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Police Auditor

Monthly
Report

July
2023

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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 July

- Identified members of the APD and City that have access to data and metrics important for the monthly report.
- Reviewed APD systems and software to ensure reporting on police activities was accurate and allowed for appropriate review.
- Reviewed complaint and use of force investigations going back to 2021
- Participated in a ride along.

Complaints

In July 2023, APD received four complaints. One complaint was made by a member of the public and three were internally generated by a member of APD. All four complaints are currently being investigated. The Department has one year from the date they learned of the complaint to come to a finding and issue any discipline.

From January 2023 to the end of July, APD received eleven complaints. Three complaints were externally generated and eight were internally generated. Compared to the same period last year, there has been a 22% increase in the number of complaints being investigated by APD.

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 pro-

cedures, or if a member comes forward and admits to a violation. Since at least 2021, more complaints have been generated internally by APD than externally by members of the public.

	Jul 2023	Jan-Jul 2022	Jan-Jul 2023
Externally Generated Cases	1	4	3
Internally Generated Cases	3	5	8
Total Complaint Cases Received	4	9	11

The Police Auditor reviewed the three cases that closed in June 2023 and did not object to the findings.

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:

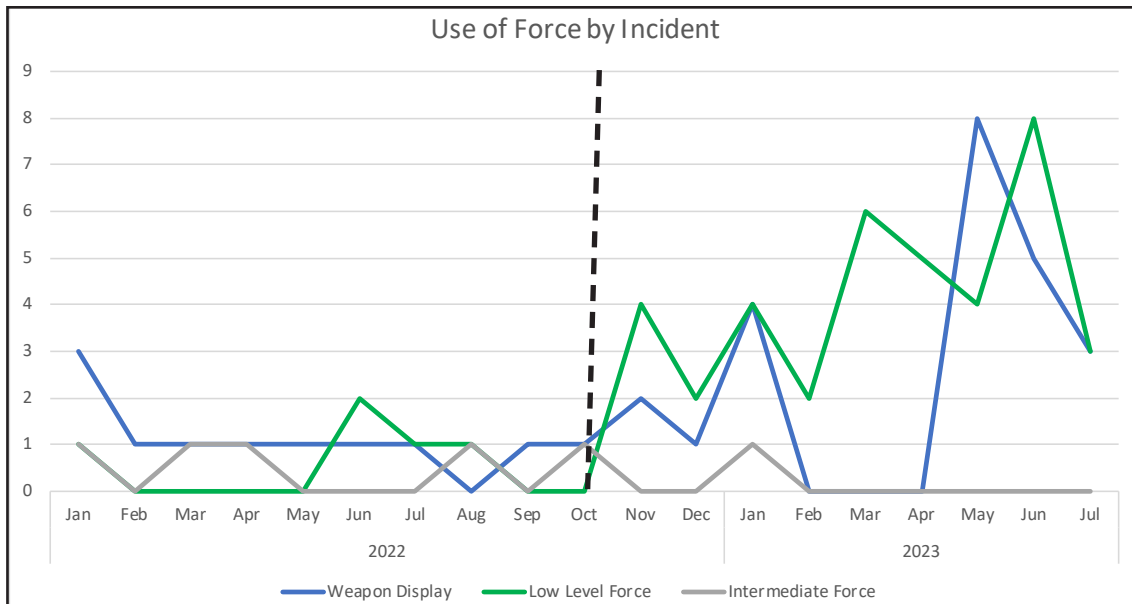
- Incidents where officers displayed a weapon such as a firearm or taser but no other force was used,
- Low level uses of force such as control holds or takedowns,
- Intermediate uses of force such as punches, knee strikes, or taser deployments, and
- Force resulting in serious bodily injury or death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

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

	Jul 2023	Jan-Jul 2022	Jan-Jul 2023
Pointing of a Weapon	3	9	20
Low Level Force (control holds/WRAP* etc)	3	4	32
Intermediate Force (strikes by hands, feet, or weapon, TASER deployments, etc)	0	4	1
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.

Compared to 2022, there has been a large increase in low level uses of force. The increase in low level force incidents is correlated with a training directed by the Chief that occurred in October 2022 which requires that all use of force be categorized and investigated as either a low- or intermediate-level use of force. Prior to this training, things such as pain compliance techniques and control holds on a noncompliant subject would not have a separate force report and investigation, documentation would only occur in the incident report. The graph below shows a count of each force incident broken down by level. It also denotes when the October 2022 training occurred. Incidents involving intermediate uses of force have decreased 75% compared to 2022.



