

## **Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations 2017**

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 are made available to the public. The following is a summary of complaints filed for the calendar year 2017.

Seventeen formal complaints were recorded in 2017 with eight subjected to internal affairs investigations. Fourteen complaints were submitted by residents, and two complaints were generated internally by an employee. One of the formal complaints was submitted by another law enforcement agency. There was one complaint referred anonymously.

During 2017, the police department initiated an online option to file complaints and compliments to make the process easier and more accessible. The online option was used for submission of three of the formal complaints. There were also three compliments that were filed using the online option.

Subjects of the complaints in 2017 included a total of thirteen sworn officers, some of whom were involved in more than one complaint. One civilian employee was the subject of a complaint. There were three complaints that did not specify an employee.

Six of the 17 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 investigations 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 2017 on sustained findings were handled administratively and resulted in suspensions, loss of leave, written reprimands, and assignments to classes to address specific issues.

The statistical comparison of 2016 to 2017 indicates a decrease of one complaint, with 18 received in 2016, and 17 received in 2017. One less complaint was referred to internal affairs investigations in 2017 as compared to 2016. Sustained findings decreased from seven in 2016 to six in 2017.

Of particular interest in 2017 was the use of body-worn camera footage to assist in the investigations of complaints. Body-worn camera footage was essential in several complaints, to include four that were determined to be false based upon a review of body-worn camera footage and two that were sustained based on their review.

In 2017, officers had a total of 14,200 contacts with the public, which included calls for service, self-initiated calls (a police officer initiates these types of calls and gives them to dispatch, i.e., loiterers, suspicious subjects, parking, etc.) and traffic stops. The complaints represent 0.12% 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 and then 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.