

WEST PALM BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



**Prepared By: Captain Michael Deighan #1417
Internal Affairs Unit Commander
February , 2020**

**West Palm Beach Police Department
Internal Affairs 2019 Annual Report**

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West Palm Beach Police Department Internal Affairs 2019 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Internal Affairs Unit is to ensure the integrity of the West Palm Beach Police Department is maintained through an internal system in which objectivity, fairness and justice are guaranteed by an impartial investigation and review of complaints. The Internal Affairs Unit (IAU) is designed to serve as a mechanism for internal accountability, and has as its major function the receipt, processing, and investigation of complaints made against sworn and non-sworn members of the Department. An equally important part of the IAU mission pertains to the detailed records about the types of control measures (control of person) employed by sworn members of the department when dealing with citizens.

The Internal Affairs Unit maintains all records of complaints against Department members. The commander of the unit is responsible for ensuring impartial investigations are conducted consistently throughout the organization on all complaints against Department members. Complaints are typically investigated by field level supervisors however depending on the nature of the complaint the IAU may be assigned by the Chief of Police to conduct the investigation. The Internal Affairs Unit is currently staffed by two Sergeants, one Lieutenant and is commanded by a Captain answering to the Chief of Police.

The Internal Affairs Unit uses the IA Pro software system to manage the receipt and progress of complaints as they are assigned, investigated and submitted for disposition by the Chief. All complaints received by supervisory personnel throughout the organization are routed to the IAU. With the IA Pro system, the status of all complaints is easily determined. If further investigation is indicated based upon the initial complaint review conducted by the line supervisor, the complaint is reviewed by the Chief of Police or designee. The Chief or designee determines which level of investigation will be conducted; i.e. field level or IAU. In addition, the Chief of Police reviews all completed investigations and determines the final disposition. The database records the disposition and any applicable remedial or disciplinary

action taken as a result of the investigation. Sustained violations of policy, procedure, rules and/or regulations are specifically linked to the appropriate Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) or Rule and Regulation allowing for specific management of information for use in policy or training revisions, if needed.

In 2011, the IAU implemented the use of additional programming (BlueTeam) to facilitate electronic filing of Control of Person reports, Officer involved traffic crashes, Injured persons reports and Vehicle Pursuit Summaries. The web based program is compatible with the IA Pro software and allows the field level supervisors to complete their reports electronically. The reports are routed through the chain of command for review, recommendations and approval. Once reviewed through the chain of command, the information is finalized by IAU personnel and is imported into the IA Pro database.

The particular details pertinent to the incidents presented in the **2019 Annual Report** are displayed in a concise, synopsis-type format. The Internal Affairs Unit maintains complete case files related to all the categories documented herein. The Internal Affairs Annual Report is designed to provide a useful analysis of cases investigated during the calendar year.

Body Worn Cameras

The national landscape of the justice system has changed considerably over the last few years. Concerned with relations between the Police Department and the Community, The West Palm Beach Police Department has developed a department wide body camera program. The Body Worn Camera program was implemented to strengthen community trust and confidence in the police department and improve officer and community safety.

Some benefits we strive to achieve with the Body Worn Camera program are more effective and efficient evidence documentation, increased transparency and accountability, reduction in complaints, and reduction of control of persons.

SECTION ONE

POLICY INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS

Internal Affairs investigations result from allegations of violations of criminal law or major violations of Department rules, regulations, policies and/or procedures. Internal Affairs investigations are also automatically triggered by critical incident cases (CIT). CIT investigations are initiated as the result of incidents involving in-custody death or life-threatening injury to an arrestee, or the use of deadly force by a West Palm Beach police officer. Internal Affairs investigations are conducted by the full-time staff of the Internal Affairs Unit. The case files are assigned a case number utilizing the prefix "IA" followed by the last two digits of the calendar year, and a sequence number; e.g., *IA #19-001*. Prior to 2010, Internal Affairs investigations were divided into two categories: Internal Affairs (IA) and Incident Reviews (IR). As of June 2010, the investigations assigned to Internal Affairs Investigators are all classified as Internal Affairs (IA) investigations. IR numbers are no longer assigned to any of the investigations.

Investigations assigned to line level supervisors and/or any investigator not assigned to the IAU, receive internal case numbers according to where the allegation(s) originated. If a potential policy violation is recognized internally by an employee of the Department, the investigation will be assigned an Administrative (AD) investigation number; if the allegation originates from outside the Department, the investigation will be assigned a Citizen Complaint Inquiry (CCIF) number. The case number sequences are captured in the same manner as the IA cases; e.g., *AD #19-001* or *CCIF #19-001*.

The Chief of Police determines the final disposition of the allegations against the member(s), using the **"preponderance of evidence"** standard of proof. When violations of policy are sustained, the investigation is forwarded through the subject employee's chain of command for review. The Chief of Police determines the final disciplinary action. When an Internal Affairs investigation is completed, both the subject member(s) and the complainant are notified of the final disposition in writing. Once an investigation is completed it becomes subject to inspection in accordance with the provisions of the Florida Public Records Law. The Internal Affairs Unit maintains custody of the investigative reports, audio and/or videotapes, and any other documentation or evidence. The Internal Affairs Unit Commander is the

custodian of records for the unit, and supervises the response to all requests for inspection or copies of those records made in compliance with the Florida Public Record Law.

Internal Affairs Investigations

The following tables represent the number of Internal Affairs Investigations conducted during calendar year 2019, the total number of sustained investigations, not sustained investigations and pending investigations; in addition to a three-year comparison of IA Investigations. Each investigation may include more than one allegation and/or more than one officer.

