

Suwanee Police Department
Office of Professional Standards
Annual Report 2015

During the year, 2015 there were 8 Citizen Complaints made against Suwanee Police Department employees. There were six complaints made against a individual officers and two complaints made against Communications officers. Of the eight complaints, the employees' immediate supervisor investigated all of the complaints, and forwarded them through the chain of command to the Chief's office for review. After review by the Chief, the complaints were forwarded to the Office of Professional Standards to be reviewed, filed, and maintained.

Of the eight complaints, 37.5 % were Not Sustained, 37.50 % were Sustained and 25% were Exonerated. Of the eight complaints, 25% named supervisors, 50% named officers, and 25% involved dispatchers.

The eight complaints resulted in 37.50% (3) with no personnel action taken, 37.50% (3) resulted in Verbal Counseling, 12.50% (1) resulted in Remedial Training, 12.50% (1) resulted in Resignation in Lieu of Termination..

The highest complaint was for rudeness 37.50%, the second failed to dispatch 25.00%, the three remaining complaints were a policy violation 12.50%, a harassment complaint, and conduct unbecoming 12.50%. Of the three rudeness complaints, 100.00% were not sustained. Of the failure to dispatch, 50.00% were not sustained, 50.00% exonerated. The policy violation and conduct unbecoming complaints were both sustained. The harassment complaint was exonerated.

In reviewing the complaints there was no distinctive pattern identified to indicate that there was one employee receiving a higher number of complaints for a specific type of complaint. The complaint process was reviewed and it was determined no changes in policy or procedure were needed.

Over the twelve-month period, the highest number of complaints occurred in January, April, and December 75.00%, the second highest months 12.50% each were March and May. There were no complaints made in February and June through November.

During 2015, the Suwanee Police Department had 69,913 calls for service, of that 0.01% resulted in a complaint, one complaint per 8,739.13 calls for service. There were a total of 14,502 citations and written warnings, five complaints were related to the traffic contacts, 0.0003% of the traffic contacts resulted in a complaint, one complaint per 2,900.4 traffic contacts.

In 2015, there was a 50% decrease (2015, 8 Complaints vs. 2014, 16 Complaints) in the number of complaints filed against Suwanee Police Officers, but there was a 13.18% increase in calls for service and a 21.01% decrease in traffic citations in 2015.

CONCLUSION OF FACT

All investigations of Department employees' accused of misconduct will conclude with one of the following findings:

A. UNFOUNDED

The investigation indicates that the act or acts complained of did not occur or failed to involve Department personnel;

B. EXONERATED

Acts did occur, but were justified, lawful and proper;

C. NOT SUSTAINED

Investigation fails to discover sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegations made in the complaint;

D. SUSTAINED

The investigation does disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegations made in the complaint.

Suwanee PD 2015 Internal Affairs

In 2015, there were no Internal Investigations ordered by Chief Jones.

Because there were no IA investigations ordered by the Chief, there was no data to complete an analysis and identify any patterns or trends. A review of the internal affairs and disciplinary policies was conducted and it was determined that no changes or revisions to the policies were needed

2015 Use of Force

In 2015, there were no Use of Force incidents, which required the completion of a Use of Force report.

In 2015 there were 69,913 calls for service, 785 custodial arrests, and 14,502 traffic citations and warnings; of the calls for service 0.0% resulted in Use of Force incidents, of the 785 custodial arrests 0.0% resulted in a Use of Force incident and of the traffic contacts 0.0% required the completion of a Use of Force report.

The analysis did not indicate specific need for additional training in the Use of Force, lethal and less lethal weapons, or defensive tactics. The department should continue ongoing training through roll call, in-service, and practical training exercises. The use of force policies and procedures were reviewed as part of this analysis and it was determined no revisions or changes were needed.

Suwanee SOP P-030 VII defines the requirement for the completion of a Use of Force report for the following:

1. When a firearm is discharged, for other than training or recreational purposes.
2. When an employee takes an action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, injury or death of another person.
3. When an employee applies force through the use of lethal or less lethal weapons.
4. When an employee applies weaponless physical force at a level as defined by the agency. For this department, a Use of Force Report is not required for Controlled Escort Options. Use of Force Report is required for Mechanical Compliance Options.