Deputy Brian K. Taylor (subject employee)
5. Deputy Jason R. Klinger (retired subject employee)

OLEO requested an interview with MPO George Ireland, the final subject employee; MPO Ireland is now retired and he declined to be interviewed, stating that he has no recollection of the incident. OLEO did not further pursue an interview with this deputy because no other interviewees indicated that he played a larger role in the incident.

OLEO contacted other potential witnesses but did not secure additional interviews. OLEO did not further pursue interviews with potential witnesses because they indicated a lack of recollection of the incident that had occurred over six years prior.

Documentary Evidence

OLEO reviewed the following additional evidence:

1. Hearing transcript from *City of SeaTac vs.* [redacted]
2. Complainant medical records
3. Sheriff's Office reports
4. Order for Protection against complainant

Additionally, OLEO made request for other documents or digital evidence but did not uncover additional evidence as expected due to the length of time that lapsed between the incident and the requests.

Fact Summary

Complainant [redacted] is not fluent in English and primarily communicates in Somali.

In June of 2018, [redacted]'s partner, with whom he had children, obtained an Order for Protection that, among other things, prohibited him from going to his children's school.

On September 13, 2018, using a crutch, [redacted] entered one of those schools, Tyee High School in SeaTac; he states he did so to pay a fee for his children's participation in athletic activities. Upon learning of [redacted]'s presence, the school principal contacted Deputy Jason Klinger, the School

[1] The General Orders Manual (GOM) contains policies of the Sheriff's Office. Policies applied are those that were in effect when the underlying incident giving rise to the complaint occurred.

Resource Officer, and requested that [redacted] be removed because he was violating the Order for Protection.

Deputy Klinger and Deputy Brian Taylor approached [redacted], informed him he was under arrest, and attempted to remove him from the school. A school employee was nearby and attempted to act as an interpreter. According to the deputies, [redacted] did not cooperate with his removal or arrest. The deputies grabbed [redacted] under the arms and carried him to Deputy Taylor's car. At some point before they reached the car, and for reasons that are not entirely clear, [redacted]'s head hit the ground. [redacted] insists that the deputies "beat" him, and the accounts from the deputies vary.

Deputy Klinger's account from that time states that the deputies "escorted" [redacted] to the ground to handcuff him. Deputy Klinger's account from January 2020, when he testified at a court hearing, is that the deputies "pushed" or "placed" [redacted] on the ground, while in the interview conducted in 2025, he stated that [redacted] "came loose" and fell to the ground. In Deputy Taylor's report, filled out closer to the date of the incident, he states that [redacted] intentionally hit his head on the ground.

Finally, after [redacted] had been handcuffed and secured, he was placed in Deputy Taylor's car with the help of a third deputy who had arrived at the scene, MPO George Ireland. Sergeant Jeff Barden also arrived on the scene. According to CAD[2] and deputy reports, [redacted] refused medical treatment and was taken to jail.

According to CAD reports, Detective (then-Deputy) William Bisesto arrived at the school but was only there for two minutes before being assigned to another call.

Analysis

Excessive Use of Force (Deputies Klinger and Taylor, and MPO Ireland): Non-Sustained

[redacted] alleges that Deputies Klinger and Taylor, and MPO Ireland, used excessive force and "beat" him when they arrested him. While it is clear from the evidence that [redacted]'s head did hit the ground at some point, the reason why cannot be satisfactorily proven.

The accounts from the deputies are inconsistent as to how the injury occurred. The deputies' accounts come from three different time periods: immediately after the incident; in court about one and a half years later; and in interviews related to this investigation about six years after the incident. Due to the time that lapsed, inconsistencies in accounts are expected.

Based on the available evidence, it is not clear whether [redacted]'s fall was accidental, self-inflicted, or due to intentional action by Deputies Klinger and Taylor, and MPO Ireland. And as discussed below (Bias-Based Policing), the deputies had a legal basis to arrest [redacted], so they were also permitted to use an objectively reasonable amount of force to carry out that arrest. Due to the complaint being filed six years after the incident, there are insufficient facts to either prove or disprove whether Deputies Klinger and Taylor, and MPO Ireland, used Excessive Force against [redacted]; accordingly, those allegations are **Non-Sustained.**

Excessive Use of Force (Detective Bisesto): Unfounded

The evidence clearly shows that Detective Bisesto did not participate in the use of force complained about. Accordingly, the Excessive Use of Force allegation against him is **Unfounded.**

[2] Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) from the Sheriff's Office Communications Center.

Bias-Based Policing (All subject employees): Exonerated/Unfounded

[redacted] alleges that he was arrested because he is Muslim. According to Sheriff's Office policy, bias-based policing is a form of discrimination that occurs if an employee takes enforcement action against a person "without a legal basis under state or federal law" and when the decision is made "based solely" on protected traits, such as race and religion.[3]

It is undisputed that an Order for Protection was in place that prohibited [redacted] from presence at his children's schools, including the school where this incident occurred. [redacted]'s presence on the school campus was a violation of that order and school staff requested that he be removed. The deputies had a legal basis to arrest [redacted] and did not do so based solely on his religion. Further, there is no evidence to indicate that any of the subject employees expressed anti-Muslim bias in word or action.

Deputies Klinger and Taylor, and MPO Ireland, are **Exonerated** of the allegations that they engaged in Bias-Based Policing because they had a legal basis to participate in the arrest of [redacted].

The allegation of Bias-Based Policing against Detective Bisesto is **Unfounded** because he did not participate in the arrest.

Inappropriate Conduct (All subject employees): Unfounded

In addition to the allegation of bias-based policing, the subject employees were served with allegations of Inappropriate Conduct. This allegation is served as a lesser-included allegation in cases where bias-based policing or discrimination are alleged; it is intended to cover conduct in which subject employees engage in behavior related to historically protected classes but where the conduct does not meet the legal standard of bias-based policing or discrimination. In this case, there was no evidence that any of the subject employees engaged in such behavior. Therefore, the allegation against all four subject employees is **Unfounded**.

-R.McPhail	2/28/2024
Ryan McPhail *Investigations Monitor*	Date

[3] GOM 3.00.030.