



September 9, 2019

Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich  
Spokane County Sheriff's Office  
1100 W Mallon Ave  
Spokane, WA 99260

Sheriff Knezovich,

The Spokane County Sheriff Citizens Advisory Board has completed the review of the off-duty automobile accident involving Deputy Gordon and his subsequent disciplinary action and have the following findings for your consideration.

The accident on April 1, 2018 at 3515 Rambo Road showed a complete lack of judgement on Deputy Gordon's part. The speed estimate of 90 mph around a blind curve could easily have resulted in loss of life, beyond the total destruction of a police vehicle. Deputy Gordon was fortunate to have been able to walk away with only minor injuries. Deputy Gordon's "running late" for a family outing shows a complete disregard for the rules of the road that all citizens must adhere to.

As a civilian oversight board, we asked ourselves what would have happened to us given a similar vehicle accident. Where Deputy Gordon was not on duty, he in fact was operating the vehicle as a citizen. We believe some kind of infraction notice, a citation for unreasonable speed or negligent operation of a motor vehicle, should have been levied against Deputy Gordon that would have become part of his motor vehicle record.

We find your termination of Deputy Gordon justified given the fact that the incident occurred while off duty and not in response to a call for service. Alternatively, we support the process of mediation/arbitration called out in the collective bargaining agreement. The negotiations between you and the Deputy Sheriffs Association which reinstates Deputy Gordon after a 45-day suspension and provides for the recoupment of the totaled police vehicle seems reasonable for the new deputy. The four-year, last chance provision gives the department a broad window for observation of the deputy's performance over time and options should another disciplinary action arise.

Respectfully Submitted

Spokane County Citizen's Advisory Board