

2017 Annual Report

Office of Internal Affairs

Submitted by Lieutenant Toby Hewitt

The Chattanooga Police Department Office of Internal Affairs is aligned under the Professional Standards Division and is responsible for investigating all allegations of Class I employee misconduct from any source, outside or inside the Department including third-party and anonymous complaints. The Office of Internal Affairs is also responsible for maintaining all Department records of complaints and related investigative records. The Office of Internal Affairs is currently staffed with one Lieutenant, two Sergeants, and one Senior Administrative Assistant for a total staff of 4. Internal Affairs operates Monday-Friday from 0830-1630 hours, with a 24/7 call out procedure.

The Office of Internal Affairs is located at 100 East 11th Street in the City Hall Annex Building, Suite 302.

The Office of Internal Affairs experienced vast personnel changes in 2017. Lt. Toby Hewitt was assigned as the Commander of Internal Affairs during January 2017. The office experienced the loss of senior investigative personnel with the reassignment of Sgt. Alexis Mercado after his promotion to the rank of Sergeant, and the retirement of Sgt. Jeff Gaines on July 24, 2017. Sgt. Traci May and Sgt. Kevin Trussell, both experienced investigators, were assigned to the Office of Internal Affairs during 2017.

The Office of Internal Affairs conducted agency wide training, for the ranks of Sergeant and above, to promote consistency in the internal investigative and review process – specifically for Chain of Command investigations of Class II allegations. Software updates of the Blue Team and IAPro programs were also performed.

Significant progress was made in addressing un-reviewed chain routings of Blue Team reports. Many of the un-reviewed routings were left pending by personnel who had separated from the agency, and most were several years old. Vast efforts were made to address those incidents by re-assignment of actionable items, and administratively closing non-actionable items. As part of the on-shift COC training, the importance of timely action / review of Blue Team reports was conveyed to current personnel within the agency. Measurable results were obtained by these efforts.

The Internal Affairs section of the City of Chattanooga website (<http://chattanooga.gov/police-department/internal-affairs>) was amended with an updated on-line complaint submission form in order to capture and expedite the processing of relevant data regarding citizen complaints / concerns. The Professional Standards Division Commander, as well as IA Commander and subordinate personnel, are immediately notified via email when a complaint is submitted.

Summary of Complaints for 2017

IA / Class I Conduct Investigations (2017)

External (Citizen)	13
Internal (Administrative)	27
TOTAL	40

IA Case Status (2017)

*Note – some cases have multiple allegations with different dispositions

Sustained	4
Not Sustained	1
Unfounded	4
Exonerated	6
Hold (DA / AUSA)	4
Admin Closed	1
Open/Pending	22

Imposed Discipline Resulting from IA Investigations (2017)

Termination	2
Suspension (hours)	20
Letter of Reprimand	1
Resigned Under Investigation	3

Class I Conduct Allegations (2017)

SOP-09 CJUS Violation	12
Fact Finding	1
Use of Force	8
OIS - Firearm Discharge	5
Firearm Discharge (other)	2
Insubordination	3
Conformance to Law (Domestic Related)	6
Conformance to Law (DUI)	1
Conformance to Law (Other)	2
ADM-16 Extra Employment Violation	1
Submitting False Reports	2
False Arrest	3
Prisoner Transport – Policy Violation	1
Treatment of Prisoners	1
Unsatisfactory Performance	1
Fact Finding	9
Failure to Appear in Court	1

Assignment of Cases for Internal Affairs Personnel:

Sgt. Gaines	6
Sgt. May	17
Sgt. Trussell	17

Chain of Command / Class II Conduct Investigations (2017)

External (Citizen)	21
Internal (Administrative)	0
TOTAL	21

Class II Conduct Case Status (2017)

Sustained	2
Not Sustained	6
Unfounded	8
Exonerated	3
Open/Pending	2

Imposed Discipline Resulting from COC Investigations (2017)

Counseling Form	2
------------------------	----------

Class II Conduct Allegations (2017)

Discourtesy	13
Improper Procedure	8
Unsatisfactory Performance	1
Improper Investigation	2
Fact Finding	1
Policy Violation (OPS-63 BWC)	1
TOTAL	26