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Police Auditor Annual Report

2023

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www.alamedaca.gov/departments/city-attorney/police-auditor

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 December

- Attended CompStat and Professional Standards meetings.
- Completed review of leave for lieutenants.

Complaints

In December 2023, APD received three complaints. Two complaints were internally generated by a member of APD and one complaint was externally generated by a member of the public.

In 2023, APD received 20 complaints. Six complaints were externally generated and 14 were internally generated. Compared to 2022, there has been a 5% increase (one more 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.

	Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2023
Externally Generated Cases	1	8	6
Internally Generated Cases	2	11	14
Total Complaint Cases Received	3	19	20

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

Of the 20 cases opened by APD in 2023, 11 investigations have been completed. Of those 11 completed cases, seven (64%) had at least one sustained allegation which means the investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegations made in the complaint.

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:

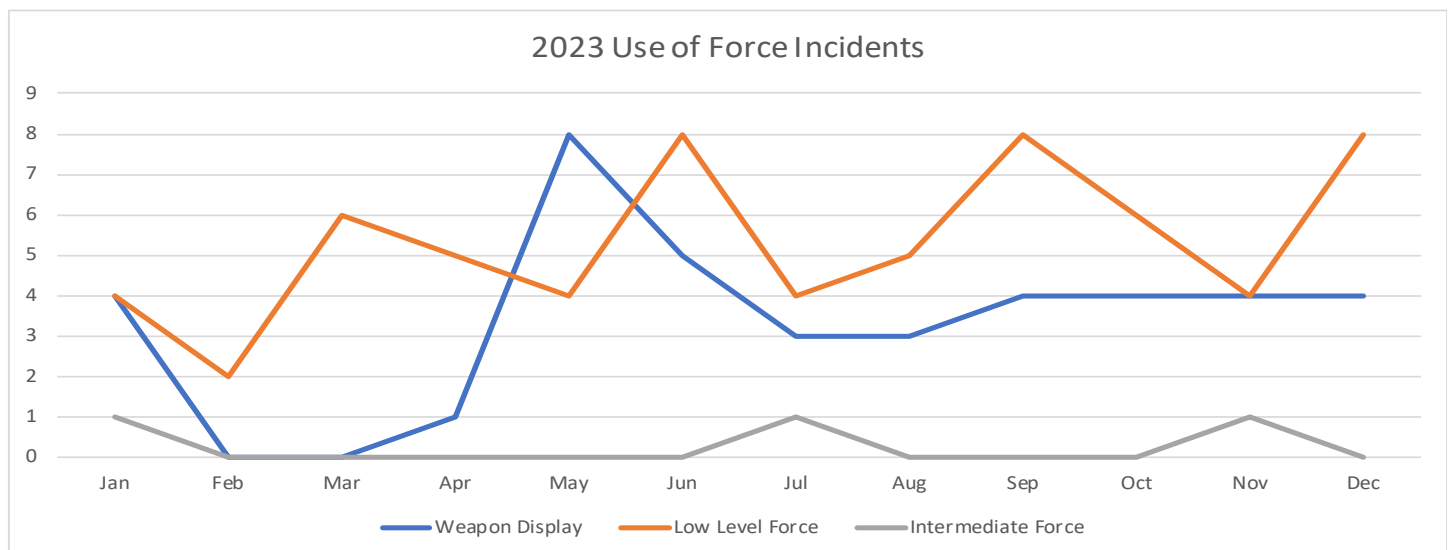
- Incidents where officers displayed a weapon such as a firearm or taser but no other force was used,
- Low level uses of force such as control holds or takedowns,
- Intermediate uses of force such as punches, knee strikes, or taser deployments, and
- Force resulting in serious bodily injury or death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

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

	Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2023
Pointing of a Weapon	4	14	40
Low Level Force (control holds/WRAP* etc.)	8	11	64
Intermediate Force (strikes by hands, feet, or weapon, TASER deployments, etc.)	0	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. Incidents involving intermediate uses of force have decreased 40% compared to 2022.



Arrests

In the month of December, Alameda Police arrested 31 individuals for felonies, an increase from the month of November. In 2023, felony arrests increased 18% while arrests for misdemeanors or infractions decreased 31%.

	Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2023
Felony	31	327	387
Misdemeanor/Infraction	37	743	508
Total	68	1,070	895

Calls for Service

The APD received 4,716 calls for service during the month of December which is a 7% increase compared to November. In 2023, there was a 7% increase in calls for service compared to 2022.

	Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2023
Calls for Service (excluding Fire)	4,716	55,492	59,644

Pursuits

In December 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.

In 2023, there was one pursuit. Last year in 2022, there was also one pursuit.

	Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2023
Pursuits	0	1	1

Collisions Involving APD Employees

Collisions involving APD employees occurred 10 times in 2023 which is an increase of one incident compared to 2022. There were four collisions in the month of December. APD personnel have been found at fault in eight of the ten incidents this year. In all of the incidents where the employee was at fault, there were no reported injuries.

	Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2023
Collisions	4	9	10

Stops

In 2023, the APD completed 5,613 stops, an 8% increase compared to 2022. 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. In 2022, 3% of stops (178/5,417) were not transmitted to the State. In 2023, every stop was transmitted for a 100% transmission rate. Every time a stop is made and a form is required, officers select one of the six stop reasons below.

	Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2023
Consensual encounter resulting in search	1	42	30
Investigation to determine if person is truant*	0	44	5
Knowledge of outstanding arrest warrant/wanted person	7	63	91
Known to be on parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision	0	31	21
Reasonable suspicion that this person was engaged in criminal activity	71	710	739
Traffic Violation	151	4,321	4,727
Total	230	5,211	5,613

* 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

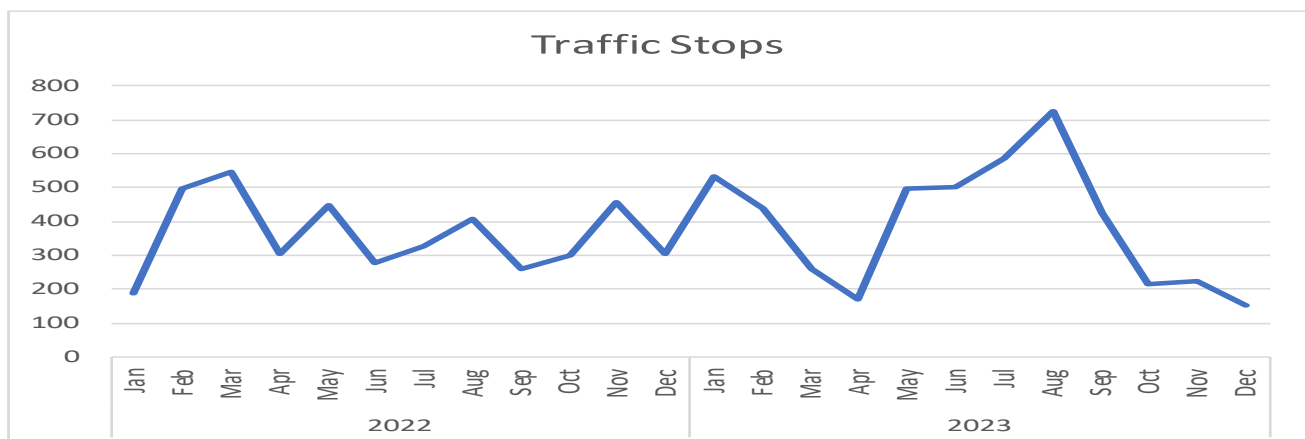
Traffic stops made up 84% of stops in 2023. These violations are broken into three categories:

- 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

89% of traffic stops involved moving violations in 2023.

	Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2023
Equipment violation	18	361	398
Moving violation	130	3,797	4,205
Non-moving violation, including registration	3	163	130
Total	151	4,321	4,727

The chart below presents traffic stop data for the past two years. While there are fluctuations by month, on average, there were 377 traffic stops per month for the two year period. Over the summer months in 2023, APD placed a stronger emphasis on traffic stops and held multiple traffic enforcement operations. The result was a spike in stops during that period.