Each use of force is reviewed by a supervisor to ensure compliance with Departmental policy.

Arrests

In the month of July, Alameda Police arrested 44 individuals for felonies. This year, felony arrests have increased 24% while arrests for misdemeanors or infractions have decreased 31%.

	Jul 2023	Jan-Jul 2022	Jan-Jul 2023
Felony	44	197	244
Misdemeanor/ Infraction	37	444	305
Total	81	641	549

Calls for Service

The APD received over 5,000 calls for service during the months of May, June, and July of this year. There has been an 8% increase in calls for service this year compared to the same period last year.

	Jul 2023	Jan-Jul 2022	Jan-Jul 2023
Calls for Service (excluding fire)	5,459	32,472	34,990

Stops

In the first seven months of 2023, the APD completed 3,424 stops, a 10% increase compared to 2022 during the same period. 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 six stop reasons below.

	Jul 2023	Jan-Jul 2022	Jan-Jul 2023
Consensual encounter resulting in search	2	24	17
Investigation to determine if person is truant	1	23	5
Knowledge of outstanding arrest warrant/wanted person	5	39	48
Known to be on parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision	2	15	13
Reasonable suspicion that this person was engaged in criminal activity	57	406	385
Traffic Violation	568	2,597	2,956
Total	635	3,104	3,424

Traffic stops made up 86% of stops so far in 2023. 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

90% of traffic stops involved moving violations so far in 2023.

	Jul 2023	Jan-Jul 2022	Jan-Jul 2023
Equipment violation	46	236	224
Moving violation	510	2,262	2,658
Non-moving violation, including registration	12	99	74
Total	568	2,597	2,956

Pursuits

In July 2023, there were no pursuits initiated by a member of APD. In June 2023, there was one pursuit initiated by a member of APD. An officer initiated a pursuit after identifying a vehicle suspected of being involved in a felony crime. The officer pursued the vehicle for one minute before the pursuit was terminated. There were no injuries or damage to property during the pursuit. Officers are authorized to initiate a pursuit when:

- A suspect was involved in a violent felony and posed an ongoing and specific threat to public safety or
- A person suspected of committing a crime was believed to be armed with a firearm and posed an ongoing and specific threat to public safety.

To date this year, there has been one pursuit. Last year during the same period, there was also one pursuit.

	Jul 2023	Jan-Jul 2022	Jan-Jul 2023
Pursuits	0	1	1

Collisions Involving APD Employees

Collisions involving APD employees occurred four times between January and July 2023 which is a one incident increase compared to the same period last year. There were no collisions in the months of June or July. APD personnel have been found at fault in three of the four incidents this year. In all of the incidents where the employee was at fault, they hit a parked vehicle or fixed object and there was minimal damage.

	Jul 2023	Jan-Jul 2022	Jan-Jul 2023
Collisions	0	3	4

Litigation and Administrative Claims

There have been nine administrative claims in 2023 including one in the month of June and three in July. Of the nine administrative claims in 2023, 56% (5 out of 9) were for vehicle tows.

	Jul 2023	Jan-Jul 2022	Jan-Jul 2023
Claims Filed	3	6	9
Litigation Filed	1	0	1

Training Hours

The APD provides internal and external training opportunities to its employees. In the month of July, sworn staff completed 460 training hours and professional staff completed 10 training hours. Sworn staff also completed 108 hours of external training in July. Internal training consisted of the following topics: fingerprint and DNA collection, the implementation of a new WRAP device, CompStat, and the updated use of force policy. External training involved a K-9 officer refresher course and SWAT team physical fitness and building and structure search training. 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.

