



Presented by the City Attorney's Office  
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# Police Auditor

Monthly  
Report

April  
2024

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[www.alamedaca.gov/departments/city-attorney/police-auditor](http://www.alamedaca.gov/departments/city-attorney/police-auditor)

### Mission Statement

The Police Auditor’s goal is to independently and collaboratively work to promote community confidence in policing and accountability. The Auditor seeks to achieve this goal by working with all interested parties to ensure the Alameda Police Department is held to the highest standards and is in compliance with law and departmental policies. The Auditor’s work includes, but is not limited to, reviewing internal affairs cases and use of force incidents and confirming the Department conducts quality investigations, holding its employees accountable if a violation of law or policy occurs. This work aims to increase transparency and the public’s confidence in the police department by publicly releasing monthly and annual reports, by making recommendations to the Department on best practices, and by working with the public to ensure the police department is treating all members of the community with the respect and consideration they deserve while also, meeting its public safety obligations.

### Police Auditor Activities for the Month of April

- Attended CompStat and Professional Standards meetings.
- Use of force evidence retention inspection draft completed.
- Began use of force incident inspection.

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### Complaints

In April 2024, APD received no complaints. However, there were three administrative inquiries that were transitioned into complaints from prior months.

So far in 2024, APD has received five complaints compared to five received in 2023 during the same period.

Externally generated complaints come from anyone who is not an employee of APD. Internally generated complaints can be due to suspected misconduct discovered during a review of body camera footage or a report, by viewing suspected misconduct in person, during an audit or inspection of APD policies and procedures, or if a member comes forward and admits to a violation. Since at least 2021, more complaints have been generated internally by APD than externally by members of the public. Recently, however, there have been more complaints generated by individuals outside of APD. The Police Auditor is briefed on each complaint and is not currently concerned with the shift.

	Apr 2024	Jan-Apr 2023	Jan-Apr 2024
Externally Generated Cases	0	1	4
Internally Generated Cases	0	4	1
Total Complaint Cases Received	0	5	5

The Police Auditor reviewed three cases that closed in April 2024 and did not object to the findings. The review included watching body camera footage, reading reports, and listening to interviews as necessary to make a determination.

\*Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.\*

## Use of Force

Police officers in Alameda are expected to resort to using force only when alternatives such as communication, crisis intervention, and de-escalation tactics do not work or are not practical. Officers are required to only use the minimum amount of force necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement objective that is objectively reasonable and proportional to effectively and safely overcome resistance. Information about use of force can be found beginning on page 78 of the [Alameda Police Department Policy Manual](#).

For the purposes of this report, force is broken into four categories:

- Incidents where officers displayed a weapon such as a firearm or taser but no other force was used,
- Low-level uses of force such as control holds or takedowns,
- Intermediate uses of force such as punches, knee strikes, or taser deployments, and
- Force resulting in serious bodily injury or death and all firearm discharges directed at a person.

In this report, force is counted by incident and the highest level of force used.

	Apr 2024	Jan-Apr 2023	Jan-Apr 2024
Pointing of a Weapon	0	5	13
Low-Level Force (control holds/WRAP* etc.)	6	17	35
Intermediate Force (strikes by hands, feet, or weapon, TASER deployments, etc.)	0	1	0
Force Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury or Death	0	0	0

\*A WRAP is a device used to restrain individuals who present a safety risk to themselves or officers even after being handcuffed.

Five of the six low-level use of force incidents in April involved the use of a control hold. A control hold is defined in Policy 300 as “any Department-approved method or hold, designed to control the movement of an individual by manually applying pressure to a particular part of their body (such as bent wrist control hold, twist lock, rear wrist lock, finger lock, etc.). A control hold can be applied without implementing pain.” The following are some examples of control holds used in the month of April:

- An officer was in a business taking an unrelated report when they were notified by employees about an individual causing a disturbance. When the individual observed the officer, they ignored the officer’s verbal commands and attempted to flee the store. The officer grabbed onto the individual in an attempt to detain them. The individual continued to resist the officer despite multiple verbal commands. The officer was able to gain control of the subject’s hands and place them into handcuffs. No injuries to the subject were reported and the use of force was captured on body worn camera.
- An individual under arrest for robbery was transported for a psychiatric evaluation. While being evaluated by a doctor in a small office, the individual became agitated, stood up from his seat, and began yelling at the doctor. The officer placed one hand on the individual’s shoulder, one hand on their wrist, and utilized downward force so the subject would take their seat. No injuries to the subject were reported and the use of force was captured on body worn camera.

In April, there was one firearm and taser discharge incident involving a dangerous animal. A review board will be convened for this incident per policy.

Each use of force is reviewed by a supervisor to ensure compliance with Departmental policy.

**Arrests**

In April 2024, felony arrests decreased 46% compared to March and misdemeanor arrests decreased 3%. From January through the end of April, felony arrests have increased 12% and misdemeanor arrests have increased 18% compared to the same period last year.

