



Prince George County Government

Citizen Complaint Oversight Panel

January 2019- March 2019
QUARTERLY SNAPSHOT



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

Message from Chair

Dear Citizens and Residents:

The Prince George's County Citizen Complaint Oversight Panel (CCOP) has been part of a police accountability process in Prince George's County for more than 30 years. We ensure that anyone with a complaint regarding the conduct of an officer of the Prince George's County Police Department is able to formally submit that complaint, that their complaint is treated and investigated properly and that there is independent oversight of the investigative process. As such, the Panel is a separate County government entity, independent of the police department and comprised of citizens from throughout the County who dedicate their time to complete that mission.

Our primary mandate is to ensure that complaints against officers of the Prince George's County Police Department are thoroughly and impartially investigated. Our primary goal is to mitigate unnecessary acts of force, violence and other incidents of misconduct.

Our reports provide valuable insights on police conduct to County residents and visitors. We have changed to a snapshot format, focused on core data. Beginning with this report, we will publish these snapshots on a quarterly, as well as publish an annual report.

Continuous improvement, a more transparent accountability process and public engagement are our objectives! Thank you for your interest in the Citizen Complaint Oversight Panel.

Sincerely,

Dale A. Crowell

*Dale A. Crowell
Chairperson*



CCOP meets once per week to review Internal Affairs investigations.

Inside

- Statistical Data
- Case Recommendations
- Quarterly Highlights
- Issues and Concerns
- Case Summaries
- Important Info

Panel Composition

The CCOP is comprised of seven members appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. The CCOP members must be Prince George's County residents and broadly representative of the County. The CCOP members can not be employees or elected officials of any non-federal jurisdiction, a candidate for such office, or employed by any law enforcement organization. The County Executive designates the Panel chair. The Panel selects the vice-chair.

PANEL MEMBERS

Dale Crowell, Chair

Mary Godfrey, Vice Chair

Florence Felix-Lawson

Blanco High

Cardell Montague

Kimberlei Richardson

Vacancy

LEGAL COUNSEL

Marva Jo Camp, Esq

STAFF

L. Denise Hall

Staff Director

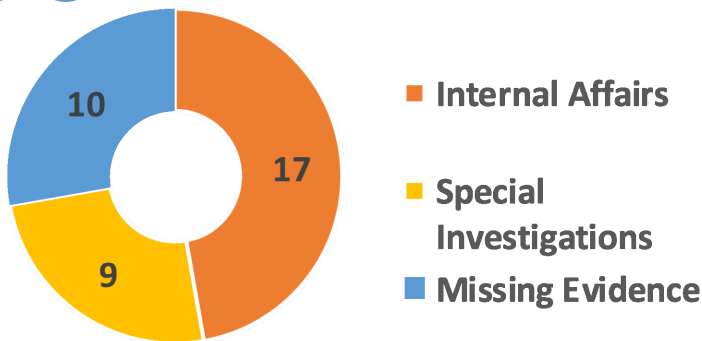
Ashley Smalls

Administrative Aide

1st Quarter 2019

Workload

36 Investigations Received



CCOP normally processes investigations in the two major categories below:

Special Investigations (SI) - Investigations that allege a criminal act or could result in a criminal charge or investigation, such as domestic violence, DWI/DUI, theft, unauthorized access to a criminal data base, uses of force that result in injury and all discharges of firearms. A special investigation team within the police department investigates these complaints.

Internal Affairs Investigations (IA) Investigations alleging use of abusive, derogatory or inappropriate language, most uses of force that do not result in injury, and certain types of misconduct.

Police Supervisory Investigations (PS) - Complaints initiated by police supervisory staff regarding an officer's performance of or failure to perform his assigned administrative duties. They are also related to citations received by *officers for violations of traffic laws.*

Note that the category “Missing Evidence” was added this quarter. During 1st Quarter 2019, the CCOP received a number of investigations that were missing evidence/items. This has not been an issue in the past, but was noteworthy for this quarter, as it had a direct impact on the number of reviews the Panel completed, as compared to prior periods.