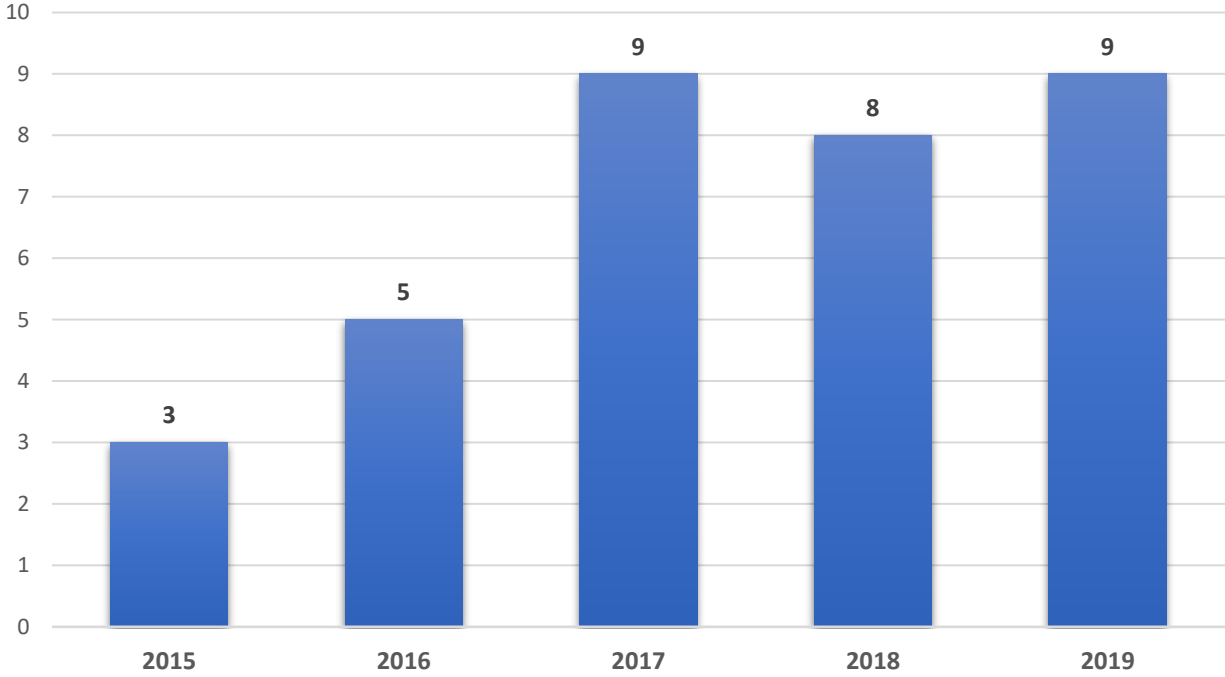
2019 INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIONS

	2019
Internal Affairs Investigations Initiated	9
Total Number of Allegations	12
Number of Allegations Sustained	6
Number of Allegations Not Sustained	4

FIVE YEAR COMPARISON-INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIONS

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of not sustained Investigations	2	1	3	3	4
Number of Exonerated Investigations	0	0	2	0	0
Number of Unfounded Investigations	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Sustained Investigations	1	4	4	2	6
Number of Open Investigations	0	0	0	3	6
Outside Agency	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Administrative Investigations	3	5	9	8	9

Internal Affairs Investigations



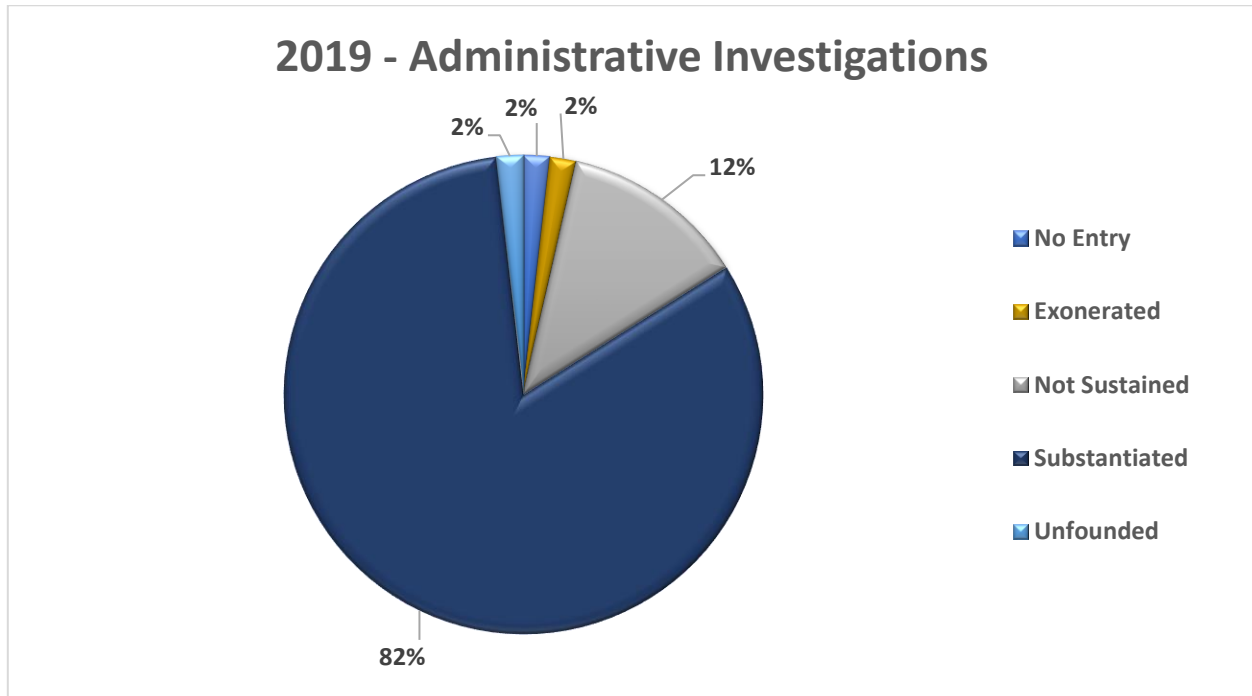
ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Policy investigations are occasionally initiated as a result of violations noted or witnessed by another member of the Agency. When a policy violation is noted by someone within the Department, an Administrative Investigation (AD) may be initiated. AD cases are usually related to personnel or performance issues. Typically, an AD case is based on evidence of a relatively clear violation of policy such as failing to appear for court, being involved in an at-fault on-duty traffic crash, loss or damage to issued equipment, etc. The investigations are handled by field level supervisors and are routed through the members' chain of command. Upon review and official disposition by the Chief of Police, the Administrative cases are assigned a case number with the prefix "AD" followed by the last two digits of the calendar year, and a sequence number; e.g., AD #19-001. In cases where the alleged violation is likely to have a serious adverse impact upon the Police Department it will be reported, without delay, through the chain of command to the Chief of Police. In these cases, the Chief may assign the Internal Affairs Unit to investigate the allegation, thus the incident would be assigned an "IA" number in lieu of an "AD" number. Minor violations may be addressed at the field level; a direct supervisor should document minor violations in the officer's working file. All notes in the working files should be validated with both the officer's and supervisor's signature. More severe violations are routed through the subject officer's chain of command before they are filed in the IAU. A final disposition on each official AD investigation is determined by the Chief of Police. The permanent record of all AD cases resulting in disciplinary action against the subject will be maintained in the IAU.

