

2018 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 the addition of an investigator, Sgt. Kevin Willoughby, effective January 19, 2018.

During 2017, we invested time in training other agency supervisory personnel in conducting and reviewing Chain of Command Investigations specific to Class II Conduct violations. During 2018, as those supervisory partners grew more accustomed to the process of conducting and reviewing COC investigations, we emphasized the importance of objective investigations / review through one-on-one refresher training and small group training as needs were identified. The agency has made progress in this area. The plan moving forward in 2019 will include focusing on timely investigations and review as outlined in agency policy.

Significant progress was made in 2017 with 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. That progress continued through 2018 and, at the time of this report, there are less than ten (10) un-reviewed chain routings that are from 2018 or older. The focus on timely review of chain routings will continue in 2019.

During 2017, 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. During 2018, we worked with our IT partners to improve the on-line complaint form in an attempt to make the process more efficient for community members. We continue to re-evaluate the process to identify areas in which it can be

improved. The Professional Standards Division Commander, as well as IA Commander and subordinate personnel, are still immediately notified via email when a complaint is submitted.

There was an increase in the number of documented complaints received in 2018 when compared to 2017 data. That increase resulted from an amended practice to focus on capturing, and most accurately reporting, all complaints received by the agency. All complaints, whether formalized for in-depth investigation or not, were captured in 2018.

Summary of Complaints for 2018

Total Number of Complaints (2018)

External (Citizen) Formalized	70
External (Citizen) Non-Formalized	15
Internal (Administrative)	75
TOTAL	160
By Investigative Assignment	
IA Investigation	66
COC Investigation	77

Case Status (2018)

*Note – some cases have multiple allegations with different dispositions

	IA	COC
Sustained	15	18
Not Sustained	5	6
Unfounded	2	22

Exonerated	4	0
Resigned Under Inv.	6	4
Admin Closed	2	2
Open/Pending	29	27

Imposed Discipline Resulting from IA / COC Investigations (2018)

	IA	COC
Termination	3	1
Suspension (hours)	360	160
Letter of Reprimand	2	10
Resigned Under Investigation	6	1
Counseling	1	0

Assignment of Cases for Internal Affairs Personnel:

Sgt. May	19
Sgt. Trussell	20
Sgt. Willoughby	24

Appendix

Allegations and findings by Incident Type (2018)

Incident received date between Jan 01, 2018 - Dec 31, 2018

<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Allegation</u>	<u>Finding</u>	<u>Count</u>
IA Investigation			
	Unbecoming Conduct (Class I)	Sustained	1
	Untruthfulness (Class I)	Not Sustained	1
Administrative investigation			
	Alcohol Offense (Class I)	Sustained	1
	Cooperation During Internal Investigation (Class I)	Sustained	1
	Criminal Offenses / Felony / Class A Misdemeanor (Class I)	Not Sustained	1
		Sustained	1
	Improper Procedure (Class II)	Sustained	1
	Insubordination - Level I (Class I)	Sustained	3

Submitting False Reports (Class I)		
	Not Sustained	1
Substance Violation (Class I)		
	Sustained	1
Treatment of Prisoners (Class I)		
	Sustained	1
Unbecoming Conduct (Class I)		
	Not Sustained	1
Unsatisfactory Conduct (Class II)		
	Sustained	2
Unsatisfactory Performance (Class II)		
	Sustained	1
Untruthfulness (Class I)		
	Sustained	1
Use of Force Violation / No Injury / Improper Application (Class I)		
	Sustained	3
Citizen complaint		
Abuse of Process (Class II)		
	Not Sustained	1
	UNFOUNDED	1
Discourtesy (Class II)		
	Not Sustained	4
	Resigned Under Inv	1
	Sustained	2
	Unfounded	16
Improper Investigation (Class II)		
	Unfounded	2
Improper Procedure (Class II)		
	Not Sustained	3

	Sustained	3
	UNFOUNDED	4
Misrepresentation (Class II)		
	UNFOUNDED	2
Submitting Department Reports (Class II)		
	Not Sustained	1
	UNFOUNDED	1
Submitting False Reports (Class I)		
	Unfounded	1
Supervisory Responsibility (Class II)		
	Sustained	1
Unbecoming Conduct (Class I)		
	Not Sustained	1
Unsatisfactory Conduct (Class II)		
	Not Sustained	1
	Sustained	1
	Unfounded	1
Unsatisfactory Performance (Class II)		
	NOT SUSTAINED	1
	Sustained	2
	Unfounded	8
	Withdrawn	1
Use of Force Violation / No Injury / Improper Application (Class I)		
	Withdrawn	1
Counseling		
Vehicle Use Violation (Class II)		
	Counseling	5
Fact Finding		
Unsatisfactory Performance (Class II)		

	Sustained	1
Firearm Discharge - Animal		
Firearm Discharge (Class I)		
	EXONERATED	2
Inquiry/referral		
Abuse of Leave Privileges (Class II)		
	Non-Formalized	1
Abuse or Loss of Equipment (Class II)		
	NOT SUSTAINED	1
	Sustained	1
Reporting for Duty (Class II)		
	Sustained	1
Unsatisfactory Performance (Class II)		
	Sustained	3
Vehicle Use Violation (Class II)		
	Sustained	1