



City of Takoma Park

## **Takoma Park Police Department**

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### **Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations 2023**

The Takoma Park Police Department's policy directives require investigations of all complaints against the Department or its employees, and that annual statistical summaries of such investigations by the internal affairs function be made available to the public. The following is a summary of complaints filed for the calendar year 2023.

Eleven complaints were recorded in 2023 with five subjected to internal investigations and seven subjected to administrative investigation reviews. Four complaints were submitted by community members and seven were submitted internally by an employee, the Chief of Police, or a member of the Command Staff. The majority of complaints received in 2023 were initiated by police department employees. There were two compliments submitted using the online option thanking officers for their handling of calls for service.

Subjects of the complaints in 2023 include a total of 10 sworn officers. More than one officer may be listed in a complaint or may be involved in more than one incident. Four civilian employees were the subject of a complaint.

Two of the complaints resulted in sustained findings of improper conduct. In one of the sustained cases, disciplinary action is pending, as the involved staff member has requested an administrative hearing board per the new Statewide Police Disciplinary process. Two of the complaints received were unfounded, four were investigated and resulted in performance counseling being issued to involved staff, and three are still being investigated.

The 2023 statistical comparison with 2022 indicates an increase of five complaints in 2023 compared to 2022, with six complaints received in 2022 and 11 in 2023. All Takoma Park Police sworn officers wear body-worn cameras. Body-worn camera footage is essential in determining if the complaint is unfounded or provides evidence to support the allegations based on a review of the camera footage.

In 2023, officers had a total of 12,675 contacts with the public, which included calls for service, self-initiated calls\*, and traffic stops. The complaints received represent less than one percent (.00087%) of all contacts made by officers from the Takoma Park Police Department in 2023.

| <b>DISCIPLINE IMPOSED</b>                                    |
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| Written Reprimand - 1  |
| Loss of Leave - 0  |
| Loss of Pay - 0  |
| Suspension without pay - 0                                   |
| Demotion- 0  |
| Dismissal from Employment - 0                                |
| Monetary Fine - 0  |
| Retired while Under Investigation - 0                        |
| Resigned while Under Investigation - 0                       |
| Discipline Recommended/Officer Requested a Hearing Board - 1 |
| Performance Counseling - 4                                   |
| Unfounded - 2  |
| Pending/Still being investigated - 3                         |

Residents are reminded that the purpose of making a complaint against a police employee is detailed on the City of Takoma Park web page by selecting the government tab and then selecting the police tab. The information is also available on flyers available to the public in the police department's lobby. Complaints and compliments can be filed online through the webpage.

*\*Self-initiated calls:* These types of calls are initiated by a police officer and given to dispatch, i.e., loiterers, suspicious subjects, parking, etc.