



Auburn Police Department

Jason D. Moen | Chief of Police

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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 13, 2024
To: Chief D. Moen
From: Deputy Chief Timothy A. Cogle

APPROVED

JDM

RE: 2024 INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY AND REVIEW

The Auburn Police Department received Six citizen complaints in 2024. Citizen complaints typically involve minor rule or policy violations and are reviewed and investigated by the on-duty Watch Commander. Six complaints represent a decrease of one complaint when compared with 2023. In 2022, the agency received five complaints and received three citizen complaints in 2021.

Of the six complaints, three were closed with the allegation(s) “sustained.” This indicates that the officer was found in violation of a department policy. Two of the complaints were cleared as “unfounded.” And one complaint was cleared, “exonerated.” In each case, the complainant and the officers were advised in writing of the outcome.

BodyWorn video continues to be a tremendous aid in providing swift and judicious resolution of citizen complaints. Five of the six complaints received during 2024 were completely or in part resolved with the aid of body-worn footage or other digital recording equipment.

During 2024, the agency did not conduct any Internal Affairs Investigations (IAs).

IAs are initiated upon receipt of a formal complaint when the agency learns of a major infraction or criminal behavior or upon receipt of a notice of civil claim filed in court. A formal citizen complaint is not necessary for an IA to be started.

The department did receive one notice of claim letter in 2024. With the use of body-worn camera footage, the Deputy Chief was able to quickly demonstrate to legal counsel that Auburn Officers did not participate in the incident and only arrived after the fact to provide traffic and scene control for the involved agency. The plaintiffs’ attorney forwarded a letter absolving the Auburn Police Department and the City of Auburn from liability associated with this case. Due to the quick resolution of this claim, a formal IA was not required.

When an IA investigation is necessary, the investigations are conducted by command staff members who have received advanced specialized training in Internal Affairs Investigations.

In 2024, supervisors issued formal discipline Thirty-one different times. In addition, thirty-one Blue Team Watch Log entries were also completed. Watch Log entries are not formal discipline but entries made to document incidents where staff members have been coached or counseled on a performance concern.

During this same period, thirty-four Employee Commendations were issued to officers and staff members, recognizing their positive contributions and excellent work. In addition, officers and civilian employees are also recognized as “employees of the quarter” and formally recognized during the department’s annual award ceremony.

While formal discipline remains historically consistent year over year, Watch Logs entries do continue to rise and have done so over the last three years. A look back shows that in 2022, eight Watch Logs were generated, and in 2023, eighteen were completed.

The two-night shifts continue to be staffed with a majority of newer, less experienced officers. These officers require more coaching and hands-on supervisory interventions, creating a higher number of Watch Log entries.

The formal documentation outlined above demonstrates that the Auburn Police Department continues to focus on accountability, mentorship, and employee recognition. Supervisors are engaged with their teams, mentoring their officers, coaching, and providing necessary documented counseling.

Complaint Findings

	IA's	Citizen Complaint (CC)	Internal Affairs Disposition	Citizen Complaints Disposition
2020	3	8	2-sustained, 1-termination	5-unfounded,1- exceptionally cleared, 2 sustained
2021	4	3	1- sustained, 2- unfounded,1- exonerated	2-unfounded, 1- exonerated, 1-sustained
2022	4	5	1-sustained, 3-exonerated	3-unfounded, 2 exonerated
2023	1	7	1-sustained,	4-exonerated, 2-unfounded, 1 sustained
2024	0	6	-----	3-sustained, 2-unfounded, 1 exonerated

