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Police Auditor

Monthly
Report

May
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 May

- Attended CompStat and Professional Standards meetings.
- Completed grant application for police accreditation funds.

Complaints

In May 2024, APD received four complaints. Three of the complaints were generated by a member of the public and one was internally generated

So far in 2024, APD has received nine complaints compared to six 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.

	May 2024	Jan-May 2023	Jan-May 2024
Externally Generated Cases	3	1	7
Internally Generated Cases	1	5	2
Total Complaint Cases Received	4	6	9

The Police Auditor reviewed two cases that closed in May 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.

	May 2024	Jan-May 2023	Jan-May 2024
Pointing of a Weapon	5	13	18
Low-Level Force (control holds/WRAP* etc.)	9	21	44
Intermediate Force (strikes by hands, feet, or weapon, TASER deployments, etc.)	1	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 increased in May compared to April which coincides with an increase in felony arrests. Additionally, there was one instance of intermediate-level force involving the application of a Taser in drive stun mode on an individual who resisted arrest and struggled with multiple officers. It is important to note that a drive stun differs from a standard Taser deployment. While the primary objective of a standard Taser deployment is to incapacitate the individual, a drive stun is utilized as a pain compliance technique to manage a resisting individual. The individual was transported to Alameda Hospital, per policy for medical assessment and was cleared for incarceration.

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

On May 26, an incident occurred involving the unintended discharge of a patrol rifle inside the police administration building. There were no injuries. The officer immediately reported the discharge. Consequently, an internal affairs investigation was initiated. Additionally, Training Bulletin 08-01 was revised to provide additional instruction on weapons handling. All sworn members issued a rifle received training on the updated procedures. To ensure compliance with the new protocol, the Police Auditor recommends the following:

- The Rangemaster and Training Commander conduct random inspections during lineups, as selected by the Police Auditor, to verify proficiency with the updated procedures.
- On randomly selected days, the Rangemaster or Training Commander conduct field inspections to ensure proficiency with the updated procedures.

Arrests

In May 2024, felony arrests increased 72% compared to April and misdemeanor arrests decreased 23%. From January through the end of May, felony arrests have increased 14% and misdemeanor arrests have increased 19% compared to the same period last year.

	May 2024	Jan-May 2023	Jan-May 2024
Felony	43	162	185
Misdemeanor/Infraction	51	227	269
Total	94	389	454

Calls for Service

The APD received 4,889 calls for service during the month of May which is a 1% decrease compared to April. There has been a 3% decrease in calls for service this year compared to the same period last year.

	May 2024	Jan-May 2023	Jan-May 2024
Calls for Service (excluding Fire)	4,889	24,268	23,638

Pursuits

In May 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.

	May 2024	Jan-May 2023	Jan-May 2024
Pursuits	0	0	0

Collisions Involving APD Employees

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

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

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

Stops

In May 2024, the APD completed 328 stops, a 38% decrease compared to April 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.

	May 2024	Jan-May 2023	Jan-May 2024
Consensual encounter resulting in search	0	17	20
Investigation to determine if person is truant*	0	3	0
Knowledge of outstanding arrest warrant/wanted person	14	36	37
Known to be on parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision	0	11	10
Probable cause to arrest or search ¹	10	-	58
Probable cause to take into custody section 5150 ¹	8	-	8
Reasonable suspicion that this person was engaged in criminal activity	81	301	383
Traffic Violation	220	1,899	1,529
Total	328	2,267	2,045

* 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.

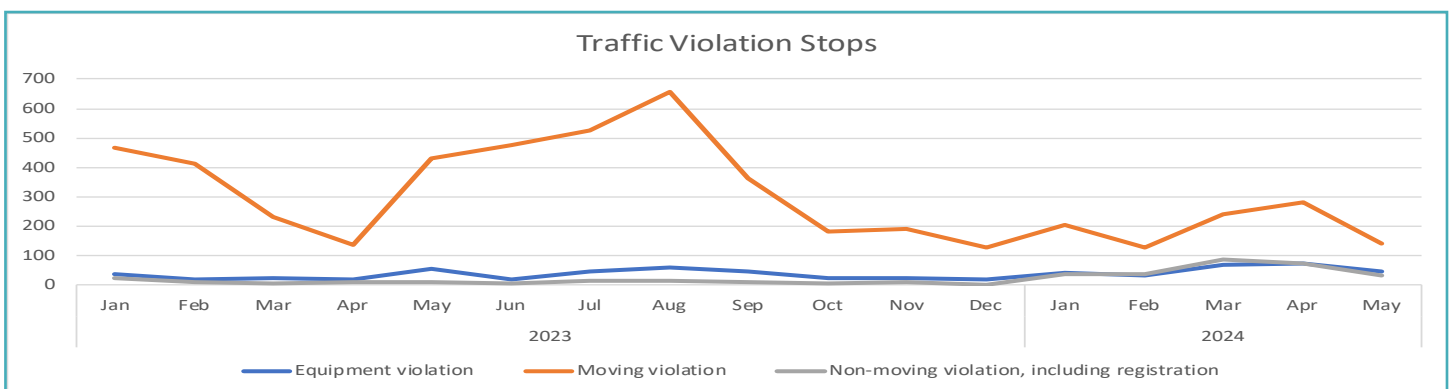
These violations are broken into three categories:

- 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

	May 2024	Jan-May 2023	Jan-May 2024
Equipment violation	48	159	267
Moving violation	140	1,681	994
Non-moving violation, including registration	32	59	268
Total	220	1,899	1,529

The line graph below displays traffic stops over time. Equipment and non-moving violations are relatively stable month-to-month. There are, however, fluctuations in moving violation stops by month. In the summer of 2023, APD was able to focus more resources on traffic enforcement. They hope to do the same in the summer of 2024.



Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

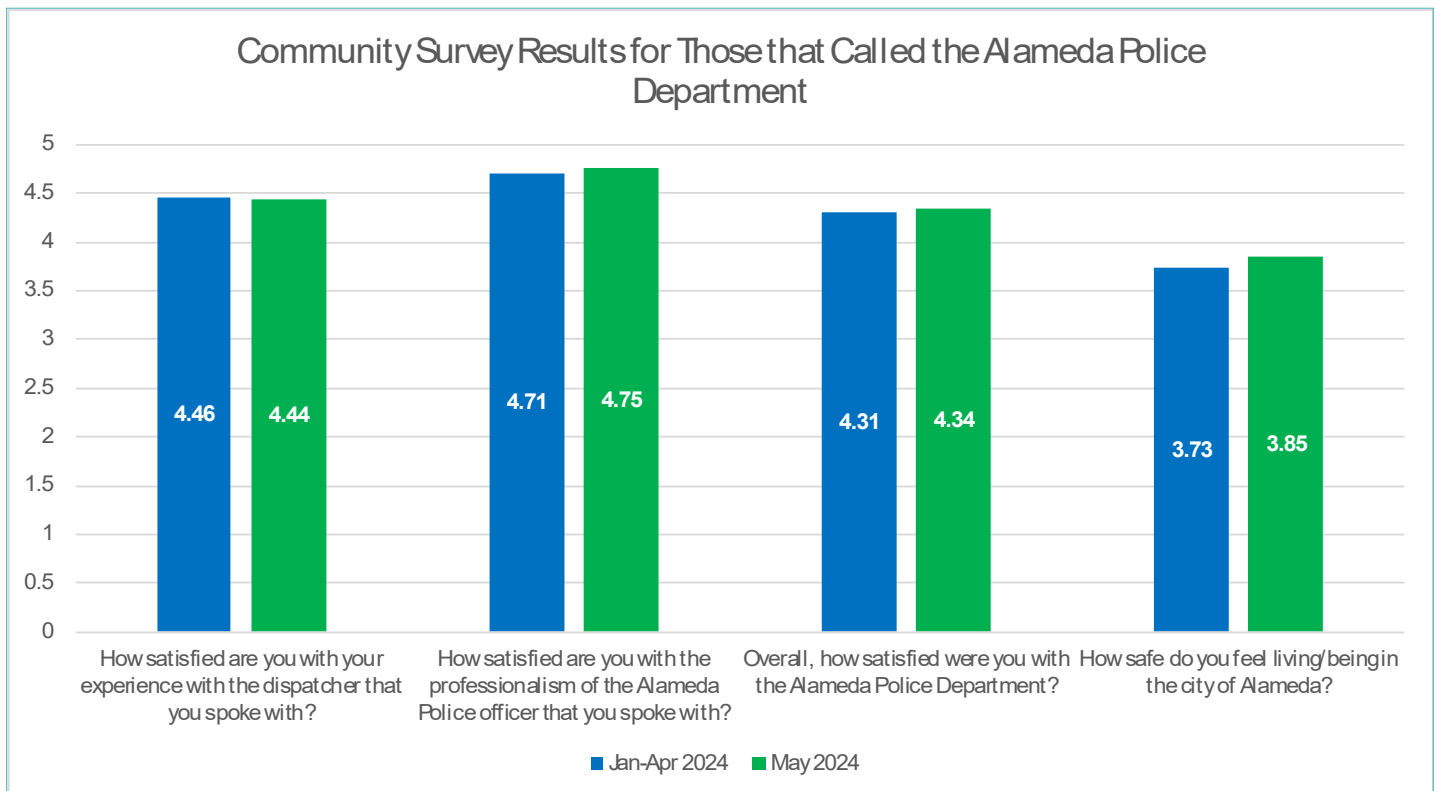
Community Surveys

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 May 2024, 1,970 survey invites were sent. Four-hundred and twenty-four (424) respondents completed the survey for a completion rate of 22%. This is a decrease compared to April 2024’s completion rate of 23%.

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 May 2024 compared to the first four months of the year, respondents are slightly less satisfied with dispatchers and slightly more satisfied with officers and the Department overall. Respondents also felt safer in May than in the prior four 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 May 2024, there were no administrative claims or lawsuits filed. So far in 2024, there have been four claims and one lawsuit filed. During the same period in 2023, there were five claims filed.

	May 2024	Jan-May 2023	Jan-May 2024
Claims Filed	0	5	4
Litigation Filed	0	0	1

Training Hours

The APD provides internal and external training opportunities to its employees. In the month of May, sworn staff completed 596 training hours and professional staff completed 7 training hours. Training for sworn members consisted of the following topics: handgun and rifle training, supervisory leadership, high risk stops, DUI detection, field training officer supervisor, and canine program management. The professional staff training included blood stain recognition 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 May 2024, the Department had 69 sworn employees and 32 professional staff, a decrease in one sworn and one professional staff member compared to April. 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	69	32
# of Employees on Probation (new hires or promotions)	21	4
# 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	4	2

Numbers are preliminary and subject to change.