



City of Sweet Home City Council

City of Sweet Home
3225 Main Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386
www.sweethomeor.gov

[REDACTED]
Sweet Home, OR

[REDACTED]

This letter is in response to the emailed complaint you submitted to the Sweet Home Police Department on January 22, 2026, alleging supervisory failure, improper arrest authorization and failure to de-escalate during an incident on [REDACTED]. The “supervising sergeant (name and badge number unknown)” mentioned in your complaint is Police Chief Jason Ogden, who also serves as the City Manager. Consequently, your complaint has been reviewed by the City Council, who are responsible for overseeing the City Manager.

The Sweet Home City Council takes complaints against Council-appointed staff very seriously and does not tolerate violations of the law or City policy. When the Council received this complaint, an executive session was scheduled to review the complaint, the evidence, applicable City policies, and consider whether any disciplinary measures were necessary. This executive session took place on February 3, and this response letter was approved by the Council in open session on February 10, 2026.

Your complaint alleges that on the date in question, Chief Ogden:

- Failed to assess whether probable cause supported arrest escalation
- Failed to ensure proper handling of a compliant arrestee
- Failed to intervene to prevent unnecessary or excessive force
- Failed to ensure accommodation of disclosed medical and mental health conditions.
- Authorized an arrest without adequate de-escalation
- Failed to assess credibility of alleged [REDACTED]
- Failed to ensure accommodation of a disclosed surgical injury
- Failed to intervene to stop use of force after compliance
- Approved the mischaracterization of compliance as “resistance.”

The policies applicable to your complaint are Sweet Home Police Department Policy Manual, Policy 300, Use of Force, sections 300.5 (Reporting the Use of Force), 300.6 (Medical Considerations) and 300.7 (Supervisor Responsibilities). These policies are public documents, and can be viewed at <https://www.sweethomeor.gov/media/33831>.

After careful review of your complaint, the applicable city policies, and the available video evidence, the City Council has found the complaint to be unfounded. The Council’s findings regarding each of your allegations are as follows:

“Failure to assess whether probable cause supported arrest escalation” and “Failure to assess credibility of alleged [REDACTED]”

Body-worn camera footage from the incident shows that when Chief Ogden arrived, [REDACTED] briefed him on the situation and the evidence supporting probable cause for the



arrest, which included what he, [REDACTED], saw and heard. This, along with his own interaction with you allowed Chief Ogden to assess that there was sufficient probable cause for the arrest, and that the allegation of [REDACTED] was credible.

“Failure to ensure proper handling of a compliant arrestee”

Video evidence indicates that when you exited your vehicle, you began reaching back toward the storage compartment of the door of the vehicle, which required officers to restrain you to ensure that you were not reaching for a weapon or other dangerous object. The evidence also shows continued non-compliance as the officers attempted to follow the appropriate arrest procedures, including applying handcuffs. While you may have been initially compliant by getting out of the vehicle, the body-worn camera footage shows that you immediately became non-compliant, necessitating the use of force. Chief Ogden did not fail to ensure proper handling of a compliant arrestee, because, for all practical purposes, there was no compliance.

“Failure to intervene to prevent unnecessary or excessive force” and “failure to intervene to stop use of force after compliance”

Video evidence confirms that the amount of force exerted was the minimum amount necessary to ensure compliance and was not excessive. Body-worn camera footage shows that compliance did not occur until just before you were placed in [REDACTED]'s patrol vehicle and does not show any force used after compliance.

“Failure to ensure accommodation of disclosed medical and mental health conditions and “failure to ensure accommodation of a disclosed surgical injury”

Body-worn camera footage does not reveal disclosure of medical conditions, including a recent surgery, until after the use of force became necessary, making it impossible for Chief Ogden to ensure accommodation of any medical conditions or injury. Additionally, there is no mention of any mental health conditions during the arrest.

“Authorization of an arrest without adequate de-escalation”

Video evidence shows Chief Ogden attempting to de-escalate the situation prior to the arrest, which appears to have resulted in your initial compliance by exiting your vehicle. Chief Ogden's 'authorization' of your arrest was not necessary, because probable cause for your arrest already existed. De-escalation of the situation does not remove probable cause and does not prevent an arrest from being authorized.

“Supervisory approval of mischaracterizing of compliance as ‘resistance.’”

Body-worn camera footage does not indicate that Chief Ogden ever referred to your actions as resistance. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both told you to “stop resisting,” and it was clear from the video recording that you were not in compliance with their instructions.

The City Council finds that the available evidence does not indicate any violations of law or of Sweet Home Police Department policy, nor does it show a reasonable basis for your complaint. It is the Council's understanding that the charges against you arising out of this incident have not been fully adjudicated, and that you have an attorney representing you. Consequently, no public records requests regarding this incident can be released at this time; however, all of the evidence in this case can be obtained through your attorney.



If there is additional evidence not currently in possession of the Sweet Home Police Department that you believe contradicts the City Council's findings, please email Mayor Coleman, at scoleman@sweethomeor.gov so that she can arrange for the Council to review it.

Respectfully,

Susan Coleman
Mayor, City of Sweet Home

On behalf of the Sweet Home City Council:

President Pro Tem Joshua Thorstad
Councilor Chelsea Augsburger
Councilor Ken Bronson
Councilor Aaron Hegge
Councilor Dylan Richards
Councilor Angelita Sanchez