Of the 36 investigative files the CCOP received this quarter, 10 were missing audio and/or video evidence. In each case, a letter was sent to the CCOP advising the Panel that the specific evidence could not be duplicated and instructed that if Panel members needed to see this evidence, they must come to the Internal Affairs Division office to view the evidence.

The CCOP found this request unusual and burdensome. The files were returned to the Department with a request that the missing evidence be provided to the CCOP and under the normal referral process. The Department has agreed to secure and provide copies of this evidence in the usual manner. Those files, with copies of missing evidence, are scheduled to be returned to the CCOP during the next quarter.

44.1%
Internal Affairs
Investigations

26.5%
Special
Investigations

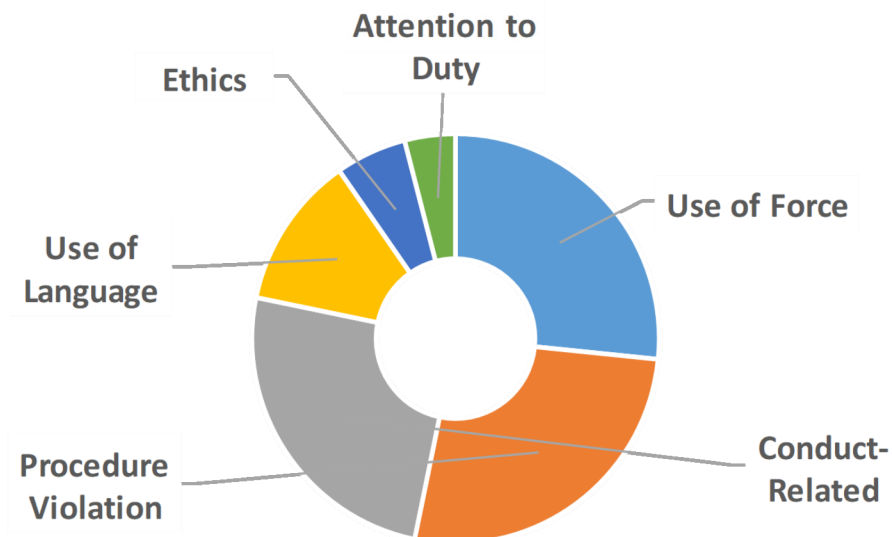
29.4%
Missing Evidence*

1st Quarter 2019

Allegations by Type

Allegations	Count	%
Use of Force	33	26.6%
Procedure Violation	33	26.6%
Conduct-Related	31	25.0%
Use of Language	15	12.1%
Ethics	7	5.6%
Attention to Duty	5	4.0%
TOTAL	124	100.0%

Distribution of Allegations



This quarter, the CCOP deliberated a total of 122 allegations referred in 26 complete investigations and CCOP recommended an additional five (5), for a total of 127 allegations reviewed by the CCOP. For statistical purposes, all allegations are divided into the nine categories outlined below. Their distribution is illustrated in the chart and table below.

- **Attention to Duty** - Failure to perform duties as prescribed.
- **Conduct Related** - Unbecoming conduct and unreported misconduct.
- **Criminal Misconduct** – Administrative charge for misconduct not successfully prosecuted in courts.
- **Ethics Violation** - False Statements and Misrepresentation of Facts.
- **Firearms Charges** -Intentional and accidental discharges of a firearm by an officer.
- **Harassment/Discrimination** - Acts of unwarranted verbal or physical threats or demand, and any acts of misconduct related to a person’s race, creed, color, national origin, gender or religion.
- **Procedure Violation** - Failure to adhere to procedures as outlined in the police General Order Manual or Standard Operating Procedures.
- **Use of Language** -Abusive, discriminatory or inappropriate use of language.
- **Use of Force** – Non-firearms related excessive, unnecessary, and aggressive use of force.

1st Quarter 2019

Recommendations

The following recommended dispositions are referred by Internal Affairs for each allegations investigate. The CCOP either agrees with the Internal Affairs recommendation or recommend a different disposition, using these same disposition types.

