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Police Auditor

Monthly
Report

January
2026

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Mission Statement

The Police Auditor’s goal is to independently and collaboratively work to promote community confidence in policing and accountability. The Auditor seeks to achieve this goal by working with all interested parties to ensure the Alameda Police Department is held to the highest standards and is in compliance with law and departmental policies. The Auditor’s work includes, but is not limited to, reviewing internal affairs cases and use of force incidents and confirming the Department conducts quality investigations, holding its employees accountable if a violation of law or policy occurs. This work aims to increase transparency and the public’s confidence in the police department by publicly releasing monthly and annual reports, by making recommendations to the Department on best practices, and by working with the public to ensure the police department is treating all members of the community with the respect and consideration they deserve while also, meeting its public safety obligations.

Police Auditor Activities for the Month of January

- Attended CompStat and Professional Standards meetings.
- Continued CALEA accreditation process.
- Began follow-up for RIPA use of force inspection.

Complaints

In January 2026, APD received no complaints. In January 2025, APD received four complaints during the same period.

Changes to guidelines from the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) will sometimes result in fluctuations in the data. For certain allegations, Departments are required to notify POST and conduct an investigation. The investigation does not need to rise to the level of an internal affairs investigation which are reported in this section. APD, however, typically elects to conduct internal affairs investigations whenever a POST notification needs to be made.

Externally generated complaints come from anyone who is not an employee of APD. Internally generated complaints can be due to suspected misconduct discovered during a review of body camera footage or a report, by viewing suspected misconduct in person, during an audit or inspection of APD policies and procedures, or if a member comes forward and admits

to a violation. The Police Auditor is briefed on each complaint.

	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	Jan 2026
Externally Generated Cases (includes claims filed)	0	3	0
Internally Generated Cases (Based on Comment by a member of the public)	0	1	0
Internally Generated Cases	0	0	0
Total Complaint Cases Received	0	4	0

The Police Auditor reviewed three cases that closed in January 2026 and did not object to the findings. The review included watching body camera footage, reading reports, and listening to interviews as necessary to make a determination.

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

Use of Force

Police officers in Alameda are expected to resort to using force only when alternatives such as communication, crisis intervention, and de-escalation tactics do not work or are not practical. Officers are required to only use the minimum amount of force necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement objective that is objectively reasonable and proportional to effectively and safely overcome resistance. Information about use of force can be found beginning on page 78 of the Alameda Police Department Policy Manual.

For the purposes of this report, force is broken into four categories:

- Incidents where officers displayed a weapon such as a firearm or taser but no other force was used,
- Low-level uses of force such as control holds or takedowns,
- Intermediate uses of force such as punches, knee strikes, or taser deployments, and
- Force resulting in serious bodily injury or death and all firearm discharges directed at a person.

In this report, force is counted by incident and the highest level of force used.

	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	Jan 2026
Pointing of a Weapon	1	2	1
Low-Level Force (control holds/WRAP* etc.)	18	11	18
Intermediate Force (strikes by hands, feet, or weapon, TASER deployments, etc.)	2	0	2
Force Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury or Death	0	0	0

*A WRAP is a device used to restrain individuals who present a safety risk to themselves or officers even after being handcuffed.

In January 2026, there were 21 force incidents/weapon displays. The below chart provides a breakdown of all force types used. The number will equal more than of incidents because some incidents involved multiple force types. In January, 76% of force incidents involved a control hold, which is “any Department-approved method or hold, designed to control the movement of an individual by manually applying pressure to a particular part of their body” (Policy 300). The second most common force type was a takedown which occurred in 38% of incidents. A takedown is “a method to physically take a subject to the ground with the intent of gaining control of the subject” (Policy 300). Both of the incidents involving an intermediate use of force involved fist strikes.

Force Type	# of Incidents with the Force Type
Taser Display	10% (2)
Firearm Display	0% (0)
Control Hold	76% (16)
Pain Compliance	10% (2)
WRAP	5% (1)
Personal Body Weapon (Fist Strikes)	10% (2)
Takedown	38% (8)
Other (Lifting, Pushing, etc)	10% (2)

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

Arrests

In January 2026, felony and misdemeanor arrests increased compared to December. Compared to the same period in 2025, felony arrests have increased 75% and misdemeanor arrests have increased 172%.

	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	Jan 2026
Felony	63	36	63
Misdemeanor/ Infraction	120	44	120
Total	183	80	183

Calls for Service

The APD received 6,043 calls for service during the month of January which is an increase compared to December. Calls for service numbers include calls that were directed to the Fire Department.

