

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Police Department

**To: Tom Markus, City Manager
Tarik Khatib, Chief of Police
Captain Adam Heffley**

From: Sergeant David Hogue

Date: April 10, 2016

**Re: 2015 Office of Professional Accountability
Investigations**

BACKGROUND

As stated in the Lawrence Police Department's policy regarding personnel investigations, the Lawrence Police Department is committed to providing professional police service to the citizens of Lawrence. Department members are required to observe high standards of moral and ethical conduct at all times. Implied deviation from such conduct by a department member will not be construed as permission for investigative personnel to violate the normal standards of courtesy and dignity of the individual during an internal investigation. It is the policy of the Lawrence Police Department to receive, document, investigate and resolve all complaints made against members of the Department. It is critical to do so in a fair and consistent manner regardless of the nature of the complaint, the complainant or the manner in which the complaint is received.

External or internal complaints regarding the alleged violation of laws, policies and procedures are investigated by the Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) or the employee's direct supervisor. Each alleged violation is investigated and documented using OPA case files. The final disposition of each investigation is categorized as sustained, exonerated, unfounded, dismissed or not sustained, each being based upon the facts collected during the investigation. The data below represents the final dispositions of formal investigations that were initiated by citizens and/or employees for 2015.

DATA

Total	15
Sustained	3
Exonerated	1
Unfounded	4
Not Sustained	2
Dismissed/Withdrawn by Citizen	3
Pending	2
Changed to Inquiry	0

Disciplinary Action Taken	3
Racial Profiling Complaints	2

Citizen Generated Complaints	10
Internally Generated Complaints	5

DISCUSSION

As shown with the above data, the Lawrence Police Department conducted 15 OPA investigations for 2015, a reduction of 2 investigations from those reported in 2014. Out of the 15 investigations conducted in 2015, 5 were generated by city employees, and 10 were generated by citizen complaints. Formal reprimand and/or disciplinary actions were issued for 3 “sustained” complaints. In accordance with department policy, 2 investigations are pending court proceedings.

Further details regarding each of the 2015 investigations are explained in short summaries on the attached document.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sergeant David J. Hogue
Office of Professional Accountability

2015 Office of Professional Accountability Case Summaries of Complaints

OPA 15-01

An internal complainant reported that an employee used excessive force to arrest a citizen.

The complaint was not sustained.

OPA 15-02

An internal complainant reported that an off-duty employee committed violation of law and several department policies.

The complaint was sustained.

OPA 15-03

A citizen reported an employee racially profiled them during a traffic stop.

The employee was exonerated.

OPA 15-04

An internal complainant reported that an employee was possibly engaged in unprofessional conduct and violated the law while off duty.

The complaint was dismissed.

OPA 15-05

A citizen reported an employee racially profiled them during a traffic stop.

The complaint was unfounded.

OPA 15-06

A citizen reported that an employee was rude and threatening. The citizen did not cooperate with the investigation after the complaint was initiated.

The complaint was dismissed.

OPA 15-07

An internal complainant reported that an off-duty employ was investigated for a possible violation of law.

The complaint was not sustained.

OPA 15-08

Complaint is pending the outcome of complainant's court proceeding.

OPA 15-09

Complaint is pending the outcome of complainant's court proceeding.

OPA 15-10

An internal complainant reported that an employee violated several department policies.

The complaint was dismissed.

OPA 15-11

A citizen reported that an employee used excessive force when the citizen was arrested.

Complaint was unfounded.

OPA 15-12

A citizen reported that an employee used excessive force when the citizen was arrested.

The complaint was unfounded.

OPA 15-13

A citizen reported that an employee contacted the citizen without an official need.

The complaint was sustained.

OPA 15-14

A citizen reported that an employee neglected to conduct a proper investigation.

The complaint was sustained.

OPA 15-15

A citizen reported an employee inappropriately issued a citation.

The complaint was unfounded.

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