2019 ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Administrative Investigations; Disposition of Received Incidents:

Disposition	Count	Percent of total
[No Entry]	1	2%
Exonerated	1	2%
Sustained	46	82%
Unfounded	1	2%
Not Sustained	7	13%
Total	56	

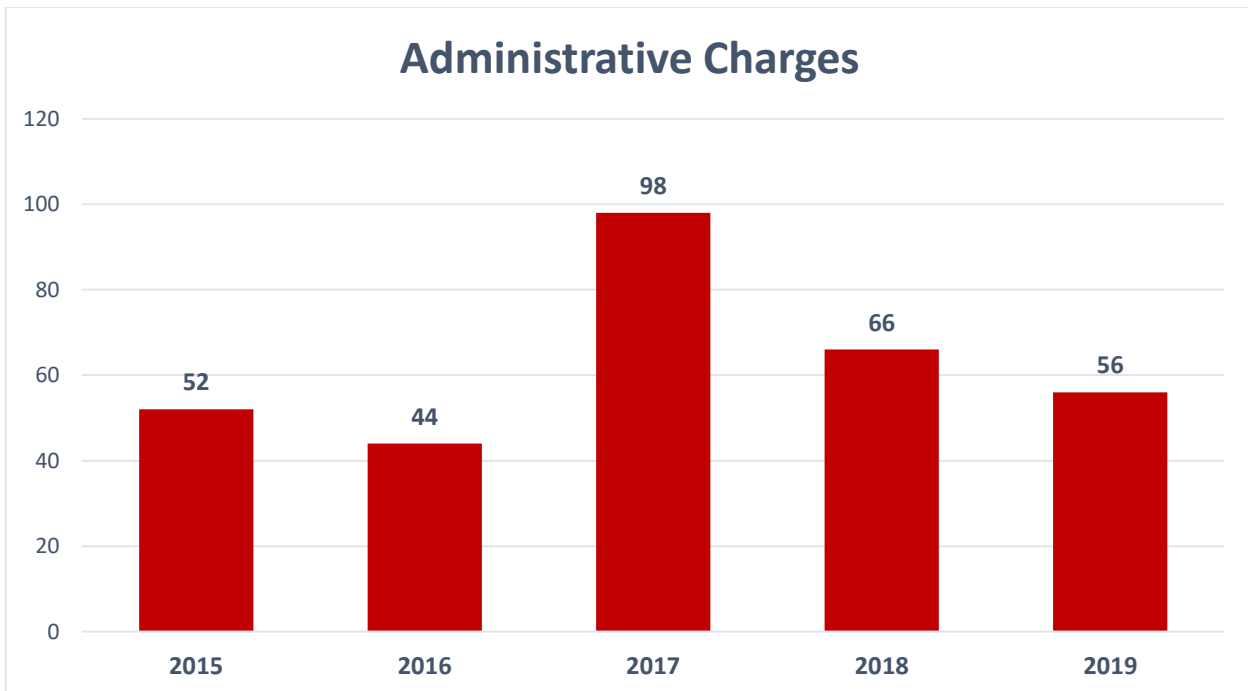


FIVE YEAR COMPARISON OF ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of not Sustained Investigations	3	1	8	1	7
Number of Exonerated Investigations	0	0	1	1	1
Number of Unfounded Investigations	1	0	0	0	1
Number of sustained Investigations	48	42	89	62	46
Number of Open Investigations	0	0	0	2	1
Total Number of Administrative Investigations	52	43	98	66	56

Year-to-Year Comparison of Administrative Investigations

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Incidents	52	44	98	66	56
% Annual Change		-20%	+122%	-33%	-15%



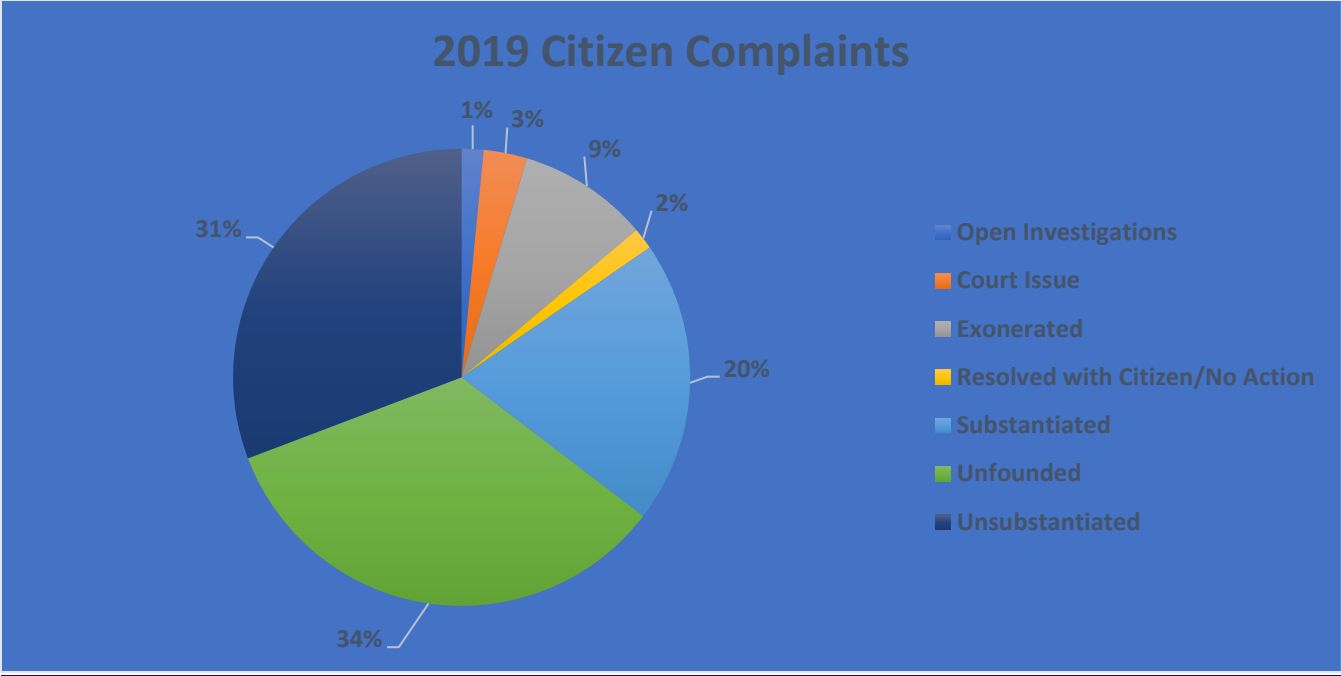
CITIZEN COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS (CCIF)

All complaints (including anonymous complaints) and allegations of misconduct against the West Palm Beach Police Department and/or its members will be investigated. Complaints can be received in person or by telephone, letter or electronically. It is the responsibility of the accused member's supervisor to conduct a supervisory review regarding the initial complaint. The results of the supervisory review and the initial Citizen Complaint and Inquiry Form (CCIF) will be routed through the chain of command to the appropriate Bureau Commander for review, then to the IAU Commander for data entry and case management. Complaints received from citizens are assigned a case number with the prefix CCIF followed by the last two digits of the calendar year, and a sequence number; e.g., CCIF #19-001. There may be multiple officers named in the same complaint. The totals listed reflect the number of complaints received in 2019.