	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	Jan 2026
Calls for Service	6,043	6,134	6,043

Pursuits

In January 2026, there was one pursuit initiated by a member of APD. That pursuit was terminated by the officer. There were two pursuits during the same period last year.

On August 7, 2024, the APD pursuit policy was modified to explicitly allow officers to pursue suspects or vehicles wanted for felony crimes. This policy change is likely to result in an increase in vehicle pursuits. Officers are now authorized to initiate a pursuit when:

- A suspect was involved in a felony or
- A person suspected of committing a crime was believed to be armed with a firearm.
- Pursuits outside the above criteria must be approved by a Watch Commander.

	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	Jan 2026
Pursuits	1	2	1

Collisions Involving APD Employees

There was one collision involving an APD employee in January 2026. Last year during the same period, there were no collisions.

	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	Jan 2026
Collisions	1	0	1

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

Stops

In January 2026, the APD completed 1,094 stops, an increase compared to December 2025. Stop forms are required by the State of California when an individual is detained or searched. Data is required to be submitted to the State on an annual basis. Every time a stop is made and a form is required, officers select one of the eight stop reasons below.

	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	Jan 2026
Consensual encounter resulting in search	7	6	7
Investigation to determine if person is truant	0	0	0
Knowledge of outstanding arrest warrant/wanted person	9	8	9
Known to be on parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision	3	3	3
Probable cause to arrest or search	23	8	23
Probable cause to take into custody section 5150	1	4	1
Reasonable suspicion that this person was engaged in criminal activity	139	80	139
Traffic Violation	912	650	912
Total	1,094	759	1,094

Traffic stops made up 83% of stops so far in 2026. These violations are broken into three categories:

- Moving violations: Ex. speeding, running a red light
- Equipment violations: Ex. brake lights off or not working, license plate missing
- Non-moving violation, including registration: Ex. expired registration tags

69% of traffic stops involved moving violations so far in 2026.

	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	Jan 2026
Equipment violation	216	163	216
Moving violation	625	450	625
Non-moving violation, including registration	71	37	71
Total	912	650	912

The chart below provides a breakdown of stop outcomes for each stop type for January 2026.

	Arrest	Citation	Warning	Community Caretaking	No Action	Total
Consensual Encounter	43% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	14% (1)	43% (3)	100% (7)
Outstanding Warrant	100% (9)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	100% (9)
On Parole/Probation	33% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	67% (2)	100% (3)
Probable Cause to Arrest or Search	87% (20)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	13% (3)	100% (23)
Probable Cause 5150	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	100% (1)	0% (0)	100% (1)
Reasonable Suspicion	66% (92)	1% (2)	0% (0)	3% (4)	30% (41)	100% (139)
Traffic Stop	5% (46)	38% (348)	56% (507)	0% (0)	1% (11)	100% (912)

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

Community Surveys

On March 17, 2025, the APD transitioned to using PowerEngage for their citizen engagement software. When an individual calls 911 or the non-emergency number and their incident has been closed, they will receive text message survey questions about the service they received. This differs from the prior software which texted a link to callers. If the Department receives negative feedback from a respondent, they are now able to reach out by text in addition to calling the respondent. The goal is to increase the survey response rate due to the easier response method which will provide the Department with more feedback on their interactions with the public.

In the month of January, there was once again a connection issue between APD's server and the application that generates community surveys so the data for the month is incomplete and will not be presented.

Litigation and Administrative Claims

In January 2026, there were three administrative claims filed. During the same period in 2025, there were three claims filed and no lawsuits. One of the three claims in 2026 is for a vehicle tow.

	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	Jan 2026
Claims Filed	3	3	3
Litigation Filed	0	0	0

Training Hours

The APD provides internal and external training opportunities to its employees. In the month of January, sworn staff completed 376 training hours and professional staff completed 30 training hours. Training for sworn members consisted of the following topics: emotional intelligence, canine, officer involved shootings for field supervisors, and SWAT team leader school. The professional staff training consisted of Departmental training on emotional intelligence. The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requires 24 hours of continued professional training and 18 hours of perishable skills training every two years.

Other Employee Information

The APD is authorized to have 88 sworn members and 36 professional staff members, however the number of sworn staff has been frozen at 72 members. As of the end of January 2026, the Department had 67 sworn employees and 32 professional staff. Seventeen sworn employees are on probation because they are new hires or because of a promotion.

	Sworn Staff	Professional Staff
# of Authorized Positions	88	36
# of Filled Positions	67	32
# of Employees on Probation (new hires or promotions)	17	4
# of Employees on Light Duty	1	0
# of Employees on Administrative Leave	0	0
# of Employees on Military Leave	0	0
# of Employees on Medical Leave/Workers Comp	5	0

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.