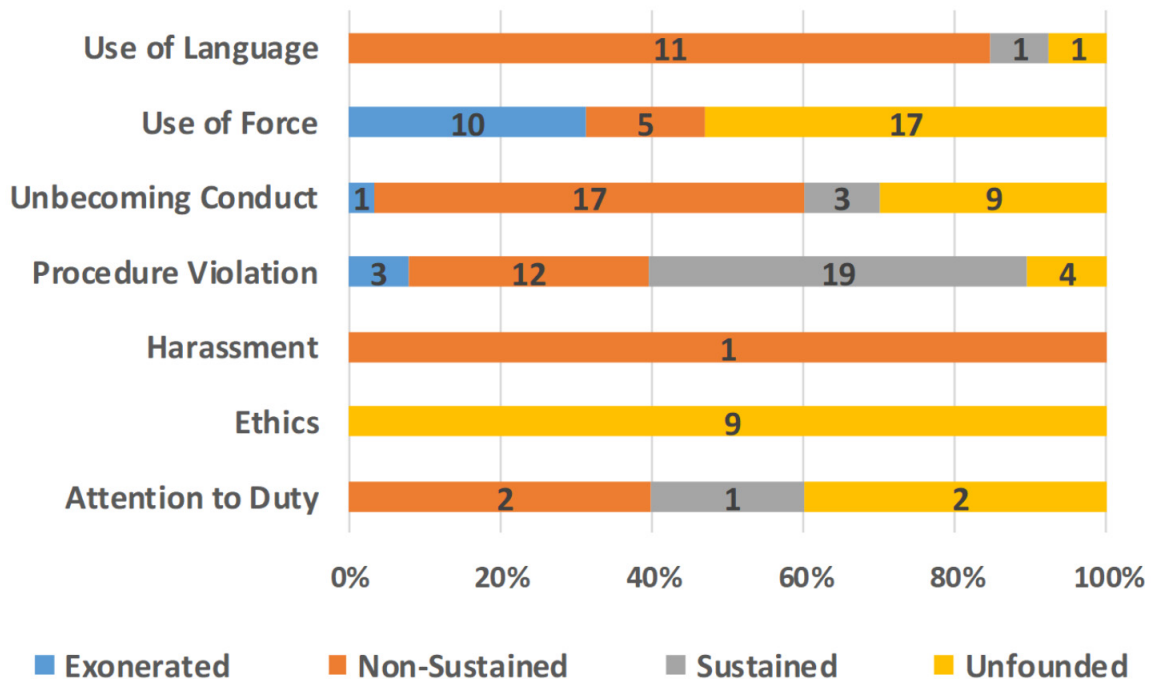
Sustained - A preponderance of the evidence proves the allegation violated departmental policy or procedure;

Non-Sustained - The evidence fails to prove or disprove that alleged act(s) occurred;

Exonerated (Proper Conduct) - The evidence proves that the alleged act(s) occurred, however, the act(s) were justified, lawful and proper;

Unfounded - The evidence proves the alleged act(s) did not occur or the accused officer was not involved;

Recommendations by Allegations



10.9%
Exonerated

37.5%
Non-Sustained

32.8%
Sustained

32.8%
Unfounded

1st Quarter 2019

Case Recommendations

Allegations referred for the CCOP's review are grouped into the eleven categories shown below, based on the nature of the incident associated with or that resulted in the allegation being investigated.

Arrest— Subsequent to or during the arrest or detention of a subject.

Dispatched to Scene—The allegation is related to an encounter that occurred when officer was dispatched to a scene.

Domestic— The officer reported to or was the subject of a domestic incident.

Firearms Related — The incident resulted in the intentional or unintentional discharge a firearm, improper handling or storage of a firearm, or failure to follow protocol related to the use of a firearm.

Investigative Stop/Patrol Duty— The allegation occurred during an investigation stop or during the officer's normal patrol duties.

