

Borough of Metuchen Police Department

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FBINA 243rd Session



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Metuchen Police Department Professional Standards/Internal Affairs 2016 Annual Report

Internal Affairs

The Metuchen Police Department Internal Affairs Unit accepts, reviews, and responds to all complaints against police officers received from the public or from superior officers within the organization. Citizen complaints may be made in person, by telephone, fax, internet, or through the mail. These include anonymous complaints, complaints from third party witnesses, juveniles and complaints from parties not directly involved in the incident from which an allegation arises. All allegations are carried to their logical conclusion by experienced and trained investigators.

The investigative process assesses the propriety of all on or off duty conduct during the incident in which the alleged misconduct occurred. If during the course of an investigation there is an indication that misconduct occurred other than that alleged, the investigator examines the additional potential misconduct to its logical conclusion.

Disciplinary Process

In any given year officers of the Metuchen Police Department are involved in thousands of citizen contacts. Many are routine and many involve critical situations. The Internal Affairs Unit is tasked with handling complaints from the

public regarding officer conduct, as well as rare allegations of criminal conduct by department members. During 2016, no criminal charge was filed against an officer of the agency.

Allegations and Outcomes

All complaints are categorized based on the alleged offense. Upon the completion of the investigation it is reviewed by the Chief of Police and is designated with one of the following dispositions:

- Exonerated: The alleged incident did occur, but the actions of the officer were justified, legal and proper.
- Sustained: The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to prove the allegation, and the actions of the officer violated a provision of the agency's rules and regulations or procedures.
- Not sustained: The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation.
- Unfounded: The alleged incident did not occur.
- Policy Failure: There is no law, policy or departmental order that addresses the allegation.

Penalties

The following penalties may be assessed against any member or employee of the Metuchen Police Department as a result of disciplinary action:

- Oral Reprimand
- Written Reprimand
- Voluntary surrender of time off in lieu of other action
- Suspension
- Demotion
- Dismissal

Citizen Allegations

During 2016, 4 complaints were reported by citizens compared to 3 reported in 2015.

Internal Complaints

During 2016, the agency conducted 3 internal reviews compared to 4 in 2015. These internal complaints typically originate from a supervisor who detects a possible deficiency in an officer's performance or for a violation of policy.

The dispositions of ALL 2016 Complaints (Citizens and Internal) are as follows:

<u>Disposition</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Exonerated	1	0
Sustained	3	4
Not Sustained	0	3
Admin Closed	2	0
Pending	0	0
Unfounded	1	0
Total	7	7

During 2016, there were zero complaints that resulted in discipline ten (10) or more days suspension. This is a repeat of 2015.