2019 Citizen Compliant Investigations

Citizen Complaint/Inq.: Disposition of Received Incidents:

Dispositions	Count	Percent of total
Open Investigations	1	1%
Court Issue	2	3%
Exonerated	6	9%
Resolved with Citizen/No Action	1	1%
Sustained	13	20%
Unfounded	22	34%
Not Sustained	20	31%
Total	65	

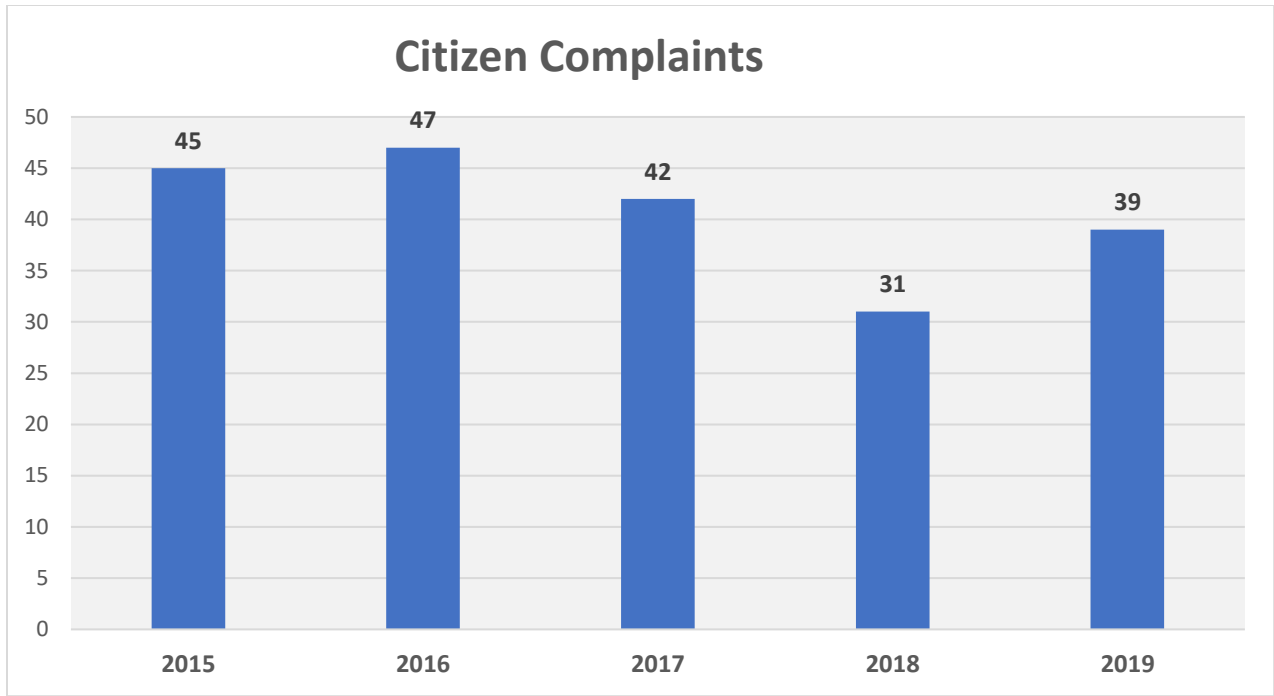


FIVE YEAR COMPARISON OF CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Not Sustained Investigations	21	14	21	14	9
Number of Exonerated Investigations	0	5	3	1	5
Number of Unfounded Investigations	1	2	2	3	9
Number of Sustained Investigations	1	7	11	5	12
Court Issue	9	2	1	0	1
Resolved with Citizen/No Action	14	17	4	2	2
Number of Open Investigations	0	0	0	6	1
Total Number of Citizen Complaints	46	47	42	31	39

Year-to-Year Comparison of Citizen Complaints

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Incidents	46	47	42	31	39
% Annual Change	-15%	+2%	-11%	-26%	+25%
5 Year % Change	--	--	--	--	-2%



Analysis of Citizen Complaints

There has been a downward trend in the total number of CCIFs received over the past five years. Although there could be a multitude of unidentifiable factors which contributed to this trend, one major factor could be the institution of the Body Camera program, which began the latter part of 2014. Over the last few years, the Agency has also instituted department wide Procedural Justice and De-escalation training.

SECTION TWO

DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS/SHOOTING INCIDENTS

The IAU responds to all discharge of firearm incidents involving West Palm Beach police officers involving a control of persons. Cases where members use their firearm to destroy aggressive animals or have an unintentional discharge are generally investigated by the concerned member's chain of command. After the case is reviewed through the chain of command, it is forwarded to the IAU for review and data collection. The file then becomes public record.

Discharge of firearms cases are classified into four categories: **Contact Shooting, Non-Contact Shooting, Animal, and Unintentional**. In cases involving a control of persons, the internal administrative investigation is conducted parallel to the criminal investigation. Detectives assigned to the Critical Incident Team along with FDLE conduct the criminal investigation; the IAU conducts the internal administrative investigation. All officer-involved shootings involving injury or death are reviewed by senior representatives of the State Attorney's Office. The State Attorney issues a finding on the officer's use of deadly force prior to the conclusion of the Administrative (CIT) Investigation.

In 2016 the West Palm Beach Police Department entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement concerning the investigations and forensic involvement of two types of officer involved critical incidents. The MOU is documented under WPB MOU #17978. The following is the criteria for the activation of the MOU. Each discharge is captured individually and recorded as a contact, non-contact, animal or unintentional discharge/shooting. A single incident may include multiple discharges

The occurrence of any of the following predicative events will initiate investigative and forensic involvement, assistance or coordination by FDLE:

The shooting of a person by a WPBPD law enforcement officer acting in the line of duty; or

The death of an arrestee while in the care, custody or control of a WPBPD law enforcement officer, the death of an arrestee shortly after being in the care, custody or control of a WPBPD law enforcement officer or the death of an intended arrestee during an arrest attempt by a WPBPD law enforcement officer.

