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Police Auditor

Monthly Report

March
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 March

- Attended CompStat and Professional Standards meetings.
- Continued CALEA accreditation process.

Complaints

In March 2026, APD received six complaints. Three complains were externally generated by a member of the public, two complains were internally generated, and one complaint was generated by a member of APD following statements made by a member of the public. In March 2025, APD received eight complaints.

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.

	Mar 2026	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026
Externally Generated Cases (in- cludes claims filed)	3	10	4
Internally Generated Cases (Based on Comment by a member of the public)	1	5	2
Internally Generated Cases	2	1	2
Total Complaint Cases Received	6	16	7

There were no cases that closed in the month of March.

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 2026	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026
Pointing of a Weapon	3	3	5
Low-Level Force (control holds/WRAP* etc.)	19	26	50
Intermediate Force (strikes by hands, feet, or weapon, TASER deployments, etc.)	3	1	6
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 2026, there were 25 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 March, 64% 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 “Other” which occurred in 25% of incidents and typically includes lifting, pushing, and pulling. The three incidents involving an intermediate use of force involved knee and elbow strikes.

Force Type	# of Incidents with the Force Type
Firearm Display	12% (3)
Taser Display	8% (2)
Control Hold	64% (16)
Pain Compliance	20% (5)
WRAP	8% (2)
Personal Body Weapon (Fist/ Knee/Elbow Strikes)	12% (3)
Takedown	8% (2)
Other (Lifting, Pushing, etc)	25% (7)

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

Arrests

In March 2026, felony and misdemeanor arrests increased compared to February. Compared to the same year to date period in 2025, felony arrests have increased 63% and misdemeanor arrests have increased 66%.

	Mar 2026	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026
Felony	83	127	207
Misdemeanor/ Infraction	104	187	311
Total	187	314	518

Calls for Service

The APD received 6,58 calls for service during the month of March which is an increase compared to February. Calls for service numbers include calls that were directed to the Fire Department.

	Mar 2026	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026
Calls for Service	6,508	17,912	18,363

Pursuits

In March 2026, there were two pursuits initiated by a member of APD. The pursuits were terminated by the supervisor. 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.

	Mar 2026	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026
Pursuits	2	4	5

Collisions Involving APD Employees

There were two collisions involving an APD employee in March 2026. Last year during the same month, there were also two collisions. The employee was at fault in one of the collisions in March 2026.

	Mar 2026	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026
Collisions	2	4	4

Stops

In March 2026, the APD completed 994 stops, a decrease compared to February 2026. 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 2026	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026
Consensual encounter resulting in search	3	23	21
Investigation to determine if person is truant	0	0	0
Knowledge of outstanding arrest warrant/wanted person	19	42	43
Known to be on parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision	3	7	15
Probable cause to arrest or search	43	52	88
Probable cause to take into custody section 5150	6	7	9
Reasonable suspicion that this person was engaged in criminal activity	146	260	401
Traffic Violation	774	2,822	2,673
Total	994	3,213	3,250

Traffic stops made up 82% 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

70% of traffic stops involved moving violations so far in 2026.

	Mar 2026	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026
Equipment violation	139	662	566
Moving violation	574	2,003	1,864
Non-moving violation, including registration	61	157	243
Total	774	2,822	2,673

So far in 2026, 46% of collisions were caused due to improper turning and 17% were due to unsafe speeds. The top reasons for traffic stops were unsafe speed (30%) and Failure to stop at a crosswalk, stop sign, or red light (15%).

Primary Collision Factor	% of Collisions
Improper Turning	46% (67)
Unsafe Speed	17% (25)
Auto R/W Violation	14% (21)
Other Improper Driving	12% (17)
DUI	10% (15)

Top Traffic Stop Reasons	% of Traffic Stops
Unsafe Speed	30% (805)
Failure to Stop at Crosswalk/Stop Sign/Red Light	15% (410)
Use Cellphone While Driving Without Hands Free Device	4% (102)
Illegal U Turn	3% (79)
Driving Without Lights	3% (72)

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 March, 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. The Department's Technology Services Coordinator has been in contact with the vendor and they continue to look for a solution to the problem.

Litigation and Administrative Claims

In March 2026, there was one administrative claim filed. During the same period in 2025, there was one claim filed and no lawsuits. One of the four claims in 2026 is for a vehicle tow.

	Mar 2026	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026
Claims Filed	1	10	4
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 796 training hours and professional staff completed 16 training hours. Training for sworn members consisted of the following topics: use of force, individuals with autism, canine training, tactical first aid, basic motorcycle training, and child abuse. The professional staff training consisted of a property and evidence management course. 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 March 2026, the Department had 70 sworn employees and 32 professional staff. Twenty 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	70	32
# of Employees on Probation (new hires or promotions)	20	5
# of Employees on Light Duty	3	0
# of Employees on Administrative Leave	0	0
# of Employees on Military Leave	0	0
# of Employees on Medical Leave/Workers Comp	4	0