

Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations 2014

Chief Alan Goldberg of the Takoma Park Police Department announces that, in keeping with the Police Department's policy directives that require investigations of all complaints against the department or its employees, and that annual statistical summaries of such investigations by the internal affairs function be made available to the public, the following is the Takoma Park Police Department's Summary of Complaints for calendar year (CY) 2014.

There were 13 formal complaints in the year 2014. Of the 13 formal complaints, four warranted internal investigations. All of the 13 formal complaints involved sworn officers. The investigations encompassed 11 police personnel. There was one officer who was involved in two of the complaints.

Investigations into four of the 13 complaints were conducted. Nine complaints were referred to the employee's supervisor for investigation/counseling in lieu of an internal investigation. Of all of the complaints received in 2014, 11 were submitted by citizens, one complaint was submitted by an outside agency and one complaint was generated internally by an employee, the Chief of Police or Command Staff. There were no complaints referred anonymously. Of the nine complaints referred to the employee's supervisor, one involved an incident that occurred in 2010 (four years earlier) that had already been investigated, and for which there was no specific officer mentioned.

One of the 13 formal complaints was completed with a determination that resulted in sustained findings of improper conduct and disciplinary measures were warranted; one was determined to be unfounded; two are still pending investigation due to case specific circumstances; and nine were referred to a supervisor for counseling in lieu of an internal investigation. The disciplinary measure taken on one of the sustained investigations was resolved administratively.

During 2014, the demographic breakdown of employees who received complaints are as follows: one Hispanic male; eight Caucasian males; two African-American males and three incidents in which the officers were not identified. One employee was investigated for two incidents, and some complaints involved numerous officers for one complaint.

Residents are reminded that the process for making a complaint against a police employee is detailed on the City Police Web Page and in flyers available to the public in the Police Department lobby.