

Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations 2016

Chief 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) 2016.

Eighteen formal complaints were recorded with nine subjected to internal affairs investigations. Eleven complaints were submitted by citizens and five complaints were generated internally by an employee, the Chief of Police, or the Command Staff. Two complaints were submitted by other law enforcement agencies. There were no complaints referred anonymously. Subjects of the complaints include a total of 10 sworn officers, some of whom were involved in more than one complaint. Two civilian employees were the subject of complaints with one involved in more than one complaint.

Seven of the 18 complaints were completed with a determination that resulted in sustained findings of improper conduct, and disciplinary measures were warranted and taken. Two complaints are still pending investigation due to case specific circumstances. Nine complaints were referred to a supervisor for investigation/counseling sessions in lieu of an internal investigation. The disciplinary measures taken during 2016 on sustained findings were handled administratively and resulted in suspensions, resignations, a written reprimand, assignment to community service, and assignment to other classes to address specific issues.

Statistical comparison of 2016 with 2015 indicates the same amount of complaints for each year. Seven more complaints were referred to internal affairs investigations in 2016 as compared to 2015. Sustained findings increased from two in 2015 to seven for 2016.

Residents are reminded that the process for making a complaint against a police employee is detailed on the City of Takoma Park web page by selecting the Government and then the Police tab. The information is also available on flyers available to the public in the Police Department lobby.