

**Memorandum  
City of Lawrence  
Police Department**

**To: Craig Owens, City Manager  
Rich Lockhart, Interim Chief of Police  
Deputy Chief Adam Heffley  
Major Casey Cooper**

**From: Lt. Mark Unruh**

**Date: August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Re: 2021 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.

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 IA Pro case files. The final disposition of each investigation is categorized as sustained, not sustained, exonerated, unfounded, cleared by exception, 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 during 2021.

**DISCUSSION**

As shown by the data below, the Lawrence Police Department conducted 21 citizen complaint investigations. One of these complaints was turned over to the Kansas Bureau of Investigations for potential criminal misconduct. None of the remaining complaints were sustained.

**DATA**

<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>
Sustained	
Not Sustained	1
Exonerated	35
Unfounded	7
Cleared by Exception	
Commended	
Training Issue	
Policy Deficiency	
Pending	

Disciplinary Action Taken	
Racial Profiling Complaints	

<b>2021 Complaints</b>	<b>21</b>
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Please note in the above data table that it is possible to have more than one disposition, due to multiple policy violations and/or officers being investigated, on one case. Further details regarding each of the 2021 investigations are explained in short summaries on the attached document.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lieutenant Mark Unruh  
Office of Professional Accountability

# 2021 Office of Professional Accountability

## Case Summaries of Complaints

**PC21-015 Received March 2021**

A citizen called and made a complaint regarding an officer's response to a call. The citizen said the officer was driving at a high rate of speed while passing a school bus and another vehicle, which occurred in the citizen's neighborhood. After review of in-car video and speaking with other officers, this investigation determined the officer's driving was within policy and did not violate law. The citizen was contacted later and stated they had not witnessed the officer driving and they were only stating what someone else had said. The officer was exonerated of this complaint.

Complaint: Officer Response to Calls Exonerated

**PC21-009 Received March 2021**

A citizen called and made a complaint regarding their interaction with an officer. Specifically, the citizen felt the officer did not allow them to explain themselves fully regarding an incident they were involved in. The officer was exonerated of this complaint after reviewing body worn camera video.

Complaint: Standards of Conduct Exonerated

**PC21-011 Received May 2021**

A citizen emailed a complaint regarding allegations of discriminatory practices against service animals. The citizen was concerned due to an animal being quarantined at the Lawrence Humane Society. The citizen said the animal was currently being trained by the owner as a service animal and they wanted to finish the quarantine of the animal at the owner's home. This investigation determined the Lawrence Police Department acted within policy when it placed the animal into quarantine.

Complaint: Animal Control Exonerated

**PC21-012 Received May 2021**

A citizen contacted the Office of Professional Accountability to make a complaint. The citizen provided paperwork stating they had witnessed an incident where officers were arresting another individual. The citizen reported that officers did not keep the citizen from being injured, after being arrested, and they failed to provide medical attention. The citizen said officers also failed to notify supervision of the injury. The citizen reported one of the officers used excessive force during this incident. The citizen also stated the supervisor at the incident failed to correct the officers' actions. Some of these complaints were unfounded, and officers were exonerated of the remaining complaints after review of the involved officers' body worn camera video.

Complaint: Use of Force (13 Complaints) Exonerated  
Use of Force (2 Complaints) Unfounded  
Standards of Conduct Exonerated

**PC21-021 Received May 2021**

A citizen called and made a complaint regarding an officer's response to parking violations. Specifically, the citizen was upset that the officer wrote warning tickets. After review of the incident, the officer was exonerated of the complaint.

Complaint: Traffic and Parking Citations Exonerated

**PC21-040 Received May 2021**

A citizen called and made a complaint regarding an officer's response to parking violations. Specifically, the citizen was upset that the officer wrote warning tickets. After review of the incident, the officer was exonerated of the complaint.

Complaint: Traffic and Parking Citations Exonerated

**PC21-041 Received May 2021**

A citizen called to file a complaint regarding an officer using excessive force. The citizen said they were told that another family member had been arrested and the officer placed both of their knees in the family members back while another officer was holding their head down. This complaint was unfounded after review of body worn camera video.

Complaint: Excessive Use of Force Unfounded

**PC21-055 Received June 2021**

A citizen called and made a complaint regarding an officer driving too fast and then making a U-Turn. The citizen said the officer then pulled behind them and attempted to get them to go through an intersection when it was not safe to do so. The officer was exonerated after reviewing video of the incident and speaking with the officer.

