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Police Auditor

Monthly Report

May
2025

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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 May

- Attended CompStat and Professional Standards meetings.
- Began inspection of use of force in RIPA stop data.

Complaints

In May 2025, APD received five complaints. Three complaints were generated by a member of APD following statements made by a member of the public and two complaints was externally generated by a member of the public.

In 2025, APD received 28 complaints compared to nine received in 2024 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. The Police Auditor is briefed on each complaint.

	May 2025	Jan-May 2024	Jan-May 2025
Externally Generated Cases (includes claims filed)	2	5	16
Internally Generated Cases (Based on Comment by a member of the public)	3	3	10
Internally Generated Cases	0	1	2
Total Complaint Cases Received	5	9	28

The Police Auditor reviewed eight cases that closed in May 2025 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.

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.

	May 2025	Jan-May 2024	Jan-May 2025
Pointing of a Weapon	0	18	3
Low-Level Force (control holds/WRAP* etc.)	18	46	51
Intermediate Force (strikes by hands, feet, or weapon, TASER deployments, etc.)	1	1	3
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 May, there was one use of force that was classified as intermediate. Officers responded to a business for a reported shoplifting in progress. Officers saw the subject moving away from loss prevention with a shopping cart. The subject ran from officers. When caught, the subject refused to get on the ground. The officer utilized a control hold and took the subject to the ground in an effort to detain him. The subject did not listen to commands and would not roll onto his stomach and put his hands behind his back. The officer stated that due to the subject's non-compliance and because he was unsearched and wearing clothing that could conceal a weapon, the officer delivered a knee strike to the subject's right side. The subject rolled onto his stomach but still refused to put his hands behind his back. The officer delivered a second knee strike and the subject ultimately complied and was handcuffed and placed into a patrol vehicle without further incident.

The subject was transported to the hospital for a complaint of pain to his arm and back and was subsequently cleared. While getting ready to leave the hospital, the subject refused to walk to the patrol car. Officers used low-level force to move the subject into the patrol vehicle. While at Santa Rita Jail, the subject did not listen to the officers' commands about staying seated. Officers decided to re-handcuff the subject and used low-level force to gain compliance.

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

Arrests

In May 2025, felony arrests decreased slightly and misdemeanor arrests increased compared to April. Compared to the same period in 2024, felony arrests have increased 25% and misdemeanor arrests have increased 32%.

	May 2025	Jan-May 2024	Jan-May 2025
Felony	51	185	231
Misdemeanor/ Infraction	93	269	355
Total	144	454	586

Calls for Service

The APD received 5,981 calls for service during the month of May which is an increase compared to April. Due to a change in reporting, the calls for service numbers will now include calls that were directed to the Fire Department. 2024 numbers have been updated to reflect the change.

	May 2025	Jan-May 2024	Jan-May 2025
Calls for Service	5,981	27,249	29,565

Pursuits

In May 2025, there were two pursuits initiated by a member of APD. One was terminated by the officer and the other was terminated by the supervisor. Last year, there were no pursuits initiated during the same period.

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.

	May 2025	Jan-May 2024	Jan-May 2025
Pursuits	2	0	6

Collisions Involving APD Employees

There were no collisions involving an APD employee in May 2025. So far this year, there have been four collisions while last year, there were three during the same period.

	May 2025	Jan-May 2024	Jan-May 2025
Collisions	0	3	4

Stops

In May 2025, the APD completed 937 stops, an increase compared to April 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.

	May 2025	Jan-May 2024	Jan-May 2025
Consensual encounter resulting in search	8	20	33
Investigation to determine if person is truant	0	0	0
Knowledge of outstanding arrest warrant/wanted person	10	37	68
Known to be on parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision	8	10	22
Probable cause to arrest or search	27	58	110
Probable cause to take into custody section 5150	2	8	11
Reasonable suspicion that this person was engaged in criminal activity	97	383	448
Traffic Violation	785	1,529	4,289
Total	937	2,045	4,981

Traffic stops made up 86% of stops so far in 2025.

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

72% of traffic stops involved moving violations so far in 2025

	May 2025	Jan-May 2024	Jan-May 2025
Equipment violation	143	267	954
Moving violation	589	994	3,094
Non-moving violation, including registration	53	268	241
Total	785	1,529	4,289

The chart below displays reasonable suspicion stop outcomes by race. Between two-thirds and three-fourths of the outcomes for each race involved an arrest.

