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Police Auditor

Monthly
Report

November
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 November

- Attended CompStat and Professional Standards meetings.
- Completed inspection of community survey follow-up.
- Began review of leave for lieutenants.

Complaints

In November 2023, APD received three complaints. One complaint was internally generated by a member of APD and two complaints were externally generated by a member of the public.

From January 2023 to the end of November APD received 17 complaints. Five complaints were externally generated and 12 were internally generated. Compared to the same period last year, there has been a 5% decrease (one fewer complaint) 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 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.

	Nov 2023	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2023
Externally Generated Cases	2	8	5
Internally Generated Cases	1	10	12
Total Complaint Cases Received	13	18	17

There were no cases closed in the month of November for the Police Auditor to review.

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.

	Nov 2023	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2023
Pointing of a Weapon	4	13	36
Low Level Force (control holds/WRAP* etc.)	5	9	57
Intermediate Force (strikes by hands, feet, or weapon, TASER deployments, etc.)	1	5	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.

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. See the July 2023 report for a graph depicting force and when the training occurred. Incidents involving intermediate uses of force have decreased 40% compared to 2022.

In November 2023, a tasing incident occurred while officers were attempting to detain an individual for being in possession of a stolen vehicle. This incident will be reviewed according to Departmental policy. In addition, a review board will be held which will identify whether there were any training or tactical deficiencies.

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

In October 2023, the Police Auditor released a weapon display inspection. By the end of November 2023, the Department implemented the agreed upon trainings and recommendations.

Arrests

In the month of November, Alameda Police arrested 24 individuals for felonies, a decrease from the month of October. This year, felony arrests have increased 17% while arrests for misdemeanors or infractions have decreased 32%.

	Nov 2023	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2023
Felony	24	303	356
Misdemeanor/Infraction	43	693	471
Total	67	996	827

Calls for Service

The APD received 4,425 calls for service during the month of November which is an 11% decrease compared to October. There has been an 8% increase in calls for service this year compared to the same period last year.

	Nov 2023	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2023
Calls for Service (excluding Fire)	4,425	50,726	54,928

Pursuits

In November 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.

	Nov 2023	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2023
Pursuits	0	1	1

Collisions Involving APD Employees

Collisions involving APD employees occurred six times between January and November 2023 which is a decrease compared to the same period last year. There were no collisions in the month of November. APD personnel have been found at fault in five of the six 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.

	Nov 2023	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2023
Collisions	0	8	6

Stops

Through November 2023, the APD completed 5,355 stops, a 11% 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.

	Nov 2023	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2023
Consensual encounter resulting in search	5	40	28
Investigation to determine if person is truant*	0	42	5
Knowledge of outstanding arrest warrant/wanted person	6	59	83
Known to be on parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision	2	30	21
Reasonable suspicion that this person was engaged in criminal activity	53	647	648
Traffic Violation	221	4,018	4,570
Total	287	4,836	5,355

* 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 85% 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

87% of traffic stops involved moving violations so far in 2023.

	Nov 2023	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2023
Equipment violation	24	352	379
Moving violation	186	3,514	4,072
Non-moving violation, including registration	11	152	119
Total	221	4,018	4,570

The chart below identifies the outcomes for the top five violations for traffic stops in 2023. For unsafe speed, drivers were written citations 54% of the time. For failure to stop at a crosswalk, drivers were ticketed 40% of the time. For both handheld devices while driving and seatbelt violations, drivers were ticked 50% of the time. Finally, for incorrectly displaying license plates, drivers were ticketed 21% of the time.

Top Traffic Stop Reasons Jan 2023 - Nov 2023	Citation	Warning	Other Outcome
Unsafe Speed	900	770	4
Failure to Stop at a Crosswalk	296	446	3
Handheld Device While Driving	229	230	0
Seatbelt Violation	119	120	0
Display License Plates Wrong (ex. no plate, one plate, or altered plate)	42	132	23

