

City of Davis

Independent Police Auditor Report:

Review of Allegation that DPD Inappropriately
Handled a Missing Dog Call

July 2023

Independent Police Auditor
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Factual Background

DPD officers were dispatched to a call from an individual who alleged that her dog was missing from a residence where she had been living. DPD went to the apartment and asked the three individuals who were inside about the missing dog. They reported that because the dog had been left by her owner and had subsequently caused damage to the apartment, they had placed the dog in a patio on a leash. Officers received permission to search the apartment for the dog. Officers returned to the individual whose daughter saw the dog inside a nearby residence. The dog was returned to the owner without further incident.

One of the three individuals who were contacted by police raised concerns about DPD's response. She alleged that seven or eight officers responded to the call which the individual believed was an inordinate response to the event. More significantly, the person thought it was inappropriate and an indicia of bias based policing that one of the responding officers asked her, an African-American, for her license first, as opposed to the two other Caucasians who were also in the residence.

DPD Investigation and Outcome

DPD opened an investigation into the allegations. In the subsequent investigative report, DPD noted that the officer who had requested the person's identification was no longer with the Department, making it not possible to interview him. However, the police report and subsequent body worn camera footage allowed DPD to resolve the allegations.

Regarding the allegation that DPD "overresponded" to the event, DPD's records showed that five officers responded but two of the five were trainees who were not yet authorized to handle calls on their own. A review of the body worn camera footage shows that the officer asked the two white occupants of the apartment for their identification first, which they readily produced and asked the African American person for her identification later in the sequence. The report noted that because the African American was not present when the initial request was made, she may not have witnessed or been aware of that fact.

Based on the investigation and subsequent review, DPD determined that the allegations against the officer were not sustained.

IPA Review and Analysis

We reviewed the materials relevant to this incident, including the body worn camera footage, DPD police reports, and the internal investigative report. We concurred with the determinations reached by DPD.