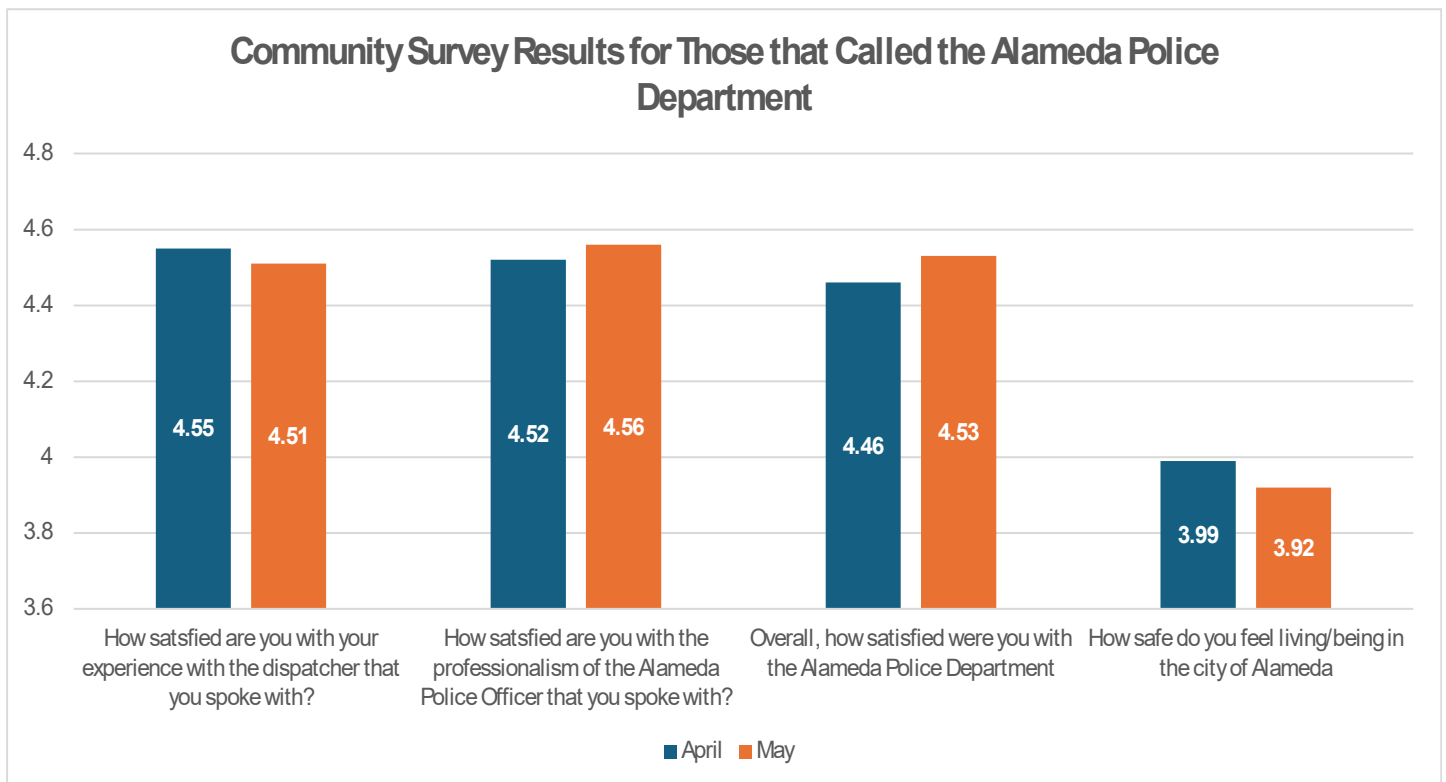
	Arrest	Citation	Warning	No Action
Asian	75% (66)	0% (0)	6% (5)	17% (15)
Black/African American	69% (357)	3% (14)	2% (12)	22% (115)
Hispanic/Latine(x)	70% (217)	2% (6)	3% (9)	26% (80)
Other	70% (44)	2% (1)	2% (1)	24% (15)
Two or More Races	85% (11)	0% (0)	0% (0)	15% (2)
White	64% (208)	4% (12)	5% (15)	25% (82)

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 May, the survey was texted to 784 individuals. Two-hundred and eighty-four people responded to the survey for a response rate of 36.1% which is higher than the response rate from April.

Compared to the April surveys, there has been a slight decrease in satisfaction with dispatchers and safety in Alameda. There was a slight increase in satisfaction for officers and with the Department overall.



Litigation and Administrative Claims

In May 2025, there were four administrative claims and one lawsuits filed. So far in 2025, there have been sixteen claims and one lawsuit filed. During the same period in 2024, there were four claims filed and one lawsuit. Seven of the sixteen claims in 2025 are for vehicle tows and two are for vehicle tows following a stolen vehicle recovery.

	May 2025	Jan-May 2024	Jan-May 2025
Claims Filed	4	4	16
Litigation Filed	1	1	1

Training Hours

The APD provides internal and external training opportunities to its employees. In the month of May, sworn staff completed 749 training hours and professional staff completed 80 training hours. Training for sworn members consisted of the following topics: internal affairs, domestic violence, traffic collisions, tactical emergency medicine, and radar operator. The professional staff training consisted of a crime scene investigation conference. 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 May 2025, the Department had 70 sworn employees and 34 professional staff. Twenty-four 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	34
# of Employees on Probation (new hires or promotions)	24	7
# of Employees on Light Duty	0	0
# of Employees on Administrative Leave	0	0
# of Employees on Military Leave	0	0
# of Employees on Medical Leave/Workers Comp	0	0