



# **Borough of Metuchen Police Department**

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**Arthur M. Flaherty Sr.**  
*Chief of Police*

## **Metuchen Police Department Professional Standards/Internal Affairs 2022 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 who follow the NJ Attorney General Guidelines.

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 2022, no criminal charge was filed against any 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 2022, two (2) complaints were reported by citizens compared to two (2) in 2021 and zero (0) reported in 2020.

**Internal Complaints**

During 2022, the agency conducted one (1) internal review compared to three (3) in 2021 and zero (0) in 2020. 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 2022 Complaints (Citizens and Internal) are as follows:**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Exonerated</b>	1	2	0
<b>Sustained</b>	1	3	0
<b>Not Sustained</b>	0	0	0
<b>Unfounded</b>	1	0	0
<b>Admin Closed</b>	0	0	0
<b>Pending</b>	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	3	5	0

During 2022, there were zero (0) complaints that resulted in “major discipline.” This is a repeat of 2021 and 2020.