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Police Auditor

Monthly
Report

March
2024

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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 March

- Attended CompStat and Professional Standards meetings.
- Employee wellness report finalized.
- Use of force memo finalized.
- Began use of force evidence retention inspection.

Complaints

In March 2024, APD received one complaint. Additionally, there were two new complaints from February that were not entered into February’s report.

So far in 2024, APD has received four complaints compared to four received in 2023 during the same period.

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. Since at least 2021, more complaints have been generated internally by APD than externally by members of the public.

	Mar 2024	Jan-Mar 2023	Jan-Mar 2024
Externally Generated Cases	0	1	3
Internally Generated Cases	1	3	1
Total Complaint Cases Received	1	4	4

The Police Auditor reviewed the one case that closed in March 2024 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.

	Mar 2024	Jan-Mar 2023	Jan-Mar 2024
Pointing of a Weapon	4	4	13
Low-Level Force (control holds/WRAP* etc.)	10	12	29
Intermediate Force (strikes by hands, feet, or weapon, TASER deployments, etc.)	0	1	0
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 March 2024, the number of low-level uses of force doubled compared to February (10 v 5). Both March and February had four incidents where a weapon display was the highest level use of force. The Police Auditor will begin a review to determine whether officers are encountering more situations that necessitate the use of force.

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

Arrests

In March 2024, felony arrests increased 44% compared to February and misdemeanor arrests increased 74%. From January through the end of March, felony arrests have increased 23% and misdemeanor arrests have increased 9% compared to the same period last year.

	Mar 2024	Jan-Mar 2023	Jan-Mar 2024
Felony	46	95	117
Misdemeanor/Infraction	68	139	152
Total	114	234	269

Calls for Service

The APD received 4,726 calls for service during the month of March which is a 5% increase compared to February. There has been a 4% decrease in calls for service this year compared to the same period last year.

	Mar 2024	Jan-Mar 2023	Jan-Mar 2024
Calls for Service (excluding Fire)	4,5726	14,340	13,819

Pursuits

In March 2024, there were no pursuits initiated by a member of APD. So far this year, and for the same period last year, there were no pursuits initiated by APD.

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.

	Mar 2024	Jan-Mar 2023	Jan-Mar 2024
Pursuits	0	0	0

Collisions Involving APD Employees

There were two collisions involving APD employees in March 2024. The employees in both incidents were found to be at fault. So far this year, there has been three collisions which is an increase compared to number of collisions from the same period last year

	Mar 2024	Jan-Mar 2023	Jan-Mar 2024
Collisions	3	1	3

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

Stops

In March 2024, the APD completed 523 stops, over an 80% increase compared to February 2024. The increase was predominately driven by an increase in traffic stops and stops for reasonable suspicion. 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.

	Mar 2024	Jan-Mar 2023	Jan-Mar 2024
Consensual encounter resulting in search	6	13	15
Investigation to determine if person is truant*	0	2	0
Knowledge of outstanding arrest warrant/wanted person	6	21	17
Known to be on parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision	0	6	5
Probable cause to arrest or search ¹	16	-	37
Probable cause to take into custody section 5150 ¹	1	-	4
Reasonable suspicion that this person was engaged in criminal activity	98	174	228
Traffic Violation	396	1,232	878
Total	523	1,448	1,184

* APD is not in the practice of conducting truancy checks. The numbers listed either represent data entry errors where the officer inadvertently selected the incorrect reason for stop or a stop where no other category appropriately fit the circumstance. APD is working with CA DOJ to receive guidance on how to best categorize stops that do not fit within the above categories.

Traffic stops made up 74% of stops so far in 2024. 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

65% of traffic stops involved moving violations so far in 2024

	Mar 2024	Jan-Mar 2023	Jan-Mar 2024
Equipment violation	71	83	146
Moving violation	237	1,110	569
Non-moving violation, including registration	88	39	163
Total	396	1,232	878

The chart below displays the outcomes for probable cause and reasonable suspicion stops from January 2024 through March 2024. For probable cause stops, 92% resulted in an arrest while for reasonable suspicion stops, 71% resulted in an arrest.

	Probable Cause to Arrest or Search	Reasonable Suspicion that this Person was Engaged in Criminal Activity
Arrest	34	161
Citation	2	4
Community Caretaking	0	5
No Action	1	50
Warning	0	8
Total	37	228