	Apr 2024	Jan-Apr 2023	Jan-Apr 2024
Felony	26	127	142
Misdemeanor/ Infraction	66	184	218
Total	91	311	360

**Calls for Service**

The APD received 4,930 calls for service during the month of April which is a 4% increase compared to March. There has been a 1% decrease in calls for service this year compared to the same period last year.

	Apr 2024	Jan-Apr 2023	Jan-Apr 2024
Calls for Service (excluding Fire)	4,930	19,003	18,749

**Pursuits**

In April 2024, there were no pursuits initiated by a member of APD. So far this year, and for the same period last year, there were no pursuits initiated by APD.

Officers are authorized to initiate a pursuit when:

- A suspect was involved in a violent felony and posed an ongoing and specific threat to public safety or
- A person suspected of committing a crime was believed to be armed with a firearm and posed an ongoing and specific threat to public safety.
- Pursuits outside the above criteria must be approved by a Watch Commander.

	Apr 2024	Jan-Apr 2023	Jan-Apr 2024
Pursuits	0	0	0

**Collisions Involving APD Employees**

There were no collisions involving APD employees in April 2024. So far this year, there have been three collisions which same as the number of collisions from the same period last year

	Apr 2024	Jan-Apr 2023	Jan-Apr 2024
Collisions	0	3	3

\*Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.\*

**Stops**

In April 2024, the APD completed 528 stops, a 0% increase compared to March 2024. Stop forms are required by the State of California when an individual is detained or searched. Data is required to be submitted to the State on an annual basis. Every time a stop is made and a form is required, officers select one of the eight stop reasons below.

	Apr 2024	Jan-Apr 2023	Jan-Apr 2024
Consensual encounter resulting in search	5	14	20
Investigation to determine if person is truant*	0	3	0
Knowledge of outstanding arrest warrant/wanted person	6	28	23
Known to be on parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision	5	9	10
Probable cause to arrest or search <sup>1</sup>	8	-	48
Probable cause to take into custody section 5150 <sup>1</sup>	1	-	5
Reasonable suspicion that this person was engaged in criminal activity	72	228	302
Traffic Violation	431	1,402	1,309
<b>Total</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>1,684</b>	<b>1,717</b>

\* APD is not in the practice of conducting truancy checks. The numbers listed either represent data entry errors where the officer inadvertently selected the incorrect reason for stop or a stop where no other category appropriately fit the circumstance. APD is working with CA DOJ to receive guidance on how to best categorize stops that do not fit within the above categories.

<sup>1</sup> New stop reason for 2024

Traffic stops made up 76% of stops so far in 2024. These violations are broken into three categories:

- Moving violations: Ex. speeding, running a red light
- Equipment violations: Ex. brake lights off or not working, license plate missing
- Non-moving violation, including registration: Ex. expired registration tags

65% of traffic stops involved moving violations so far in 2024

	Apr 2024	Jan-Apr 2023	Jan-Apr 2024
Equipment violation	73	103	219
Moving violation	283	1,249	854
Non-moving violation, including registration	75	50	236
<b>Total</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>1,402</b>	<b>1,309</b>

The chart below displays traffic stops by time of day. So far in 2024, traffic stops appear to be slightly more dispersed throughout the day when compared to the same period in 2023. Almost 70% of stops occur between eight in the morning and four in the afternoon.

	Jan - Apr 2023		Jan - Apr 2024	
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total
12:00am - 3:59am	53	3.78%	153	7.60%
4:00am - 7:59am	47	3.35%	41	3.25%
8:00am - 11:59am	613	43.72%	318	34.34%
12:00pm - 3:59pm	496	35.38%	433	34.27%
4:00pm - 7:59pm	108	7.70%	209	11.69%
8:00pm - 11:59pm	85	6.06%	155	8.85%