Complaint: Standards of Conduct Exonerated

**PC21-044 Received July 2021**

A citizen called and made a complaint regarding officers removing their "keep out" signs and discarded lumber. The citizen questioned the legal authority and actions of the officers. This investigation was unable to locate an incident involving the location of the alleged occurrence. This investigation was unable to find any information regarding an officer conducting these alleged actions. This complaint was not sustained.

Complaint: Standards of Conduct Not Sustained

**PC21-048 Received August 2021**

A citizen called and made a complaint regarding officers pounding on their walls. This complaint was unfounded after reviewing the officers' work schedules.

Complaint: Standards of Conduct Unfounded  
Standards of Conduct Unfounded

**PC21-049 Received August 2021**

A citizen emailed the Police Records office and requested to make a complaint regarding their interaction with an officer during a traffic accident investigation. The citizen was later contacted and said they felt the officer made them feel that the accident was their fault even though they did not believe it was. The citizen said they felt like they were interrogated, and they did not believe the other driver had been treated the same. The officer was exonerated of this complaint after review of the accident report and body worn camera video.

Complaint: Standards of Conduct Exonerated

**PC21-050 Received September 2021**

An attorney assisted a citizen with completing a Formal Complaint form. The citizen was alleging that officers had harassed them while also using excessive force against them. The attorney was contacted and told they could come in with the citizen to go over the complaint. On a later date, the attorney contacted the Officer of Professional Standards and reported the citizen no longer wished to file a complaint. Upon review of the incident, and body worn camera video, there were no policy violations observed. The officers were exonerated of the complaints.

Complaint: Standards of Conduct Exonerated  
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**PC21-052 Received September 2021**

A citizen made a complaint alleging an officer is not personable and was targeting their business vehicle. The officer was exonerated of this complaint.

Complaint: Standards of Conduct Exonerated

**PC21-053 Received September 2021**

A citizen called in a complaint alleging an officer was rude and unprofessional when they were contacted about their animal being off leash. The officer was exonerated of the complaint after review of the body worn camera video.

Complaint: Standard of Conduct Exonerated

**PC21-025 Received October 2021**

The Office of Professional Accountability received an emailed complaint from a citizen. The complaint was in reference to criminal allegations that were sexual in nature. This investigation was turned over to the Kansas Bureau of Investigations after preliminary information was obtained.

Complaint: Criminal Conduct Provided to Kansas Bureau of Investigations

**PC21-034 Received October 2021**

A citizen called and made a complaint regarding an officer's actions during a funeral escort. The citizen, who was not in the funeral procession, was upset because the officer did not have their vehicle siren activated. Additionally, the citizen felt they were placed in a dangerous situation after the officer left the intersection and the citizen was still in the intersection on a red light. The officer was exonerated of this allegation after review of the traffic intersection camera.

Complaint: Funeral Escorts Exonerated

**PC21-035 Received October 2021**

A citizen emailed the City Commission and made a complaint regarding their dogs being seized and adopted out by the Humane Society. Additionally, the citizen said the officer who they interacted with during the time their dogs were taken was pushy and rude. This complaint was forwarded to the police department and reviewed. The officer was exonerated of these allegations after review of body worn camera video.

Complaint: Standards of Conduct Exonerated

**PC21-036 Received October 2021**

A citizen called and made a complaint alleging an officer did not identify themselves when they came to their house. The citizen also believed it was dangerous when the officer asked them to come out to the officer's vehicle so they could be issued a citation. These complaints were unfounded after review of body worn camera video.

Complaint: Standards of Conduct Unfounded  
Badges, Patches, and Identification Unfounded

**PC21-037 Received October 2021**

Officers were dispatched to a business regarding a shoplifting. While dealing with the initial call, officers were alerted of another disturbance inside of the business. An employee made a complaint to an on-scene supervisor, stating it took officers too long to get the scene under control and they were also upset that an officer told them to get off one of the people involved in the disturbance. Ultimately, the employee was upset with the officer's demeanor and that they touched them. The officer was exonerated of the complaint after review of body worn camera video.

Complaint: Standards of Conduct Exonerated  
Standards of Conduct Exonerated

**PC21-027 Received November 2021**

A citizen called and made a complaint regarding their interaction with an officer. The citizen believed they had been mistreated and their concerns had been dismissed. This complaint was unfounded after review of the officer's body worn camera video.

Complaint: Standards of Conduct Exonerated