Discharge of Firearms/Shooting 2019 Review

Contact Shooting	2
Non-Contact Shooting	0
Animal	0
Unintentional	0
Total # Discharges	2

Incident Summaries - Firearm Discharges 2019

Firearms Discharge (1)

Received: May 16, 2019 Case No: 2019-071795

On May 16, 2019, Agent Yermanos #1813, along with members of the Palm Beach Sheriff's Department's Narcotics Task Force Unit, were conducting a buy-bust operation at 4200 Randolph Way Palm Beach Gardens, FL. The suspect involved was located inside his vehicle in a parking lot. The Agents involved drove to the suspects location exited Agent Yermano's vehicle in attempt to take the suspect into custody. The suspect fired his weapon at the agents during the take down and the agents returned fire killing the suspect.

The incident was captured under PBSO case number 19-071795. The Florida Department of Law enforcement is the investigating agency.

Firearms Discharge (2)

Received: July 29, 2019 Case No: 2019-13105

On July 29, 2019 at approximately 1415 hours Officers Jamesloo Charles #2148 , Lyndon Charles #2106 and Casey Walter #2038 responded to 5400 North Flagler Drive for a call for service captured under WPBPD case #2019-13105. While on sence Officer C Walter was stabbed by suspect Andree Jourdain. Officer J. Charles responded by discharging his department issued handgun striking Mrs. Andree Jourdain. Suspect Jourdain sustained non-life threatening injuries.

The incident was deemed a Critical Incident captured under CIT # 19-004.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement responded and conducted the investigation in reference to the Officer Involved Shooting. The predicate crime was handled by the West Palm Beach Police Department, Criminal Investigation Division.

SECTION THREE

THRESHOLD REVIEW SYSTEM

Incident statistics from formal complaints and Control of Persons reports are captured and analyzed in the IAU leading to the generation of Threshold Review System (TRS) Reports. The TRS reports are generated semiannually for Personnel Complaints (TRS I), Control of Persons (TRS II), Dog Bites (TRS III) and Discharge of Firearms (TRS IV). All formal complaints are documented and routed to the IAU where investigations are assigned and original documentation is filed. Detailed information about use of force situations is captured in Control of Persons Reports generated by supervisory personnel upon notification of such incidents. These reports are also retained and analyzed in the IAU. The IAU records provide the basis for the TRS Reports.

Supervisors of officers appearing on the TRS Report will review the member's complaint history and/or use of force history and will meet with the member to discuss the report. Subsequently, the supervisor will complete written documentation of their meeting with the member and any actions taken or recommended in response to the member's appearance on the TRS. The Internal Affairs Commander is responsible for maintaining the TRS Reports and Review Memorandums from the members' supervisors.

The purpose of the TRS is to demonstrate a positive approach to identifying and assisting police employees whose job performance may indicate a possibility of job stress or other adverse job-related problems. The Threshold Review System is designed to assist supervisors in identifying these employees at an early stage. Remedial sources available to the supervisors include, but are not limited to the following: supervisory counseling, supervised observation periods in the field, peer counseling, remedial training, psychological services/substance abuse resources – EAP, or temporary assignment change.

Threshold Review System I Report Personnel Complaints

The complaint record for each member is reviewed semiannually (January 1 and July 1). A report listing all members with three (3) or more incidents for the previous year is prepared.

The TRS I is presented in two parts:

Part I. Statistical Summary

Part II. A table listing each member with three or more complaints in the previous year.

Part I – Statistical Summary

Three Year Comparison – Citizen Complaint Inquires

	2017	2018	2019
Citizen Complaint Investigations	42	31	39
Open Investigations	0	6	1
Number of Allegations Sustained	11	5	12

Threshold Review System II Report

Control of Persons

The Control of Persons Record for each member is reviewed semiannually (January 1 and July 1). A report listing each member involved in five (5) or more Control of Persons incidents in a 12 month period (excluding dog bites and discharge of firearms incidents) is prepared.

The TRS II is presented in two parts:

Part I. Statistical Summary

Part II. A table listing the officers with five or more Control of Persons Reports during the previous twelve (12) months.

Part I – Statistical Summary

Three Year Comparison – Control of Persons Reports

	2017	2018	2019
Use of Force Incidents	85	114	131
Total Number Use of Force Types During Incidents	165	169	303
Total Number of Officers Involved in Use Of Force	136	215	259

Some incidents include more than one type of force used and involve more than one officer. There were **131** Control of Persons incidents in 2019 involving **259** different

officers. When force is utilized on more than one subject during the same call it is recorded as two separate incidents, thus it can be deduced there were 131 different subjects involved in Control of Persons events in 2019. During those incidents, **303** different force measures were utilized by officers.

Part II – Officer Table

TRS II Reports - Control of Persons Incidents: 2019
****Time Period: January 01, 2019 to December 31, 2019****

2019 Annual TRS II – Use of Force

Number of Incidents by Officer – January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019

Employee	January 1, 2019 June 30, 2019	July 1, 2019 December 31, 2019	Total Use of Force Incidents
Ofc. Austyn Kelly	8	3	11
Ofc. Mark Moriello	6	5	11
Ofc. Drew Noel	3	6	9
Ofc. Michael Rosario	3	6	9
Ofc. Yago Brito	5	2	7
Ofc. Neil Sterk	3	3	6
Ofc. Sean Varriale	6	0	6
Ofc. Robert George	1	4	5
Ofc. Nicholas Lordi	2	3	5
Ofc. Christopher Rekdahl	3	2	5

