

# Memorandum

## City of Lawrence

### Police Department

**To:** Tom Markus, City Manager  
Gregory C. Burns, Jr., Chief of Police  
Captain Anthony Brixius

**From:** Sergeant David Ernst

**Date:** January 2nd, 2018

**Re:** 2017 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, not sustained, exonerated, unfounded, dismissed, commended, training issue or policy deficiency, 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 2017.

#### **DISCUSSION**

As shown by the data below, the Lawrence Police Department conducted 13 OPA investigations for 2017, a decrease of 4 investigations from those reported in 2016. Out of the 13 investigations conducted in 2017, 6 were generated by city employees, and 7 were generated by citizen complaints. Formal reprimand and/or disciplinary actions were issued for 6 "sustained" complaints. In accordance with department policy, 1 investigation is pending court proceedings.

**DATA**

<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>
Sustained	6
Not Sustained	2
Exonerated	4
Unfounded	0
Dismissed	0
Commended	0
Training Issue	0
Policy Deficiency	0
Pending	1
Changed to Inquiry	0

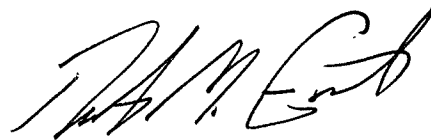
Disciplinary Action Taken	6
Racial Profiling Complaints	2

Citizen Generated Complaints	7
Internally Generated Complaints	6

2016 Complaints	17
2017 Complaints	13

Further details regarding each of the 2017 investigations are explained in short summaries on the attached document.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sergeant David M. Ernst  
Office of Professional Accountability

## 2017 Office of Professional Accountability Case Summaries of Complaints

### **OPA 17-01**

An internal complainant reported an employee violated department policy.

The complaint was sustained.

### **OPA 17-02**

An internal complainant reported an employee violated department policy.

The complaint was sustained.

### **OPA 17-03**

A citizen reported an employee violated department policy.

The complaint was sustained.

### **OPA 17-04**

A citizen reported an employee violated department policy

The complaint was not sustained.

### **OPA 17-05**

A citizen reported an employee violated department policy.

The complaint was not sustained.

### **OPA 17-06**

An internal complaint reported an officer violated department policy.

The complaint was sustained.

### **OPA 17-07**

An internal complaint reported an officer violated department policy.

The employee separated employment prior to completion of investigation.

### **OPA 17-08**

An internal complaint reported an officer violated department policy.

The complaint was sustained.

**OPA 17-09**

An internal complaint reported an employee used excessive force during an arrest.

The complaint was exonerated.

**OPA 17-10**

A citizen reported his child was racially profiled during an investigation.

The complaint was exonerated.

**OPA 17-11**

A citizen reported the citizen was racially profiled during a contact with an officer.

The complaint was exonerated.

**OPA 17-12**

An internal complaint reported an employee violated department policy.

The complaint was not sustained.

**OPA 17-13**

A citizen reported an employee violated department policy.

The investigation is ongoing.