

CAPE MAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

January 22, 2018

To: Robert A. Nolan, Sheriff

From: John D. Maher, Executive Undersheriff

Re: Internal Affairs Case Summary Report

As a supplement to the Professional Standards Summary Report for 2017 filed with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, this report provides an analysis for the Internal Affairs Investigations, relevant to the Cape May County Sheriff's Office.

In 2017, the Internal Affairs Unit initiated 26 case records (investigations) that generated 36 complaints against members and civilian employees of the Sheriff's Office.

This compares to 27 case records in 2016 that generated 36 complaints, 34 case records in 2015 that generated 44 complaints, 25 case records in 2014 that generated 34 complaints and 41 case records in 2013 that generated 72 complaints.

A comparison of the 2017 data to the 2016 data results in a decrease of 3.7% in case records and the same number in complaints.

A comparison of 2017 data to the 2015 data results in a decrease of 23.5% in case records and a decrease of 18.2% in complaints.

A comparison of 2017 data to the 2014 data results in a decrease of 3.8% in case records and a decrease of 5.5% in complaints.

A comparison of 2017 data to the 2013 data results in a decrease of 36.5% case records and a decrease of 50% in complaints.

Overall, the 36 complaints for 2017 resulted from:

7 (19%) complaints against sworn officers of the Law Enforcement Division,

29 (81%) complaints against sworn officers of the Correctional Division and

0 (0%) complaints against civilian employees.

Breaking down the 36 complaints in 2017:

22 (61%) complaints were agency generated internally, which means that the complaints were generated by supervisors or other members of the Cape May County Sheriff's Office.

14 (39%) complaints were generated as citizen complaints. Citizen complaints include all complaints generated by members of the public, other agencies or entities and from Correctional Center Inmates.

Breaking down the 14 citizen complaints:

1 (7%) complaints came from 1 case from 1 member of the public.

13 (93%) complaints came from 7 inmate cases by 7 different inmates.

In analyzing agency complaints, there is one pending 2016 complaint, which involves an internal agency Other Criminal complaint pending in the New Jersey Superior Court

I have included for your confidential review a breakdown of the citizen complaints. The report includes the principal officer, the allegation, the disposition, the complainant and complainant characteristics that include age, sex and race. An analysis of the data reveals that there was no systematic misconduct by any member or employee of the Sheriff's Office.

Dispositions were completed in 2017 for 33 of 36 complaints (92%). The 3 investigations pending dispositions, as of December 31, 2017, involve 2 internal agency other Criminal complaints and 1 internal agency other rule violation complaint.

In analyzing agency dispositions, there were 2 dispositions in 2017 for 2016 complaints.

The 2 dispositions from 2016 complaints included 1 Exonerated inmate Other Rule Violation complaint and 1 sustained inmate Demeanor complaint (Supervisory Action- Counseling).

Breaking down the 33 dispositions from 2017 complaints (by type of Complaint):

The 3 (9%) Excessive Force complaints had dispositions as follows: 3 Exonerated.

The 2 (6%) Improper Search complaint had dispositions as follows: 2 Exonerated.

The 1 (3%) Differential Treatment complaint had a disposition as follows: 1 Not Sustained

The 25 (76%) Other Rule Violation complaints had dispositions as follows: 16 Sustained, 3 Exonerated, 6 Not Sustained.

The 1 (3%) Domestic Violence complaint had a disposition as follows: 1 Not Sustained.

The 1 (3%) Other Criminal complaint had a disposition as follows: 1 Sustained

Breaking down the 33 sustained dispositions from 2017 (by type of Disposition):

17 Sustained (52%)

8 Exonerated (24%)

8 Not Sustained (24%)

The 17 Sustained dispositions for 2017 included 16 (94%) Other Rule Violation dispositions and 1 (6%) Other Criminal violation disposition which resulted in action as follows:

- 1 (6%) resulted in Supervisory Action, Training or Guardian Tracking
- 3 (18%) resulted in Supervisory action, Formal Counseling
- 5 (29%) resulted in Supervisory action, Warning Notice
- 8 (47%) resulted in Official action, Official Reprimand, Minor or Major Discipline

Breaking down the 8 dispositions involving official discipline from 2017:

- 3 (37.5%) Official Reprimand
- 2 (25%) Minor Discipline (Suspension 40 hours or less).
- 3 (37.5%) Major Discipline pending adjudication.

By: *John D Maher*

John D. Maher
Executive Undersheriff

For:

HONORABLE ROBERT A NOLAN
SHERIFF
CAPE MAY COUNTY

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