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Police Auditor

Monthly
Report

September
2024

Table of Contents

- Page 1 - Mission Statement & Monthly Activities
- Page 1-6 - APD Data

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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 September

- Attended CompStat and Professional Standards meetings.
- Received notification of accreditation grant funding approval.
- Completed coding 2023 use of force data for force presentation.

Complaints

In September 2024, APD received three complaints. One of the complaints was internally generated by a member of APD. The other two complaints were generated by a member of APD following statements made by members of the public.

So far in 2024, APD has received 23 complaints compared to 14 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.

	Sep 2024	Jan-Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2024
Externally Generated Cases	0	3	12
Internally Generated Cases	3	11	11
Total Complaint Cases Received	3	14	23

The Police Auditor reviewed four cases that closed in September 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.

	Sept 2024	Jan-Sept 2023	Jan-Sept 2024
Pointing of a Weapon	0	28	31
Low-Level Force (control holds/WRAP* etc.)	7	46	76
Intermediate Force (strikes by hands, feet, or weapon, TASER deployments, etc.)	0	2	3
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.

In September, there were no incidents in which officers pointed their firearms or tasers at any subjects. While it is not uncommon to have months without weapon displays, the Police Auditor conducted a thorough review of additional arrest reports from September to ensure accurate reporting. This review focused on arrests for charges such as robbery and possession of stolen vehicles, where weapon displays might be more likely. No instances of unreported weapon displays were identified in the reviewed reports.

In September, there were seven separate instances of use of force, three of which involved the same individual across different locations on the same day. The first instance occurred during the individual's arrest when they dropped to the ground and refused to comply with commands. Officers applied a leg restraint to prevent the individual from kicking and carried them to the patrol vehicle.

The second incident took place at the hospital, where the individual was transported for medical clearance. Due to the leg restraints, officers had to lift the individual from the patrol vehicle and transfer them onto a gurney.

The third instance occurred during the individual's intake at the jail, where they attempted to walk away. In response, an officer physically took hold of the individual's arm and guided them back to the intake nurse.

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

Arrests

In September 2024, the number of felony arrests decreased by over 50% and misdemeanor arrests increased 45% compared to August. From January through the end of September, felony arrests increased 4% and misdemeanor arrests increased 30% compared to the same period last year.

	Sep 2024	Jan-Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2024
Felony	15	294	306
Misdemeanor/ Infraction	71	376	490
Total	86	670	796

Calls for Service

The APD received 5,236 calls for service during the month of September which is the same compared to August. There has been a 2% decrease in calls for service this year compared to the same period last year.

	Sep 2024	Jan-Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2024
Calls for Service (excluding Fire)	5,236	45,508	44,631

Pursuits

In September 2024, there was one pursuit initiated by a member of APD. The pursuit was terminated by the supervisor after three minutes. So far this year, there have been five pursuits initiated by APD. Last year, there was one pursuit initiated.

On August 7, 2024, the APD pursuit policy was modified to explicitly allow officers to pursue suspects or vehicles wanted for felony crimes. This policy change is likely to result in an increase in vehicle pursuits. Officers are now authorized to initiate a pursuit when:

- A suspect was involved in a felony or
- A person suspected of committing a crime was believed to be armed with a firearm.
- Pursuits outside the above criteria must be approved by a Watch Commander.

	Sep 2024	Jan-Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2024
Pursuits	1	1	5

Collisions Involving APD Employees

There were no collisions involving an APD employee in September 2024. So far this year, there have been seven collisions which is an increase compared last year during the same period when there were five.

	Sep 2024	Jan-Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2024
Collisions	0	5	7

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

Stops

In September 2024, the APD completed 537 stops, an 8% increase compared to August 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.