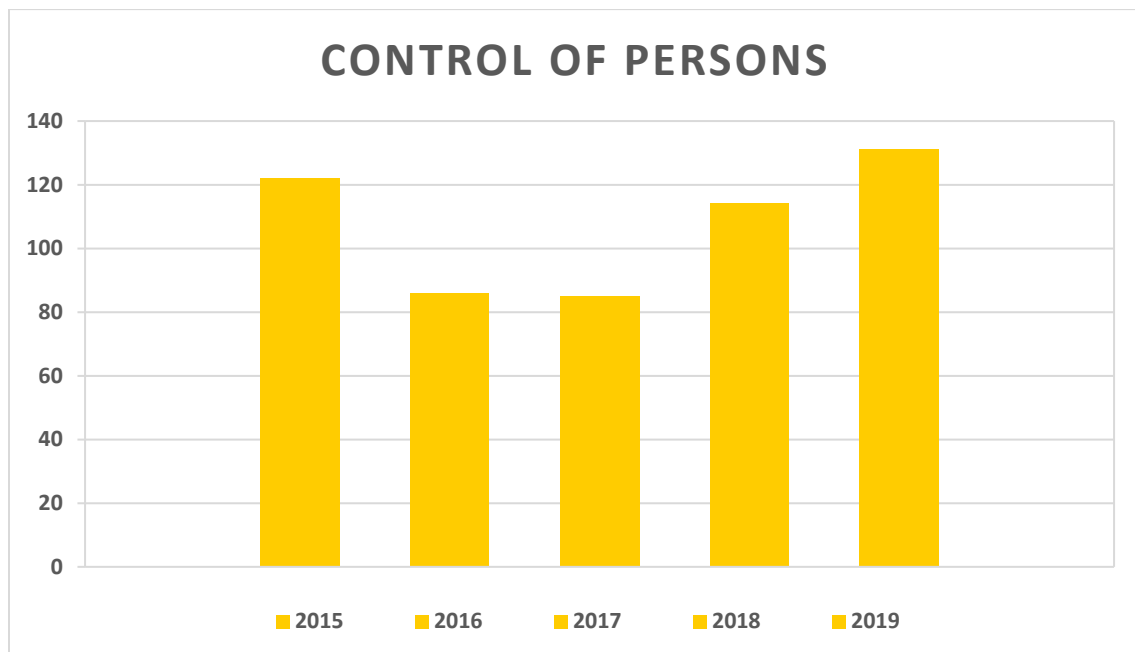
A complete breakdown of the Control of Persons incidents is completed semi-annually and a Use of Force Analysis is conducted. The Control of Person Analysis is completed to detect trends and/or changes in the force statistics which may be utilized to influence future training and/or policy revisions.

Control of Persons Analysis

In the past five years there has been a slight increase in the total number of incidents where Controls of Persons have been reported. There was a large decrease in Control of Persons incidents during 2016 and 2017. Below is a five year comparison of Control of Person incidents.

Year-to-Year Comparison Control of Persons Incidents

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Incidents	122	86	85	114	131
% Annual Change	--	-30%	-1%	+34%	+15%
5 Year % Change	--	--	--	--	+23%



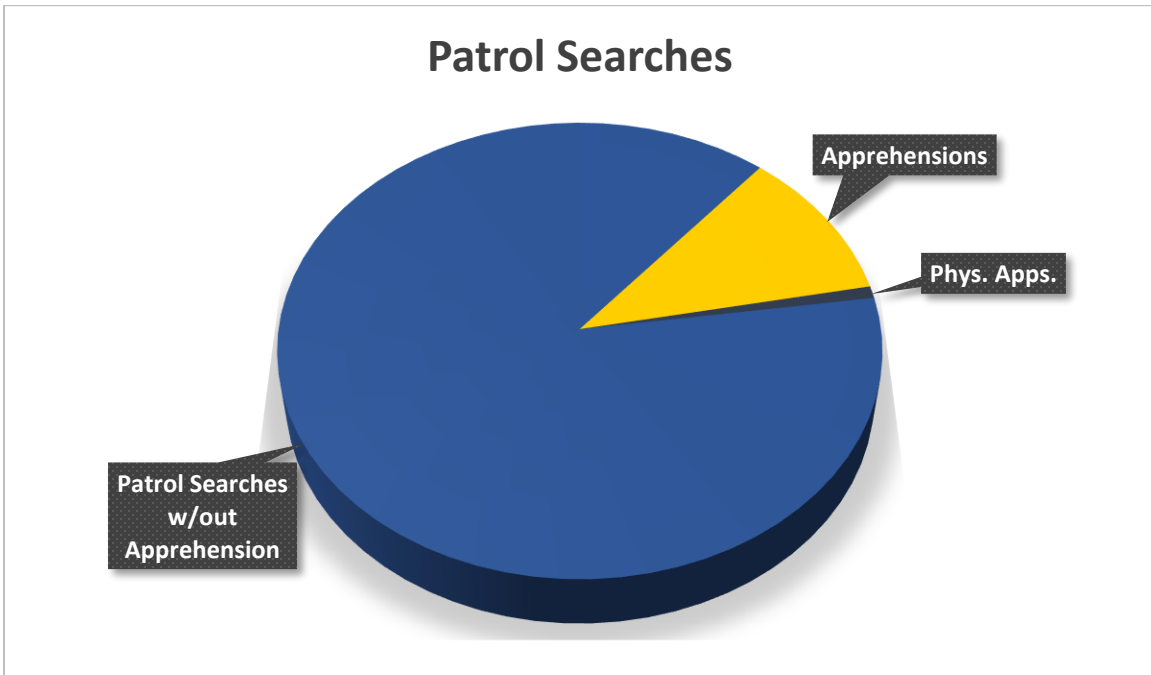
Threshold Review System III Report Canine Apprehensions/Dog Bites

The West Palm Beach Police Department's Canine Unit facilitates a safer search capability for felony suspects who attempt to elude arrest by fleeing or hiding. The police canine unit is specially trained not only for criminal apprehensions, but also for evidence detection, crowd control, and promoting favorable public relations. In 2019 the canine unit was responsible for conducting **417 patrol searches**.

As a result of the 417 patrol searches, the unit had **101 apprehensions**. These apprehensions varied from stolen auto and burglary suspects to more serious felony violations such as armed robbery and murder. Out of the 101 apprehensions in 2019, **4** resulted in **physical apprehensions (dog bites)**. This gave the canine unit an overall **bite ratio of 4%**. The current acceptable average bite ratio set by The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals is 30%. The K9 Unit participates in weekly training sessions to maintain a high level of competency and continuity. Below is an aggregate summary of each canine's searches, apprehensions, bites and bite ratio.

Canine Physical Apprehensions / Dog Bites January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019

Officer	Price	Sniffen	Barr	Allen	Totals
Total Apps.	8	27	47	19	51
Phys. Apps.	1	0	3	0	4
Patrol Searches	117	95	163	42	417
Bite Ratio	12.5%	0%	6%	0%	4%



Five Year Comparison K-9 Usage

K-9 Statistics	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Searches	87	78	159	204	417
Total Apprehensions	40	33	43	51	101
Physical Apprehensions	2	5	4	2	4
Bite Ratio	5%	15%	9%	4%	4%

Canine Usage Analysis

There is not an established number of Searches, Apprehension, or Bites to warrant a threshold alert for an individual canine or canine handler. The dog bite record of each canine officer is prepared monthly by the K9 Sergeant. The monthly reports for each canine and handler are reviewed by the Internal Affairs Commander on an annual basis.

