

## **Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations 2019**

The Takoma Park Police Department's policy directives 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 a summary of complaints filed for calendar year 2019:

Nine formal complaints were recorded in 2019 with two subjected to internal affairs investigations. Seven complaints were submitted by community members and two complaints were generated internally by an employee, the Chief of Police, or the Command Staff. One of the formal complaints was regarding another jurisdiction and did not involve Takoma Park Police officers. There were no complaints referred anonymously.

In 2017, the police department initiated an online option to file complaints and compliments in an effort to make the process easier and more accessible. The online option was used for the submission of three of the formal complaints which included a complaint on officers from another jurisdiction that did not involve Takoma Park Police. There were two compliments that were filed using the online option thanking officers for their handling of various calls for service.

Subjects of the complaints in 2019 included a total of three sworn officers, some of whom were involved in more than one complaint. Two civilian employees were the subject of a complaint. There were two complaints that did not specify an employee. Two of the nine complaints resulted in sustained findings of improper conduct, and disciplinary measures were warranted and taken. Six complaints were referred to a supervisor for investigation/counseling sessions in lieu of an internal investigation. The disciplinary measures taken during 2019 on sustained findings were handled administratively and resulted in administrative actions as noted in the below chart.

2019 Statistical comparison with 2018 indicates a decrease of three complaints with 12 received in 2018, and nine received in 2019 or a reduction of 25.0%. One less complaint was referred to internal affairs investigations in 2019 compared to 2018.

Sustained findings increased from one in 2018 to two in 2019. In 2019, the use of body worn camera footage was used to assist in the investigation of

complaints. Body worn camera footage was essential in one complaint in determining the complaint to be unfounded based upon review of the camera footage.

In 2019, officers had a total of 11,687 contacts with the public which included calls for service, self-initiated calls\*, and traffic stops. The complaints represent 0.077% of all contacts.

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 tab and then selecting the Police tab. The information is also available on flyers available to the public in the Police Department lobby. Complaints and compliments can be filed online through the web page.

<b>DISCIPLINE IMPOSED</b>	
Written Reprimand	3
Loss of Leave	1
Loss of Pay	0
Suspension without Pay from Duty	3
Demotion	0
Dismissal from Employment	0
Monetary Fine	0
Other Type of Discipline	1

*\*Self-initiated calls: These types of calls are initiated by a police officer and given to dispatch, i.e., loiterers, suspicious subjects, parking, etc.*