	Sep 2024	Jan-Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2024
Consensual encounter resulting in search	7	23	39
Investigation to determine if person is truant*	0	5	0
Knowledge of outstanding arrest warrant/wanted person	9	67	70
Known to be on parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision	0	16	17
Probable cause to arrest or search ¹	16	-	124
Probable cause to take into custody section 5150 ¹	1	-	15
Reasonable suspicion that this person was engaged in criminal activity	59	529	630
Traffic Violation	445	4,137	3,015
Total	537	4,777	3,910

* 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

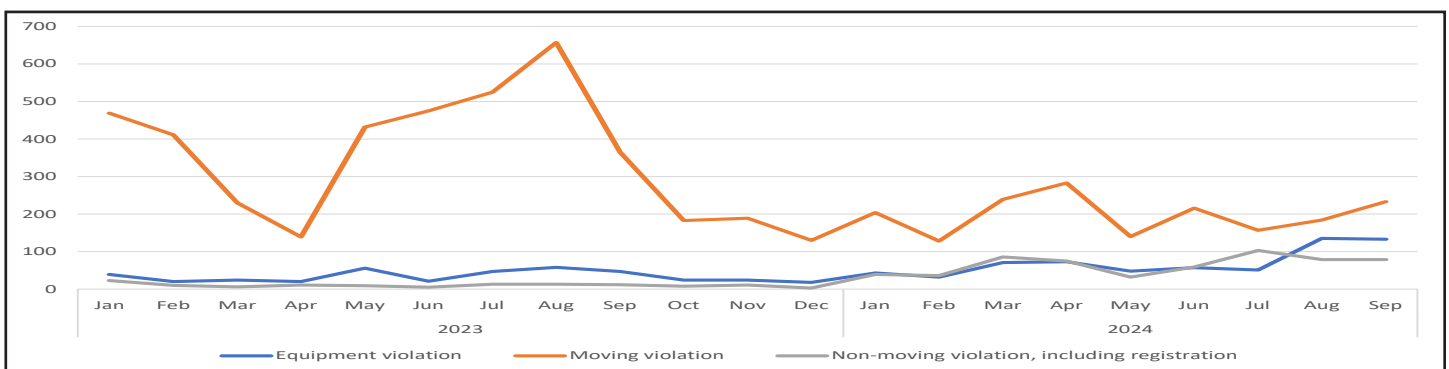
Traffic stops made up 77% of stops so far in 2024. These violations are broken into three categories:

- 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

59% of traffic stops involved moving violations so far in 2024

	Sep 2024	Jan-Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2024
Equipment violation	133	332	643
Moving violation	233	3,703	1,784
Non-moving violation, including registration	79	102	588
Total	445	4,137	3,015

The line graph below displays traffic stops over time. There has been a gradual increase in equipment and non-moving violation stops in 2024. Moving violation stops still experience fluctuations, however, there were increases in both August and September compared to July. This graph was last presented in the May 2024 report.