Threshold Review System IV

Discharge of Firearms Records

In the past five years, January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019, officers discharged their weapons a total of **fifteen (15)** times during **twelve (12)** incidents. Between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 officers discharged their firearms a total of **two (2)** times during **two (2)** incidents. The computation of the numbers comes from the incident scenes where officers use their firearms, not the total number of times an individual officer discharges his/her firearm. During the past five years, no officer has discharged his/her firearm three (3) or more times, which is the threshold for appearing on the TRS IV Report. The IAU maintains a Five Year Discharge of Firearms Record which is updated annually. The record is shown on the following page and includes the involved officer's name, the number of discharge incidents they have been involved in over the past five years and the month and year of the incidents.

Number of incidents by officer -- Jan 01, 2015 Dec 31, 2019

<u>Type</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Year</u>
Firearms Discharge	Ofc. Jordan Foe	1	2015
Firearms Discharge	Sgt. Gary Smith	1	2015
Firearms Discharge	Ofc. Travis Limauro	2	(1)-2016 (1)-2017
Firearms Discharge	Ofc. Anthony O'Dea	2	(1)-2016 (1)-2017
Firearms Discharge	Ofc. Malcolm Allison	2	(1)-2016 (1)-2018
Firearms Discharge	Ofc. Kevin Harrell	1	2017

Firearms Discharge	Ofc. Juan Viteri	1	2017
Firearms Discharge	Ofc. Thomas Janis	1	2017
Firearms Discharge	Sgt. Scott Lally	1	2018
Firearms Discharge	Ofc. Thomas Luttier	1	2018
Firearms Discharge	Ofc. Carlos Yermanos	1	2019
Firearms Discharge	Ofc. Jamesloo Charles	1	2019

YEAR	Number of Firearms Discharge
2015	2
2016	3
2017	5
2018	3
2019	2

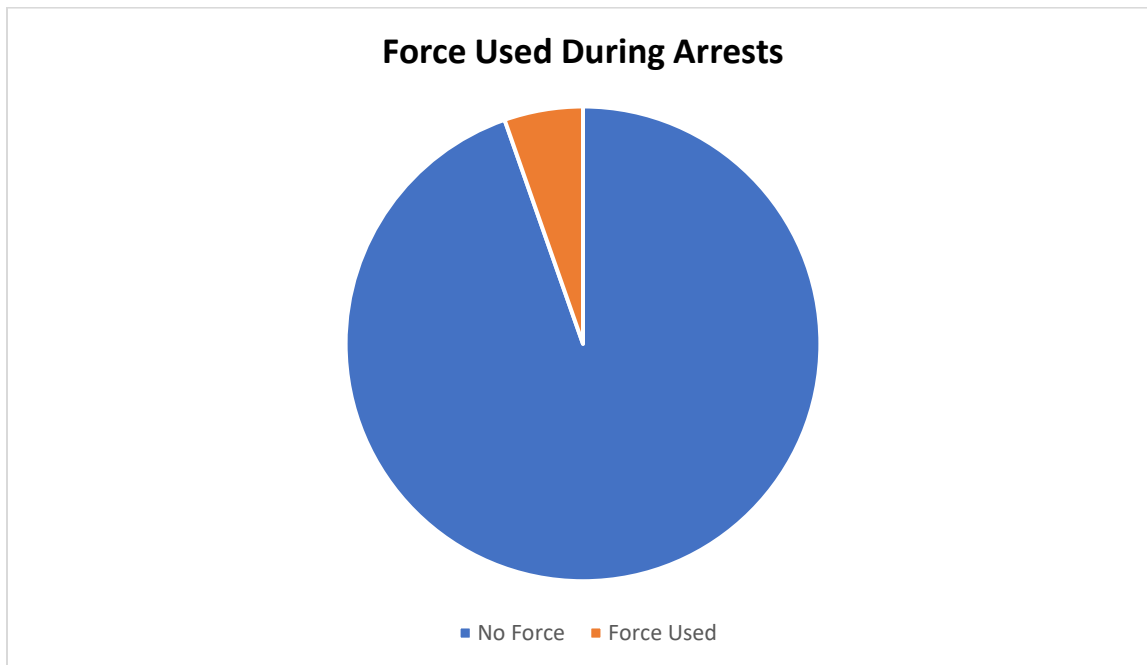
In order to thoroughly review recent control of person events, the table below provides a five year comparison which includes Control of Persons reports, K-9 Bites and Firearm Discharge incidents.

Five Year Comparison Total Force Incidents

	2015	2016	2016	2018	2019
Control of Persons	122	86	85	114	131
K-9 Bites	2	5	4	2	4
Firearms Discharges	2	3	3	3	2
Total # Incidents	126	94	92	119	137
% Change From Previous Year	---	-25%	-2%	+30%	+15%
% Change Over 5 Years	--	--	--	--	17%

Throughout the year, officers respond to multiple calls for service in addition to self-initiating contact with various citizens. Whether the officer makes contact as a result of being sent to a call or due to self-initiated activity, the event is documented in our CAD system. According to CAD entries for 2019, there were **two hundred thirty-nine thousand, eight hundred and twenty-four (239,824) CAD incidents** received by Dispatch personnel. The documented incidents include all types of Officer-Citizen contacts including civil and criminal contacts, traffic accidents, field interviews, traffic stops, arrests, park and walks, emergency medical calls, etc. Although incidents often times include more than one Officer and/or more than one citizen, if the standard of counting one (1) Officer-Citizen contact per each of these incidents is used, it can be deduced there were approximately 238,466 Officer-Citizen contacts in 2019.

While comparing the **total number of contacts (239,824)** with the **total number incidents where force was used (131)** for the year, Officers were found to use force during their contacts with citizens **less than one percent of the time (.0054%)**. Fortunately, most citizen contacts do not result in the use of any force by an officer. Similarly, not all arrests or detentions require the use of force. In 2019, officers made **two thousand five hundred and forty-nine (2,549) arrests** (per Pistol records). Based on force being used a total of **131** times in 2019 during **2,549** arrests, officers were found to use force approximately **5.13%** of the time during arrest incidents.



The IAU tracks the service type being rendered by officers when they are involved in Control of Persons incidents. As seen in the table below, “Effecting Arrests” is the most common (34%) service involving use of force measures.

