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Police Auditor

Monthly
Report

June
2024

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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 June

- Attended CompStat and Professional Standards meetings.
- Attended CALEA meeting with Oakland Housing Authority.
- Continued to collect data for use of force review.

Complaints

In June 2024, APD received three complaints. Two of the complaints were generated by a member of the public and one was internally generated

So far in 2024, APD has received twelve complaints compared to eight 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. The Police Auditor is briefed on each complaint.

	Jun 2024	Jan-Jun 2023	Jan-Jun 2024
Externally Generated Cases	2	2	9
Internally Generated Cases	1	6	3
Total Complaint Cases Received	3	8	12

The Police Auditor reviewed two cases that closed in June 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.

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.

	Jun 2024	Jan-Jun 2023	Jan-Jun 2024
Pointing of a Weapon	1	18	19
Low-Level Force (control holds/WRAP* etc.)	3	29	47
Intermediate Force (strikes by hands, feet, or weapon, TASER deployments, etc.)	0	1	1
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.

Weapon displays and low level uses of force decreased in June compared to May.

Firearm displays occur when an officer directs their firearm towards a subject. Firearm displays are warranted when an officer reasonably believes a threat exists based on the totality of circumstances presented at the time. Officers are directed to lower and holster their firearms once it is reasonably safe to do so. In Alameda, firearm displays often occur during high risk traffic stops of stolen vehicles. Based on their training and experience, officers have reason to believe the occupants of stolen vehicles may be armed with weapons and pose a safety risk to officers and others.

There was one firearm display in the month of June. Officers responded to a location following a Flock camera notification of a stolen vehicle. Officers conducted a high risk traffic stop of the vehicle. Because the vehicle and subject were unsearched and car thieves are known to carry weapons, for their safety, the officers directed their firearms at the subject. Once the subject complied with the officers' commands, the firearms were lowered, holstered, and the subject was handcuffed. The subject was subsequently charged with taking a vehicle without the owner's consent as well as other violations.

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

Arrests

In June 2024, felony arrests were flat compared to May and misdemeanor arrests increased 4%. From January through the end of June, felony arrests have increased 14% and misdemeanor arrests have increased 20% compared to the same period last year.

	Jun 2024	Jan-Jun 2023	Jan-Jun 2024
Felony	43	200	228
Misdemeanor/Infraction	53	268	322
Total	96	468	550

Calls for Service

The APD received 5,014 calls for service during the month of June which is a 3% increase compared to May. There has been a 3% decrease in calls for service this year compared to the same period last year.

	Jun 2024	Jan-Jun 2023	Jan-Jun 2024
Calls for Service (excluding Fire)	5,014	29,531	28,652

Pursuits

In June 2024, there were no pursuits initiated by a member of APD. So far this year, there have been no pursuits initiated by APD. Last year, there was one pursuit initiated.

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.

	Jun 2024	Jan-Jun 2023	Jan-Jun 2024
Pursuits	0	1	0

Collisions Involving APD Employees

There were no collisions involving APD employees in June 2024. So far this year, there have been three collisions which is a one collision decrease from the same period last year

	Jun 2024	Jan-Jun 2023	Jan-Jun 2024
Collisions	0	4	3

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

Stops

In June 2024, the APD completed 426 stops, a 30% increase compared to May 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.

	Jun 2024	Jan-Jun 2023	Jan-Jun 2024
Consensual encounter resulting in search	3	18	23
Investigation to determine if person is truant*	0	4	0
Knowledge of outstanding arrest warrant/wanted person	12	46	49
Known to be on parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision	2	12	12
Probable cause to arrest or search ¹	9	-	67
Probable cause to take into custody section 5150 ¹	1	-	9
Reasonable suspicion that this person was engaged in criminal activity	67	356	450
Traffic Violation	332	2,400	1,861
Total	426	2,836	2,471

* 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.

¹ New stop reason for 2024

Traffic stops made up 75% 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

	Jun 2024	Jan-Jun 2023	Jan-Jun 2024
Equipment violation	57	180	324
Moving violation	216	2,156	1,210
Non-moving violation, including registration	59	64	327
Total	332	2,400	1,861

The chart below displays the top reasons for an equipment violation stop in 2024 and the outcome of those stops.

	Arrest	Citation	Warning/ No Action	Total
Display License Plates Wrong - 5200(A)	3	21	106	130
Illegal Window Tint - 26708.5(A)	0	44	4	48
Failure to Maintain Vehicle Lights - 24252(A)(1)	2	3	17	22
Headlights Inoperable or Not On - 24400(A)	0	2	19	21
Driving at Night without Lights - 24250	4	2	13	19
Bicycle Headlight Violation - 21201(D)	7	0	12	19

