

**Maryland - National Capital Park Police**  
**Prince George's County Division**  
**Internal Affairs Services**  
**2007 Annual Report**

Internal Affairs Services is responsible for investigating complaints of police misconduct and violations of department rules and regulations. The unit manager reports directly to the Park Police Division Chief.

Citizen's complaints are documented in a written memorandum to the Division Chief, outlining the known circumstances of the incident. This memorandum also contains what action was taken by Division personnel to alleviate the complaint and any additional information related to the incident that became known or was developed. Not all complaints are investigated by Internal Affairs. In cases where the facts of an incident are not in dispute, formal investigations are not required to initiate disciplinary action. This most often occurs when a minor violation is witnessed or investigated by a Field Operations – Patrol Services supervisor. Sometimes a citizen does not understand what led the officer(s) actions. In these instances, informing citizens of police procedure will often curtail a complaint. In some cases, citizens are not fully aware of what authority and responsibilities a police officer has. Once this is explained many complaints are resolved.

Complaints that are minor, performance related, or identify a training deficiency, may be referred to the appropriate Assistant Chief for investigation and finding. Often, minor incidents may be better viewed as a performance related matter. The Division Chief reviews the finding. He has the final decision regarding any discipline action to be taken, or if the matter is to be considered as a performance matter.

When an allegation is more serious in nature and a complaint is received by Internal Affairs Services, a full investigation is conducted. The case is reviewed by the M-NCPPC Legal Department, to ensure legal sufficiency. The completed case is then forwarded to the Division Chief who renders his final decision regarding the actions to be taken, if any.

The investigation can result in five different findings:

Sustained - The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegations.

Unfounded - The investigation indicates the alleged act (s) did not occur or failed to involve officers of this Division.

Exonerated - The investigation concluded that the alleged act (s) did occur, but the acts were justified, lawful, proper and in conformance with this agency policy and procedures.

Non-sustained - The investigation failed to discover sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegations.

Administrative - Investigation has been closed for assorted reasons including officer no longer employed by this Division, Complainant could not be contacted, Complaint was withdrawn, etc.

A finding of sustained may result in a formal hearing for the accused officer, and in most cases, the complainant is required to testify.

The discipline for a sustained complaint can range from a reprimand to suspension or dismissal. If ruled as performance related, the immediate supervisor of the affected officer would take the appropriate action, and monitor future performance to ensure the behavior is not repeated.

In 2007, the Division received a total of forty-four (44) complaints. Twenty-two (22) of the complaints were received from citizens. Division employees initiated eleven (11) complaints.. Eleven (11) were from automated traffic enforcement systems.

The dispositions of the complaints are as follows:

Twenty-seven (27) of the complaints were sustained.

- Eighteen (18) of those were handled as performance issues.
- Nine (9) resulted in summary punishment

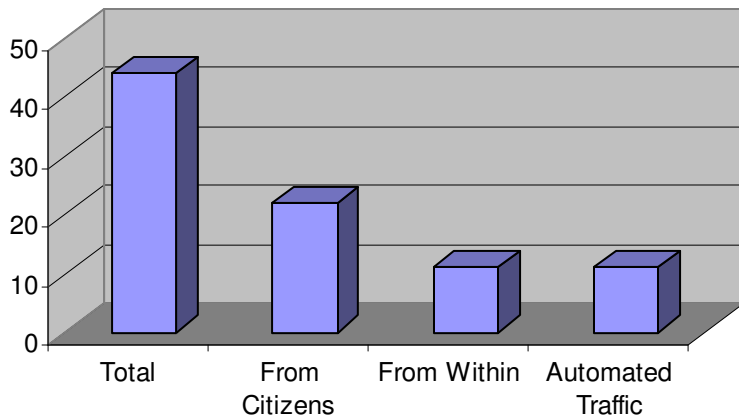
The officer's actions were justified or pending in seventeen (17) of the complaints.

- Six (6) complaints were unfounded.
- Eight (8) complaints were found as non-sustained or exonerated.
- Three (3) complaints were administratively closed.

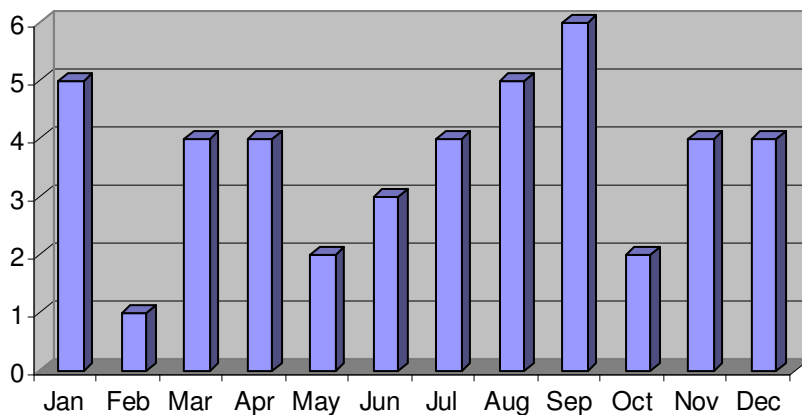
Complaints increased during 2007. In 2006, thirty-eight complaints were received, as compared to forty-four in 2007. A review of the data indicates that while an increase is noted, many of those result from an increased number of automated traffic enforcement systems. During 2006, four of the thirty-eight complaints, or roughly ten percent were the result of these types of complaints. In contrast, eleven of the forty-four complaints for 2007 were related to automated traffic enforcement. This represents twenty-five percent of the total complaints. Excluding automated traffic incidents, the number of complaints declined slightly during 2007. The Division increased its workforce significantly during 2007, filling many of its vacancies. This may have also attributed to the increase in complaints.

Statistical analysis of complaints utilizing chart data is displayed below.

**2007 Complaint Totals**



**2007 Complaints by Month**



**2007 Complaints by Day**