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

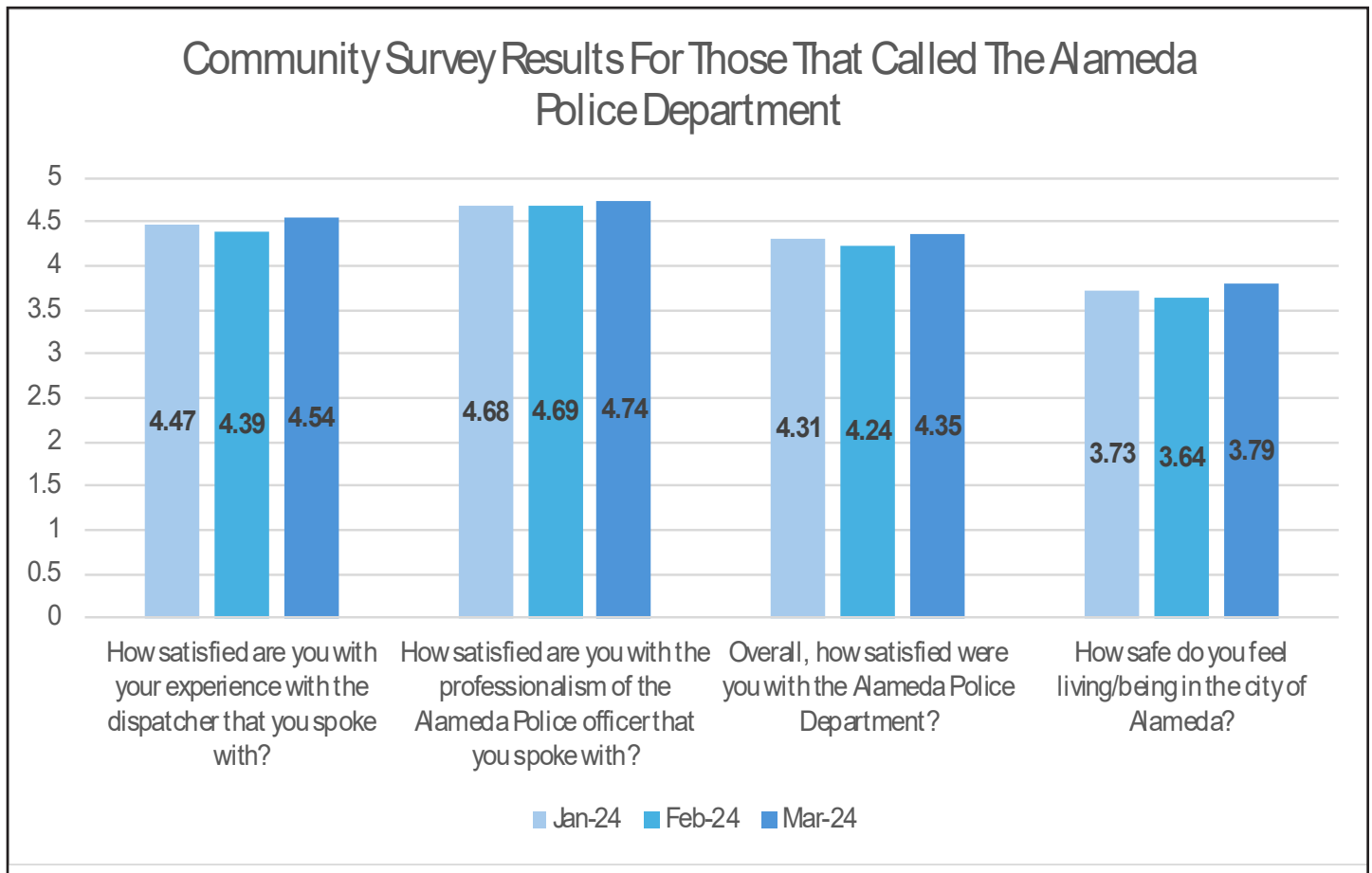
Community Surveys

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 March 2024, 1,818 survey invites were sent. Four-hundred and thirty-seven (437) respondents completed the survey for a completion rate of 24%. This is an increase compared to February 2024’s completion rate of 22%.

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

In March 2024, there was a slight increase in the satisfaction level of respondents in all four questions compared to January and February. Overall, respondents are satisfied with their experience with dispatchers, officers, and with the Department. For safety in Alameda, respondents on average feel between neither safe or unsafe and safe.



Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

Litigation and Administrative Claims

In March 2024, there were two administrative claims filed. So far in 2024, there has been three claims filed. During the same period in 2023, there were two claims filed.

	Mar 2024	Jan-Mar 2023	Jan-Mar 2024
Claims Filed	2	2	3
Litigation Filed	0	0	0

Training Hours

The APD provides internal and external training opportunities to its employees. In the month of March, sworn staff completed 688 training hours and professional staff completed 5 training hours. Training for sworn members consisted of the following topics: active shooter response, patrol training (autism recognition and awareness, courtroom testimony, ethical decision making, everyday leadership), crisis intervention, rescue boat operation, and crime prevention through environmental design. The professional staff training included a forensic workshop. 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. As of the end of March 2024, the Department had 71 sworn employees and 33 professional staff, a decrease in sworn and an increase in professional staff compared to February. Twenty-four sworn employees are on probation because they are new hires or because of a promotion. One sworn employee is on medical leave and one is on military leave.

	Sworn Staff	Professional Staff
# of Authorized Positions	88	36
# of Filled Positions	71	33
# of Employees on Probation (new hires or promotions)	24	4
# of Employees on Light Duty	0	0
# of Employees on Administrative Leave	0	0
# of Employees on Military Leave	1	0
# of Employees on Medical Leave	1	0

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.