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Police Auditor

Monthly
Report

September
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 September

- Attended CompStat and Professional Standards meetings.
- Reviewed completed internal affairs cases and worked with Dept. staff to update investigative process for certain cases.
- Completed Law Enforcement Inspections and Auditing course.
- Completed inspection of weapon displays.

Complaints

In September 2023, APD received zero complaints.

From January 2023 to the end of September, APD received thirteen complaints. Three complaints were externally generated and ten were internally generated. Compared to the same period last year, there has been a 8% increase 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.

	Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2022	Jan-Sep 2023
Externally Generated Cases	0	6	3
Internally Generated Cases	0	6	10
Total Complaint Cases Received	0	12	13

The Police Auditor reviewed the five cases that closed in September 2023 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.

	Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2022	Jan-Sep 2023
Pointing of a Weapon	3	10	27
Low Level Force (control holds/WRAP* etc.)	3	5	41
Intermediate Force (strikes by hands, feet, or weapon, TASER deployments, etc.)	0	4	2
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 50% compared to 2022.

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

Following the release of the July 2023 report, it was noted there were no incidents where a weapon display was the highest use of force for February - April 2023. These months appeared to be outliers given most months had at least one incident and the month of May had eight. Because of this, the Police Auditor began an inspection to determine whether incidents were appropriately being reported. The inspection was completed and identified one weapon display from the period that was properly documented in the incident report and stop data form but was not entered into the Risk Management Reporting Portal which is how the data for the monthly report is obtained. The weapon display inspection can be found on the Police Auditor website.

Arrests

In the month of September, Alameda Police arrested 28 individuals for felonies. This year, felony arrests have increased 21% while arrests for misdemeanors or infractions have decreased 34%.

	Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2022	Jan-Sep 2023
Felony	28	242	294
Misdemeanor/Infraction	42	571	376
Total	70	813	670

Calls for Service

The APD received 4,918 calls for service during the month of September which is a 12% decrease compared to August. There has been a 9% increase in calls for service this year compared to the same period last year.

	Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2022	Jan-Sep 2023
Calls for Service (excluding Fire)	4,918	41,857	45,508

Pursuits

In September 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.

	Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2022	Jan-Sep 2023
Pursuits	0	1	1

Collisions Involving APD Employees

Collisions involving APD employees occurred five times between January and September 2023 which is an increase of one incident compared to the same period last year. There was one collision in the month of September. The employee collided with a parked vehicle. APD personnel have been found at fault in four of the five 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.

	Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2022	Jan-Sep 2023
Collisions	1	4	5

Stops

In the first nine months of 2023, the APD completed 4,752 stops, a 21% 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.

	Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2022	Jan-Sep 2023
Consensual encounter resulting in search	1	36	21
Investigation to determine if person is truant*	0	33	5
Knowledge of outstanding arrest warrant/wanted person	6	47	66
Known to be on parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision	1	24	15
Reasonable suspicion that this person was engaged in criminal activity	45	530	516
Traffic Violation	420	3,265	4,129
Total	473	3,935	4,752

* 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 87% 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

90% of traffic stops involved moving violations so far in 2023.

	Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2022	Jan-Sep 2023
Equipment violation	46	285	329
Moving violation	363	2,852	3,699
Non-moving violation, including registration	11	128	101
Total	420	3,265	4,129

The chart below breaks down traffic stops in 2023 by perceived race and outcome.

Jan-Sep 2023 Traffic Stop Outcomes by Race	Arrest	Citation	Community Caretaking	No Action	Warning	Total
Asian	3	343	0	3	402	751
Black/African American	15	304	2	5	438	764
Hispanic/Latine(x)	17	503	0	1	465	986
Other/Unknown	1	173	0	1	240	415
Two or More Races	1	9	0	1	16	27
White	10	488	0	2	686	1,186
Total	47	1,820	2	13	2,247	4,129