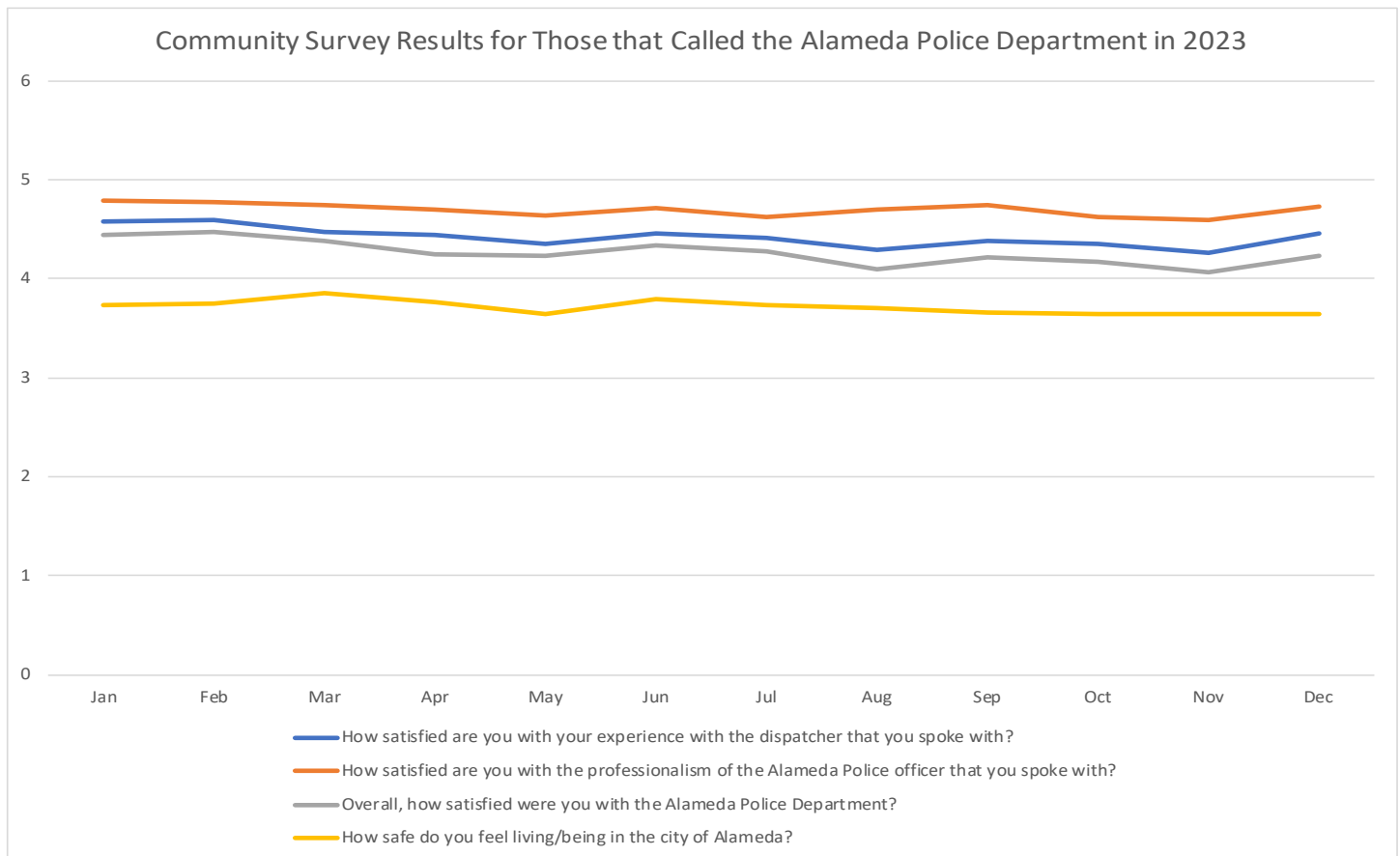
Community Surveys

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 2023, 19,368 survey invites were sent. For the full year, 4,317 respondents completed the survey for a 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

Overall, since the beginning of the year, 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

In all of 2023, there were 15 claims and one lawsuit filed. In December, there was one claim filed. Overall, there was a 29% decrease in the number of claims filed in 2023 compared to 2022. Of the fifteen administrative claims in 2023, 40% (6 out of 15) were for vehicle tows.

	Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2023
Claims Filed	1	21	15
Litigation Filed	0	0	1

Training Hours

The APD provides internal and external training opportunities to its employees. In the month of December, sworn staff completed 208 training hours and professional staff completed 8 training hours. Training for sworn staff consisted of the following topics: field officer training, front line leadership, chasing cell phones, report writing, and patrol rifle training. The professional staff training included dispatch priming 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.

Other Employee Information

The APD is authorized to have 88 sworn members and 36 professional staff members. As of the end of December 2023, the Department had 70 sworn employees and 31 professional staff. The chart below displays staffing numbers for the entire year by month and includes the number of authorized staff. While the hiring and academy process takes over six months, the Department has been able to increase their sworn staff by six officers since the middle of 2023.