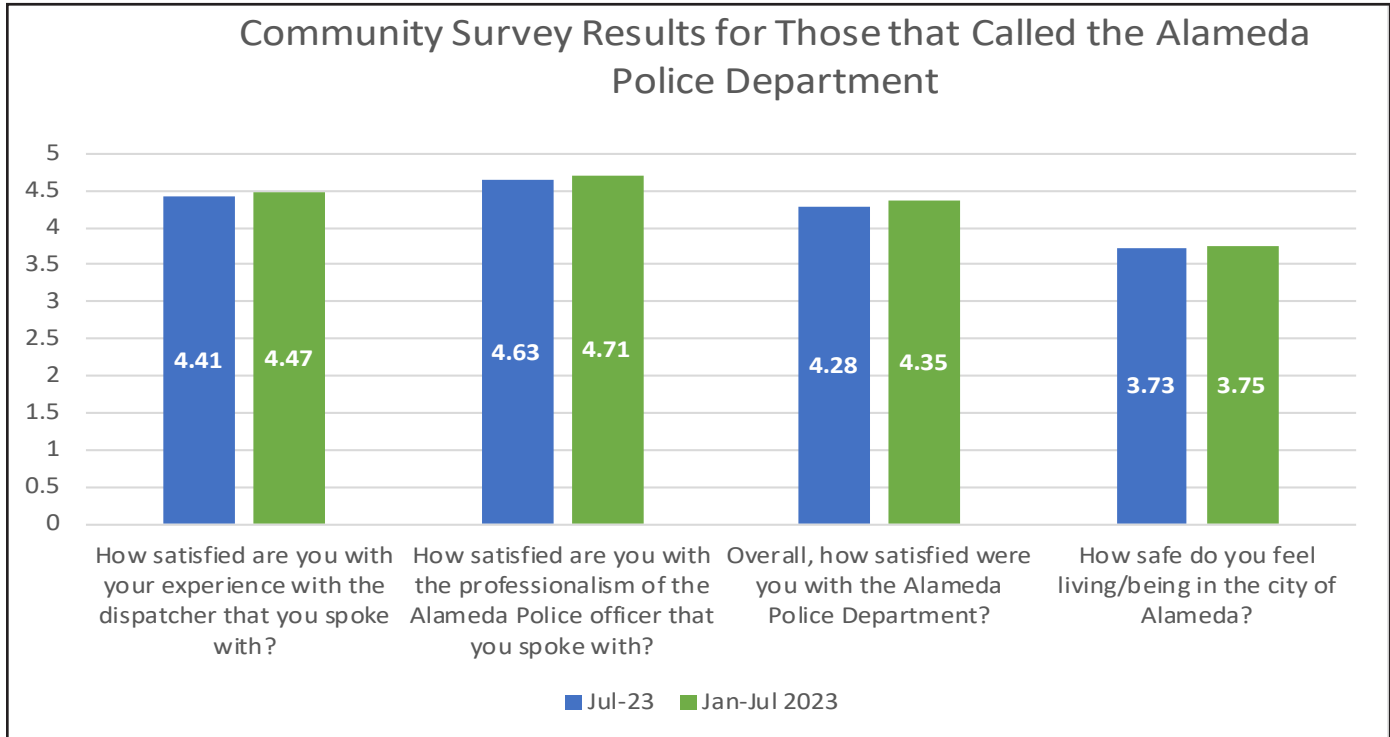
Community Surveys

The APD uses software to send individuals who make a call for service, are victims of a crime, or individuals who have involvement with an investigation a survey to gather feedback on their interaction with the police. In July 2023, 1,727 survey invites were sent. Three-hundred and ninety-six (396) respondents completed the survey for a completion rate of 23%. This matches the year to date completion rate.

The survey results for those that called the APD can be found in the chart below. Respondents can select from the following responses:

Score	How Satisfied are you...	How Safe do you...
1	Very Dissatisfied	Not safe at all
2	Dissatisfied	Not safe
3	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Neither safe or unsafe
4	Satisfied	Safe
5	Very Satisfied	Extremely Safe

On average, there is very little difference between the responses for the month of July and the responses year to date. Respondents feel between satisfied and very satisfied with their experience with the APD. For safety, respondents on average feel between neither safe or unsafe and safe.



72% of respondents in July were residents of Alameda.

Other Employee Information

The APD is authorized to have 88 sworn members and 34 professional staff members. As of the end of July 2023, the Department had 67 sworn employees and 32 professional staff which represents a slight increase in sworn staff from the month of June. Twenty-three employees are on probation because they are new hires or because of a promotion. One employee is on light duty meaning there are certain restrictions on their assignment due to injury. There are no employees currently on administrative leave.

	Jun 2023	Jul 2023
# of Filled Sworn Positions (88 authorized)	64	67
# of Filled Professional Positions (34 authorized)	32	32
# of Employees on Probation (new hires or promotions)	19	23
# of Employees on Light Duty	2	1
# of Employees on Administrative Leave	0	0
# of Employees on Military Leave	1	1
# of Employees on Medical Leave	4	4