

## **2017 ANNUAL REPORT: Internal Affairs Investigation Summary**

### **Introduction**

Between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, the Smithfield Police Department Internal Affairs Officer received a total of six (6) formal complaints, two (2) more than in 2016. Three (3) complaints were initiated internally and three (3) complaints were received from citizens. The following is an outline of complaints investigated by the Internal Affairs Officer in 2017:

Month	Rank	Age	Experience (Years)	Nature of Allegation(s)	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Other
January	Patrol Off.	42	12	Dissemination of Information	X		
January	Lieutenant	51	25	Discourtesy		X	
January	Patrol Off.	31	6	Discourtesy		X	
February	Sergeant	39	17	Use of Property/Property Identification		X	
	Patrol Off.	39	11			X	
	Patrol Off.	35	10			X	
April	Patrol Off.	31	7	Reporting for Duty	X		
November	Civilian	51	6	Use of Property	X		

### ***Employee Typology***

In 2017, the most experienced officer/employee, at the time of the investigation, had 25 years of service, while the least experienced officer/employee had 6 years of service. The ages of officers/employees involved in these investigations ranged from 31 to 51 years old. Averages were not calculated due to the low number of occurrences.

### ***Outcomes/Discipline***

After investigation, all three (3) internal complaints resulted in findings of *Substantiated*. Disciplinary action was limited to Letters of Reprimand for each of the employees. All three (3) external (citizen) complaints resulted in findings of *Unsubstantiated*.

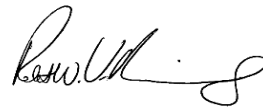
Two (2) of the unsubstantiated complaints alleged that officers were discourteous; however, one complainant failed to appear for an agreed-upon interview with the Internal Affairs Officer, and was unable to be contacted. Another complainant withdrew their complaint during the ongoing investigation. No evidence was found to substantiate either allegation.

The third unsubstantiated complaint alleged that money went missing from the complainant's vehicle after it was towed, and that a key was damaged. Several officers and tow yard employees were included in a thorough investigation, which revealed no evidence to substantiate any violation of Department policy, or to indicate that money was taken/seized.

## *Conclusion*

The 2017 summary of Internal Affairs Investigations has not revealed any general patterns or trends, and as last year, consisted of a small number of complaints. The Smithfield Police Department is committed to monitoring the performance of its employees, as well as investigating complaints forwarded by the general public, to ensure that all employees are providing its citizenry with a service that is professional and consistent with Department Policies, General Orders, Special Order, Rules and Regulations. The Department continues to post Personnel Complaint Procedures on the Department website and in the station lobby.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.W. VanNieuwenhuyze". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert W. VanNieuwenhuyze  
Deputy Chief of Police  
Internal Affairs Officer