Internal Incident— Originated by a superior or other officer or are actions that occurred internally

(i.e., in office spaces, classrooms, inside district stations, etc.).

Off-Duty— Alleged misconduct occurred when the officer was off-duty and not on secondary employment.

Other Duties or Assignment - Alleged misconduct occurred while the officer was assigned to special teams or other duties.

Search or Warrant— Subsequent to the search of a subject and/or his property. Also includes allegations related to the execution of warrants, of all types.

Secondary Employment— Allegation occurred during the officer's secondary employment assignment.

Traffic Stop—Related to a traffic stop or traffic incident.

EXONERATED

Case #	Allegations	IAD Recommendations	CCOP Recommendations	Related Incident
IA 17-55	Attention to Duty	Exonerated	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-55	Attention to Duty	Exonerated	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-67	Use of Force	Exonerated	Agreed	Internal
IA 17-67	Use of Force	Exonerated	Agreed	Internal
IA 17-68	Procedure Violation	Exonerated	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-70	Unbecoming Conduct	Exonerated	Agreed	Internal
IA 18-25	Use of Force	Exonerated	Agreed	Dispatched to Scene
IA 18-25	Use of Force	Exonerated	Agreed	Dispatched to Scene
IA 18-54	Procedure Violation	Exonerated	Agreed	Internal
IA 18-54	Procedure Violation	Exonerated	Disagreed	Internal
SI 17-37	Use of Force	Exonerated	Agreed	Traffic Stop
SI 17-37	Use of Force	Exonerated	Agreed	Traffic Stop
SI 17-37	Use of Force	Exonerated	Agreed	Traffic Stop
SI 17-53	Use of Force	Exonerated	Agreed	Investigative Stop
SI 17-53	Use of Force	Exonerated	Disagreed	Investigative Stop
SI 17-53	Use of Force	Exonerated	Disagreed	Investigative Stop

CCOP DISAGREED: The CCOP disagreed with three of the IAD recommendations to exonerated allegations. In IA 18-54, the CCOP found that there was sufficient evidence to prove that the respondent had violated the Department's Social Media Policy and recommended that the Procedure Violation allegation be sustained. For SI 17-53, the CCOP found that that both respondents used excessive force by applying close fist strikes to the involved citizen, after he was taken to the ground and handcuffed. The Panel recommend that the Use of Force allegations related to the closed fist strikes be sustained.

Non-Sustained

Case #	Allegations	IAD Recommendation	CCOP Recommendation	Related Incident
IA 17-42	Procedure Violation	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-42	Use of Language	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-42	Use of Language	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-42	Use of Language	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-55	Use of Language	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-55	Use of Language	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-64	Procedure Violation	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-64	Procedure Violation	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-64	Procedure Violation	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-64	Procedure Violation	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-64	Use of Language	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-68	Procedure Violation	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-68	Unbecoming Conduct	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-68	Use of Language	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-69	Use of Language	Non-Sustained	Disagreed	Dispatched to Scene
IA 17-69	Use of Language	Non-Sustained	Disagreed	Dispatched to Scene
IA 17-70	Unbecoming Conduct	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Internal
IA 17-70	Unbecoming Conduct	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Internal
IA 18-04	Procedure Violation	Non-Sustained	Added	Traffic Stop
IA 18-04	Use of Language	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-10	Use of Force	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-10	Use of Force	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-10	Use of Force	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-10	Use of Force	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-10	Use of Language	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-15	Use of Language	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Dispatched to Scene
IA 18-25	Procedure Violation	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Domestic
IA 18-25	Procedure Violation	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Domestic
IA 18-25	Procedure Violation	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Dispatched to Scene
SI 17-37	Unbecoming Conduct	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
SI 17-37	Unbecoming Conduct	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
SI 17-37	Unbecoming Conduct	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
SI 17-64	Unbecoming Conduct	Non-Sustained	Disagreed	Internal
SI 17-64	Unbecoming Conduct	Non-Sustained	Disagreed	Internal
SI 17-64	Use of Language	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Internal
SI 17-69	Unbecoming Conduct	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Domestic
SI 17-69	Unbecoming Conduct	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Domestic
SI 17-69	Unbecoming Conduct	Non-Sustained	Disagreed	Domestic
SI 18-06	Attention to Duty	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Internal
SI 18-30	Unbecoming Conduct	Non-Sustained	Agreed	Secondary Employment

Non-Sustained (Cont.)