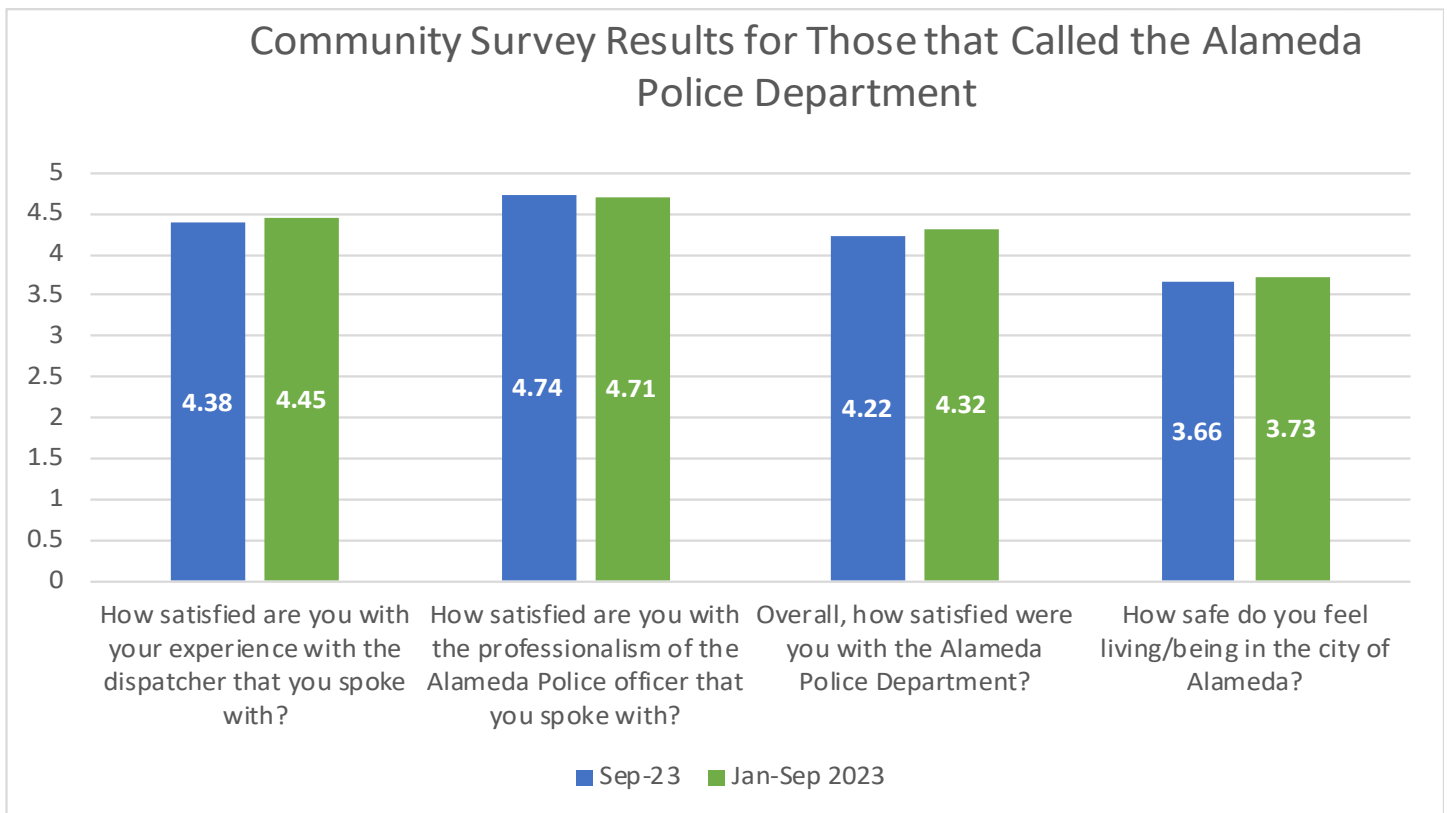
Community Surveys

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 September 2023, 1,983 survey invites were sent. Four-hundred and fifty seven (457) respondents completed the survey for a completion rate of 23%. This is an increase over last month's completion rate (20%) and the same as 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

On average, there is very little difference between the responses for the month of September and the responses year to date although there is a slight decline in the satisfaction with dispatchers, satisfaction overall with the Department, and with feeling safe in Alameda. Respondents feel between satisfied and very satisfied with their experience with the APD. For safety, 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 September, there were four claims filed. Of the thirteen administrative claims in 2023, 38% (5 out of 13) were for vehicle tows.

	Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2022	Jan-Sep 2023
Claims Filed	4	13	13
Litigation Filed	0	0	1

Training Hours

The APD provides internal and external training opportunities to its employees. In the month of September, sworn staff completed 586 training hours and professional staff completed 48 training hours. Training consisted of the following topics: tactical scenario de-briefs, motorcycle operator training, critical incident leadership, internal affairs/officer involved shootings, K9 refresher, and SWAT. The professional staff training included crime scene investigation. 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 September 2023, the Department had 69 sworn employees and 33 professional staff which is an increase over the month of August. In September, four new officers were sworn in. Nineteen sworn employees are on probation because they are new hires or because of a promotion. One sworn employee is on light duty meaning there are certain restrictions on their assignment due to injury and four sworn employees are on medical leave. During the month of September, one sworn APD employee retired from the Department and another employee was separated from the City.

	Sworn Staff	Professional Staff
# of Authorized Positions*	88	36
# of Filled Positions	69	33
# of Employees on Probation (new hires or promotions)	19	4
# of Employees on Light Duty	1	0
# of Employees on Administrative Leave	0	0
# of Employees on Military Leave	1	0
# of Employees on Medical Leave	4	4

* The number of authorized professional staff positions was inaccurately listed in prior months. The current numbers are accurate.