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### Community Surveys

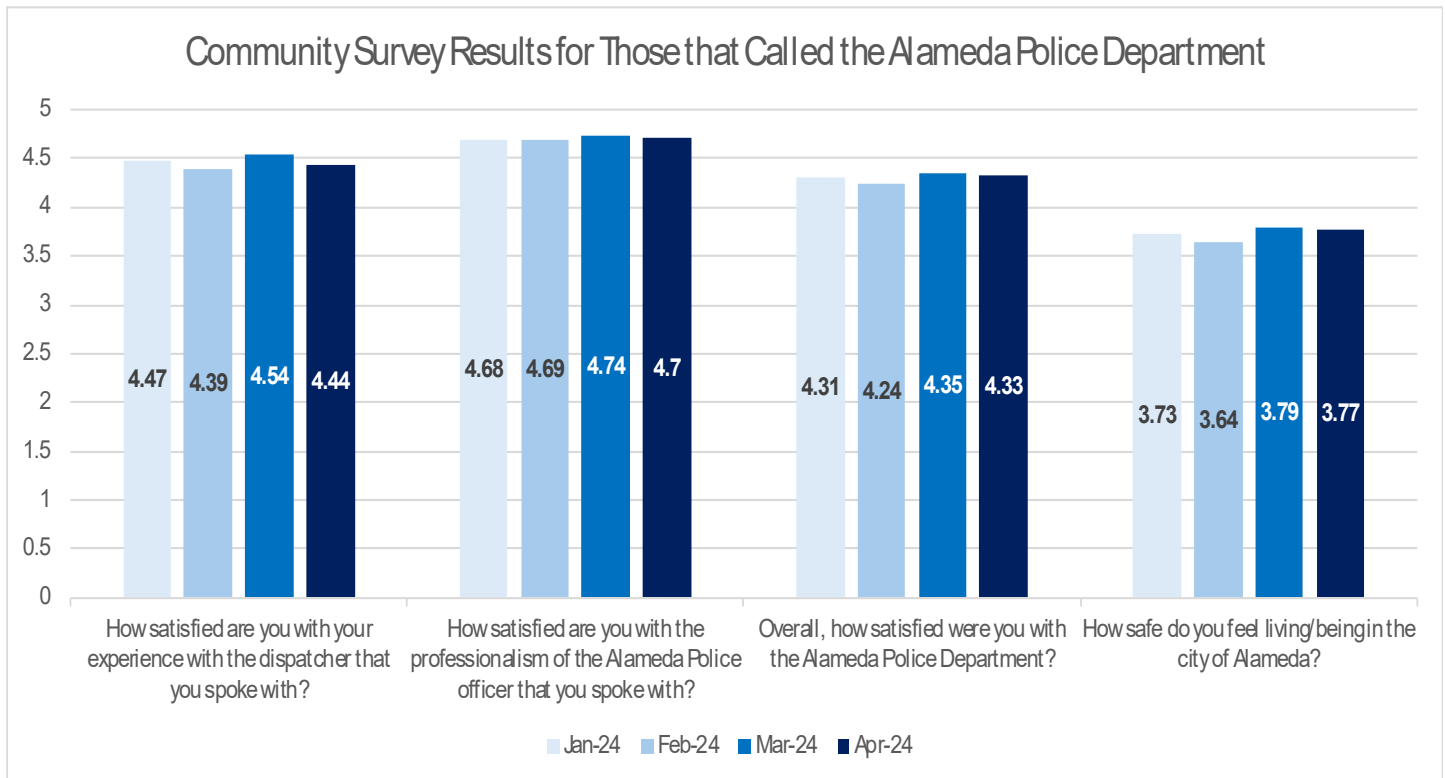
The APD uses software to send individuals who make a call for service, are victims of a crime, or individuals who have involvement with an investigation a survey to gather feedback on their interaction with the police. In April 2024, 1,724 survey invites were sent. Three-hundred and ninety-four (394) respondents completed the survey for a completion rate of 23%. This is a decrease compared to March 2024’s completion rate of 24%.

The survey results for those that called the APD can be found in the chart below. Respondents can select from the following responses:

Score	How Satisfied are you...	How Safe do you...
1	Very Dissatisfied	Not safe at all
2	Dissatisfied	Not safe
3	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Neither safe or unsafe
4	Satisfied	Safe
5	Very Satisfied	Extremely Safe

In April 2024, there was a slight decrease in the satisfaction level of respondents in all four questions compared to prior months in 2024. Overall, respondents are still satisfied with their experience with dispatchers, officers, and with the Department. For safety in Alameda, respondents on average feel between neither safe or unsafe and safe.

In February 2024, the Department released Training Bulletin 24-03, outlining protocols for addressing negative survey feedback. The Bulletin was prompted by the findings of the December 2023 Community Survey Follow-up Inspection.



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**Litigation and Administrative Claims**

In April 2024, there were two administrative claims and one lawsuit filed. One of the administrative claims does not mention APD or its officers and clearly identifies officers from another jurisdiction. This claim will not be included in the below count. So far in 2024, there have been four claims and one lawsuit filed. During the same period in 2023, there were three claims filed.

	Apr 2024	Jan-Apr 2023	Jan-Apr 2024
Claims Filed	1	2	4
Litigation Filed	1	0	1

**Training Hours**

The APD provides internal and external training opportunities to its employees. In the month of April, sworn staff completed 1,164 training hours and professional staff completed 160 training hours. Training for sworn members consisted of the following topics: active shooter response/building searches, supervisory leadership, investigation of internet crimes, and advanced crime prevention through environmental design. The professional staff training included crime scene investigation and a basic public safety dispatcher course. The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requires 24 hours of continued professional training and 18 hours of perishable skills training every two years.

**Other Employee Information**

The APD is authorized to have 88 sworn members and 36 professional staff members. As of the end of April 2024, the Department had 70 sworn employees and 33 professional staff, a decrease in one sworn compared to March. Twenty-three sworn employees are on probation because they are new hires or because of a promotion. Two sworn members were placed on administrative leave in March.

	Sworn Staff	Professional Staff
# of Authorized Positions	88	36
# of Filled Positions	70	33
# of Employees on Probation (new hires or promotions)	23	4
# of Employees on Light Duty	2	0
# of Employees on Administrative Leave	2	0
# of Employees on Military Leave	1	0
# of Employees on Medical Leave	3	1

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