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

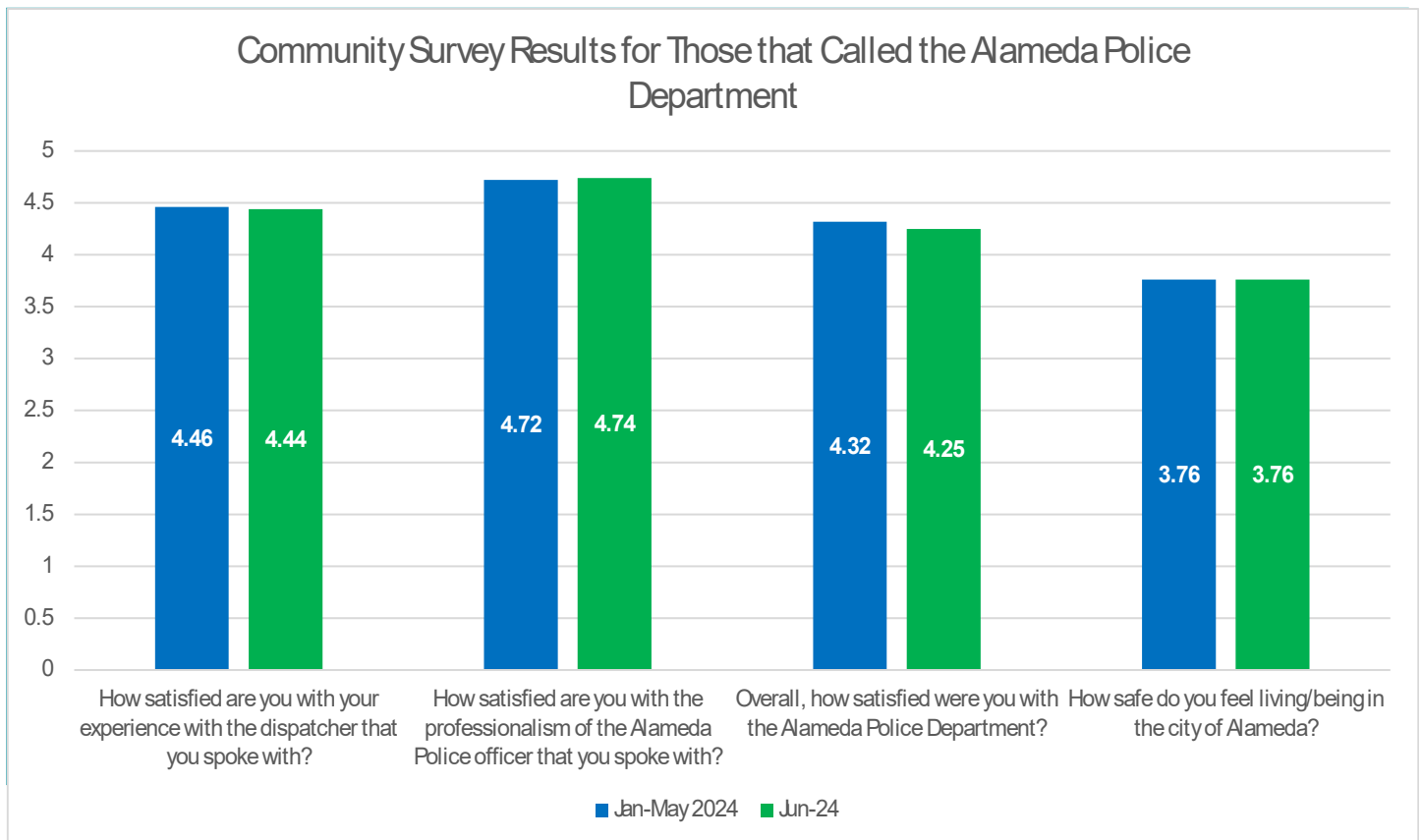
Community Surveys

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 June 2024, 1,856 survey invites were sent. Three-hundred and ninety-three (393) respondents completed the survey for a completion rate of 21%. This is a decrease compared to May 2024’s completion rate of 22%.

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 June 2024 compared to the first five months of the year, respondents are slightly more satisfied with officers and slightly less satisfied with dispatchers and the Department overall. Respondents also felt just as safe in June compared to the average in the five prior months. 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.



Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

Litigation and Administrative Claims

In June 2024, there were no administrative claims filed and one lawsuit filed. So far in 2024, there have been four claims and two lawsuits filed. During the same period in 2023, there were six claims filed.

	June 2024	Jan-June 2023	Jan-June 2024
Claims Filed	0	6	4
Litigation Filed	1	0	2

Training Hours

The APD provides internal and external training opportunities to its employees. In the month of June, sworn staff completed 612 training hours and professional staff completed 10 training hours. Training for sworn members consisted of the following topics: principled policing, supervisory leadership, vehicle take-downs, arrest and control, and field training officer. The professional staff training included bullet recovery and trajectory training. 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 June 2024, the Department had 69 sworn employees and 32 professional staff, a decrease in one sworn and one professional staff member compared to May. Twenty-one sworn employees are on probation because they are new hires or because of a promotion. Two sworn members are on administrative leave, one is on military leave, and four are on some form of medical leave.

	Sworn Staff	Professional Staff
# of Authorized Positions	88	36
# of Filled Positions	70	32
# of Employees on Probation (new hires or promotions)	21	3
# of Employees on Light Duty	1	0
# of Employees on Administrative Leave	2	0
# of Employees on Military Leave	1	0
# of Employees on Medical Leave	2	2

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.