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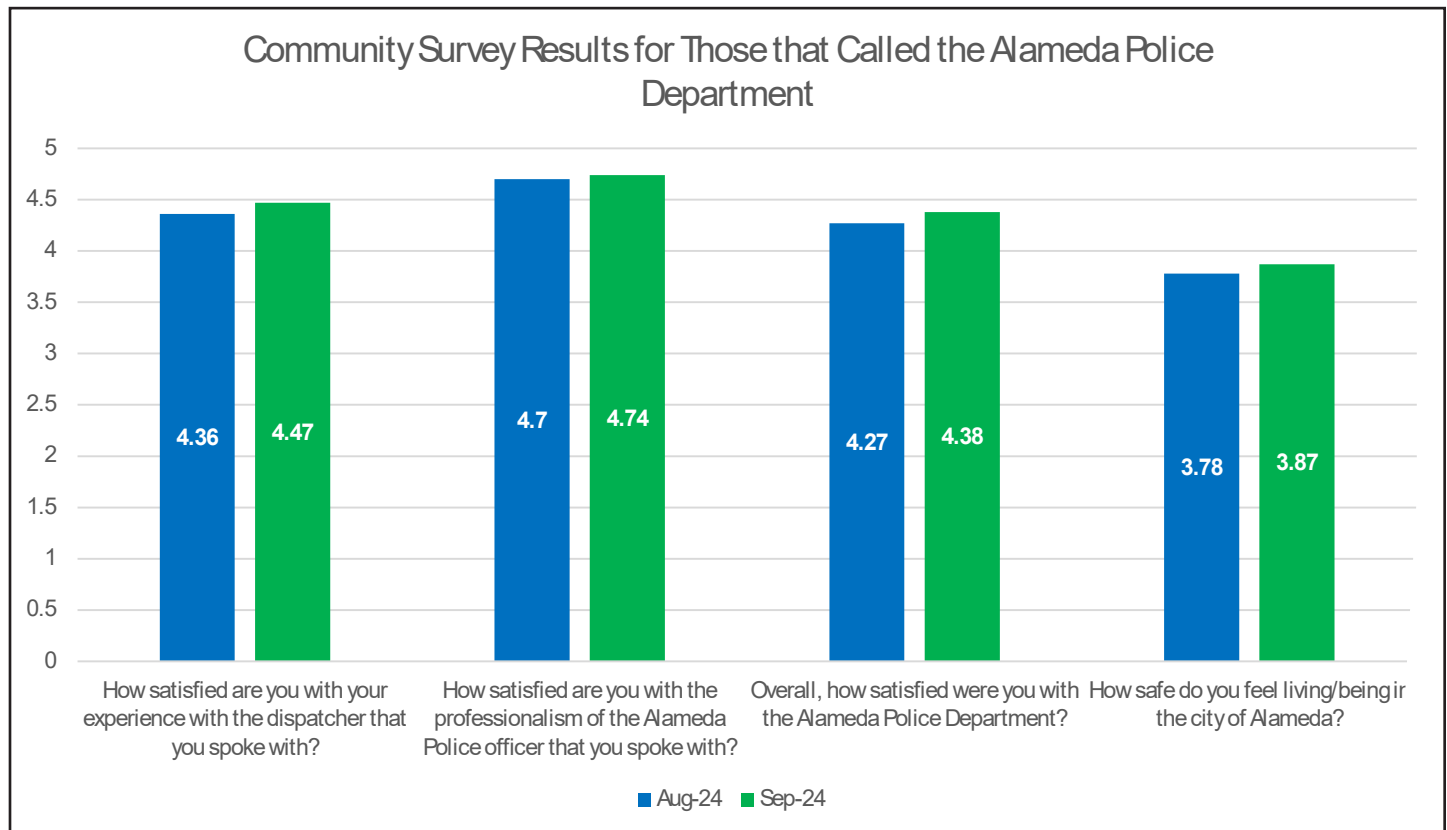
Community Surveys

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 September 2024, 1,884 survey invites were sent. Four-hundred and thirteen (413) respondents completed the survey for a completion rate of 22%. This is the same completion rate compared to August.

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 September 2024 compared to August 2024, respondents are slightly more satisfied in all categories. 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 September 2024, there were no administrative claims and no lawsuits filed. So far in 2024, there have been nine claims and two lawsuits filed. During the same period in 2023, there were 13 claims filed and one lawsuit.

	Sep 2024	Jan-Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2024
Claims Filed	0	13	9
Litigation Filed	0	1	2

Training Hours

The APD provides internal and external training opportunities to its employees. In the month of September, sworn staff completed 678 training hours and professional staff completed 56 training hours. Training for sworn members consisted of the following topics: defensive tactics, building searches and breaching, social media investigations, and crisis intervention and negotiations training. The professional staff training included crisis negotiations, women leaders, and advanced crime scene investigations. 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 September 2024, the Department had 67 sworn employees and 33 professional staff. Twenty sworn employees are on probation because they are new hires or because of a promotion. One sworn member and one professional staff member are on administrative leave.

	Sworn Staff	Professional Staff
# of Authorized Positions	88	36
# of Filled Positions	67	33
# of Employees on Probation (new hires or promotions)	20	4
# of Employees on Light Duty	1	1
# of Employees on Administrative Leave	1	1
# of Employees on Military Leave	1	0
# of Employees on Medical Leave	1	1

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.