CCOP DISAGREED: The CCOP disagreed with five IAD recommendations to non-sustain allegations. In IAD 17-69, the respondents engaged in a very public argument, where they allegedly used profanity. IAD recommended that the Use of Language allegations be non-sustained. The CCOP disagreed, as there were witnesses to the argument and uses of profanity. In SI-17-64, the CCOP found sufficient evidence to establish that the respondent attempted to influence or alter the testimony of a complainant and that the respondent used inappropriate language or actions to intimidate and harass complainants. The Panel recommended that the two Unbecoming Conduct allegations for this alleged behavior be sustained. In SI 17-69, the CCOP found that there was sufficient evidence to prove that the Respondent was inebriated while in possession of a firearm and that he failed to secure his issued firearm as required by the specific sections of the Department's General Order and recommended that the two allegations be sustained.

Sustained

Case #	Allegations	IAD Recommendation	CCOP Recommendation	Related Incident
IA 17-21	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Internal
IA 17-21	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Internal
IA 17-21	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Internal
IA 17-21	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Internal
IA 17-42	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-42	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-42	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-64	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-64	Unbecoming Conduct	Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-04	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-04	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Added	Traffic Stop
IA 18-46	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Added	Domestic
IA 18-46	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Added	Domestic
SI 17-69	Unbecoming Conduct	Sustained	Agreed	Domestic
SI 17-69	Unbecoming Conduct	Sustained	Agreed	Domestic
SI 17-69	Unbecoming Conduct	Sustained	Agreed	Domestic
SI 18-05	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Dispatched to Scene
SI 18-06	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Internal
SI 18-06	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Internal
SI 18-06	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Internal
SI 18-30	Procedure Violation	Sustained	Agreed	Secondary Employment

CCOP ADDED ALLEGATIONS: The CCOP agreed with all of the IAD recommendations to Sustain allegations. The Panel also recommended adding two allegations with dispositions of sustained. Both of the additional allegations were for Procedure Violations. The first was related to the Respondent's violation of the General Order section regarding right to video record officers and the second was for the Respondent's failure to submit a require report for a pat down and frisk he conducted during a field interview.

Unfounded

Case #	Allegations	IAD Recommendation	CCOP Recommendation	Related Incident
IA 17-42	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-42	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-42	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-42	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-55	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-55	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-55	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-55	Use of Language	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-55	Use of Language	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-64	Procedure Violation	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-64	Procedure Violation	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 17-69	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Agreed	Dispatched to Scene
IA 17-69	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Agreed	Dispatched to Scene
IA 18-01	Ethics	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-01	Ethics	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-01	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-01	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-03	Ethics	Unfounded	Agreed	Internal
IA 18-03	Procedure Violation	Unfounded	Agreed	Internal
IA 18-04	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Disagreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-04	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Disagreed	Traffic Stop
IA 18-09	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Agreed	Domestic
IA 18-09	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Agreed	Domestic
IA 18-09	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Domestic
IA 18-09	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Domestic
IA 18-25	Attention to Duty	Unfounded	Agreed	Domestic
IA 18-25	Attention to Duty	Unfounded	Agreed	Domestic
IA 18-46	Ethics	Unfounded	Agreed	Domestic
SI 17-24	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
SI 17-24	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
SI 17-24	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
SI 17-24	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Traffic Stop
SI 17-53	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Investigative Stop
SI 17-53	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Investigative Stop
SI 17-53	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Investigative Stop
SI 17-53	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Investigative Stop
SI 17-53	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Investigative Stop
SI 17-53	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Investigative Stop

Unfounded (Cont.)