****Note, this chart does not include K-9 Bites or Firearms Discharges.****

Nature of Police Service Involving Use of force
Between Jan 1, 2019 and Dec 31, 2019

Service type	Count	Percent of total
:		
Baker Act	13	10%
Call for Service	25	19%
Disturbance	12	9%
Domestic Violence	4	3%
Effecting Arrest	34	26%
Escape from Custody	2	2%
Field Interview Contact	3	2%
Fleeing Officer on Foot	17	13%
Issuing Citation	1	1%
Other	4	3%
Overtime detail	2	2%
Prisoner Processing	1	1%
Prisoner Transport	1	1%
Stopping Fight	2	2%
SWAT Warrant	1	1%
Unwanted Guest	1	1%
Vehicle Crash Invest.	2	2%
Vehicle Pursuit	1	1%
Vehicle Stop	5	4%
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Total	131	

SECTION FOUR

Racial & Ethnic Profiling / Bias-Based Policing

The West Palm Beach Police Department has established guidelines for its members to aggressively investigate suspicious persons and circumstances and to actively enforce motor vehicle laws while insisting citizens will be stopped or detained only where there exists reasonable suspicion to believe they have committed, are committing, or are about to commit a violation of the law. **Standard Operating Procedure # I-4** provides the following definitions:

A. Bias-Based/Racial Profiling - is any police-initiated action that relies on the race, ethnicity, characteristics, or national origin rather than the behavior of an individual or information that leads the police to a particular individual who has been identified as being, or having been, engaged in criminal activity.

B. Reasonable Suspicion - Also referred to as articulable suspicion. Suspicion that is more than a mere hunch, but is based on a set of articulable facts and circumstances that would warrant a person of reasonable caution in believing that an infraction of the law has been committed, is about to be committed, or is in the process of being committed, by the person or persons under suspicion. This can be based on the observations of the officer combined with the officer's training and experience, and/or reliable information received from credible sources.

West Palm Beach police officers are provided with extensive ongoing training in proactive enforcement tactics, officer safety, courtesy, cultural and human diversity, ethics, interpersonal communications skills, and the laws governing search and seizure. Training programs emphasize the legal aspects of bias-based profiling and stress the need for each officer to respect the rights of all citizens and to be free from unreasonable government intrusion or police action.

The Internal Affairs Unit is designed to serve as a mechanism for internal accountability, and its major function is the receipt, processing, and investigation of complaints made against sworn and non-sworn members of the Department. During calendar year 2019, there was one (1) allegation of Racial/Ethnic Profiling or Biased-Based Policing alleged in one citizen compliant inquiry involving three officers. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The complaint was investigated by Internal Affairs and reviewed by the department's legal advisor. At the completion of the investigation, all parties were invited to speak to the Chief of Police and the Legal Advisor regarding their concerns. At the meeting, specific facts of the case were presented and discussed in an open forum

SECTION FIVE

Vehicle Pursuits

The West Palm Beach Police Department has specific guidelines for the pursuit of vehicles and specifies when an officer and/or supervisor should initiate or terminate a vehicle pursuit. These guidelines also address the responsibilities of the initiating officer, the supervisor, the dispatcher and any other involved officers. Readers are encouraged to review our Standard Operating Procedure III-25: Vehicle Pursuits. A pursuit is defined as an active attempt by an officer, in an authorized emergency vehicle, to apprehend the occupant(s) of a motor vehicle while the driver is attempting to avoid apprehension by using high speed driving or other evasive maneuvers.

Vehicle pursuits conducted by West Palm Beach police officers are investigated by the on-duty Shift Commanders. A Vehicle Pursuit Summary Report is completed and routed through the chain of command through Blue Team. Conclusions are made by the investigating Shift Commander regarding the policy compliance of the officer(s) involved in the pursuit. Division and Bureau Commanders evaluate the reports and video/audio evidence. The final product is routed to the Pursuit Review Board. (New in 2019)

The Pursuit Review Board will review all vehicle pursuits and failure to yield (FTY) incidents, to determine whether each was conducted in accordance with established policy. This review will also include any recommendations for new or remedial training.

The Legal Advisor serves as the Chairman of the Pursuit Review Board. The Pursuit Review Board will submit a written Memorandum delineating the board's finding(s) and recommendation(s) to the Assistant Chief of Field Operations along with a copy of all written documentation, Communications audio, BWC video/audio, and photos, if applicable

The Internal Affairs Unit finalizes data entry into the case management database. Trainers have access to the media and the police reports completed by involved officer(s) and supervisors allowing for evaluation of training issues and emergency driving tactics being employed in actual field operations situations. As a result, driver training can be modified to address any identified training issues. In addition, supervisors of the involved platoons may use the media and results of the supervisory investigations to conduct informal training sessions. The involved officers may be given the opportunity to critique the incident with the involved officer(s) and their peers. The lessons learned from each incident become valuable tools in skill development for the officers.

The following information is a summary of the information captured in the IA Pro database for pursuits.

Three Year Comparison – Vehicle Pursuits

	2017	2018	2019
Total Number of Pursuits	15	14	15
Total Number Involved Officers	73	50	51

Profile of Vehicle Pursuit Incidents Received Between Jan 1, 2019 and Dec 31, 2019

Total number of vehicle pursuit incidents: 15

Total number of officers involved: 51

Reason initiated:

Reason	Count	Percent of total
: Both	2	13%
Poss Crim Viol	12	80%
Traffic Viol	1	7%
Total	15	

Time of day:

Time of day	Count	Percent of total
: 0001 - 0600	3	20%
1201 - 1800	3	20%
1801 - 2400	9	60%
Total	15	

Initial violation:

Violation	Count	Percent of total
: Criminal violation nontraffic	10	67%

No head/tail lights	1	7%
Other	4	27%

Total **15**
Pursuit distance:

Distance	Count	Percent of total
1 to 2 miles	5	33%
2.1 to 5 miles	6	40%
5.1 to 10 miles	1	7%
Beyond 10 miles	3	20%
Total	15	

Event that concluded the pursuit:

Type	Count	Percent of total
Bailout	4	27%
Stop device was used successfully	2	13%
Suspect stopped vehicle	3	20%
Suspect vehicle crashed	6	40%
Total	15	

Total **15**

Pursuit within policy:

	Count	Percent of total
No	3	20%
Yes	12	80%
Total	15	

Vehicle Pursuit Analysis

The guidelines outlined in SOP III-25 are intended to guide the officers in the safe and reasonable performance of their duties. The exemptions from certain traffic laws granted to police officers who are engaged in emergency vehicle operations are provided to assist them to save lives rather than to place them at risk. Every pursuit initiated by West Palm Beach Police Officers prompts a supervisor response to the location of the pursuit's termination location. The pursuit undergoes an extensive review of the circumstances which forced the pursuit to begin, the conditions of the pursuit, and the conclusion of the pursuit. The pursuit policy is reviewed with the membership annually as part of the in-service training. Eighty (80) percent of the pursuits in 2019 were found to be within department guidelines. Officers involved in the pursuits outside of Agency guidelines were issued remedial training and/or discipline.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Internal Affairs Unit maintains the documentation for all events or investigations listed within this report. There are many statistics related to the information which are not included in this specific report but are available upon request; further information is available by contacting the IAU at (561) 822-1858.