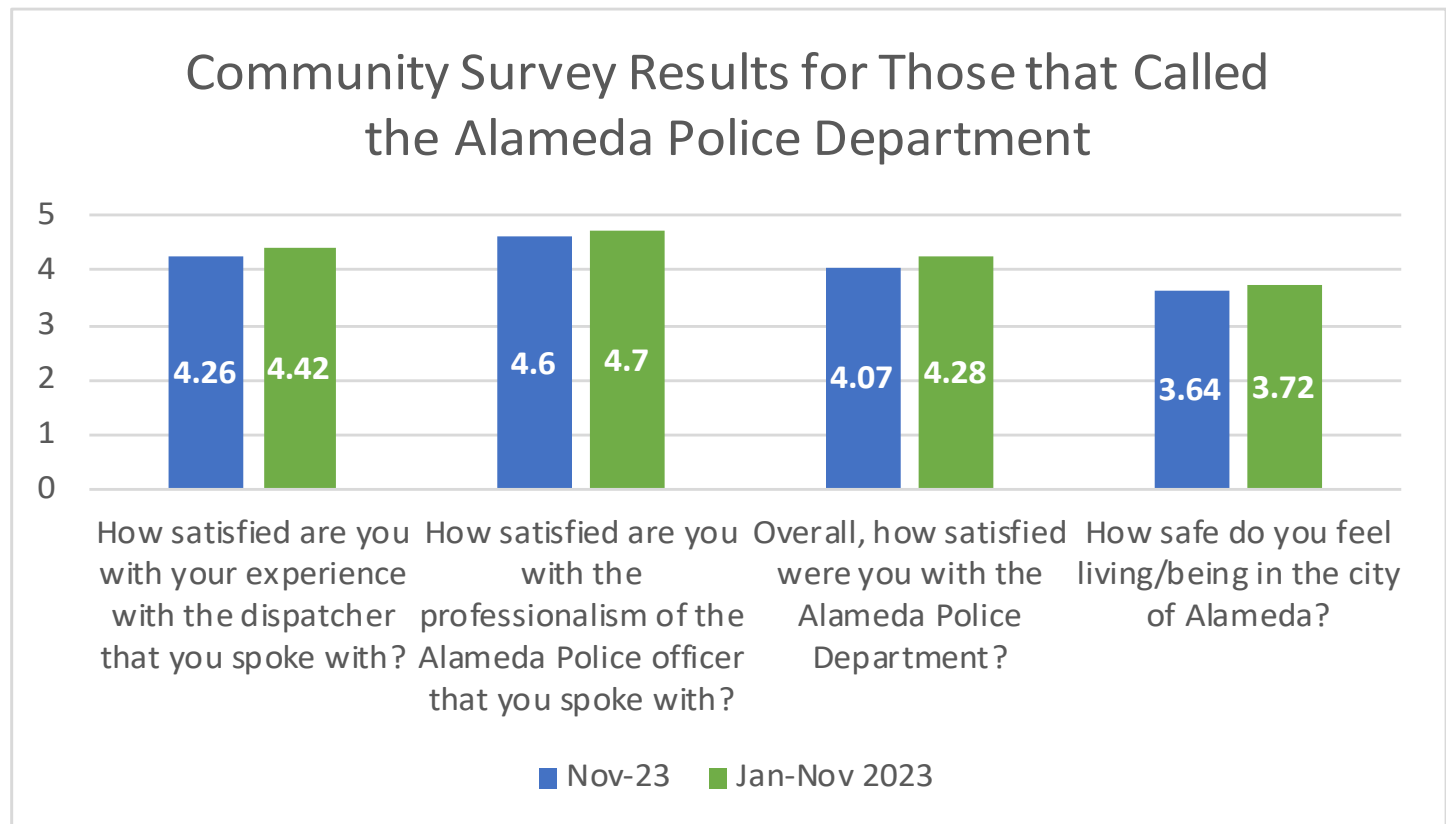
Community Surveys

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 November 2023, 1,838 survey invites were sent. Four-hundred and two (402) respondents completed the survey for a completion rate of 22%. This is an increase compared to last month's completion rate (20%) and slide decline from the year to date completion rate of 23%.

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

Over the past few months, there has been a slight decline in the satisfaction of respondents for all four questions. Despite this, overall, respondents are still 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.



Litigation and Administrative Claims

There have been thirteen administrative claims and one lawsuit filed in 2023. In November, there was one claim filed. Of the fourteen administrative claims in 2023, 43% (6 out of 14) were for vehicle tows.

	Nov 2023	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2023
Claims Filed	1	17	14
Litigation Filed	0	0	1

Training Hours

The APD provides internal and external training opportunities to its employees. In the month of November, sworn staff completed 664 training hours and professional staff completed 61 training hours. Training consisted of the following topics: firearms, building entries and searches (patrol training), internal affairs investigations, police liability, force encounters analysis, recruitment and retention, critical incident leadership, and radar operator training. The professional staff training included critical intervention training and a California Law Enforcement Association of Records Supervisors Training and Technology Seminar. 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 November 2023, the Department had 69 sworn employees and 34 professional staff which is the same as the month of October. Nineteen sworn employees are on probation because they are new hires or because of a promotion. Two sworn employees are on light duty meaning there are certain restrictions on their assignment due to injury and three sworn employees are on medical leave.

	Sworn Staff	Professional Staff
# of Authorized Positions	89	36
# of Filled Positions	69	34
# of Employees on Probation (new hires or promotions)	19	5
# of Employees on Light Duty	2	0
# of Employees on Administrative Leave	0	0
# of Employees on Military Leave	1	0
# of Employees on Medical Leave	3	4