Case #	Allegations	IAD Recommendation	CCOP Recommendation	Related Incident
SI 17-53	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Investigative Stop
SI 17-53	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Investigative Stop
SI 17-53	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Investigative Stop
SI 17-53	Use of Force	Unfounded	Agreed	Investigative Stop
SI 17-55	Ethics	Unfounded	Agreed	Internal
SI 17-55	Ethics	Unfounded	Agreed	Internal
SI 17-55	Ethics	Unfounded	Agreed	Internal
SI 18-30	Unbecoming Conduct	Unfounded	Agreed	Secondary Employment

CCOP DISAGREED: The CCOP disagreed with two of the IAD recommendations to unfound allegations. In IA 18-04, the CCOP disagreed with the unfounded recommendations for the Unbecoming Conduct allegation for both respondents. These allegations were for the respondents allegedly laughing and joking about the complainant's arrest. The unfounded recommendations imply that there was sufficient evidence to prove that this behavior did not occur. However, Panel found that the record did not establish this, especially since the officers failed to record the stop. The Panel recommended that these allegations be non-sustained.



SOME INTERESTING FACTS

- **Use of Force, Procedure Violation, and Conducted-Related** allegations represented over 78.2% of all the allegations referred to the CCOP.
- Traffic stops were the most likely officer interactions resulting in Use of Force allegations this quarter. Of the 124 allegations reviewed, 57 (46%) were incidental to a traffic stop.
- Traffic stop related allegations accounted for 13 or 39.3% of all Use of Force allegations; 14 or 42.4% of all Procedure Violations; 31 or 48.3% of all Conduct-Related Allegations and 11 of 73.3% of all Use of Language allegations.
- Approximately 20% of the allegations reviewed were related to domestic violence calls. This included four (4) Uses of Force, Unbecoming Conduct, five (5) Procedure, one (1) Ethics and two (2) Attention to Duty violations.
- Of the 33 Use of Force allegations, fourteen (14) were a part of one investigations (SI-17-53), involving four officers who responded to a loitering incident. The Involved Citizen resisted arrest and allegedly spat on the officers, who struck in the face.
- While there were allegation related to the actual discharge of a firearm, five (5) Procedural Violations were for the mishandling or improper security of firearms and six (6) Unbecoming Conduct allegations were for firearms-related.
- Four of the 124 allegations reported were not referred by IAD, but were recommended as additional allegations after the Panel’s reviews found evidence to support additional charges added to investigations. This includes Procedure Violations for failure to record traffic stops, failure to issue citations, improper handling of citizen video recording a stop and failure to verify legality of a license plate.
- **Exonerated, Non-Sustained and Unfounded** are the most frequent dispositions for allegation referred to the CCOP for review.

Allegations	Exonerated	Non-Sustained	Sustained	Unfounded	CCOP Agreed w/ IAD	%
Attention to Duty	2	1	0	2	5	100%
Ethics	0	0	0	7	7	100%
Procedure Violation	3	10	17	3	28	85%
Unbecoming Conduct	1	12	4	14	26	84%
Use of Force	10	4	0	19	31	94%
Use of Language	0	13	0	2	13	87%
TOTAL	16	40	21	47	110	89%

SOME INTERSTING FACTS (Cont.)

- During this reporting period, the CCOP agreed with 88.7% of the IAD recommendations for disposition for the 124 allegations reviewed by the CCOP

	Exonerated	Non-Sustained	Sustained	Unfounded	Total
CCOP Agreed	13	35	17	45	110
CCOP Disagreed*	3	5	4	2	14
Total Allegations	16	40	21	47	124
Agreed Rate	81.3%	87.5%	81.0%	95.7%	88.7%
* The CCOP added 4 allegations in 2 investigations and these are counted as disagrees.					

* Please review the case listing and the Case Summaries for specific details on the allegations and findings..

1st Quarter 2019

Issues and Concerns

The CCOP noted several issues and concerns during its review of investigations this reporting period. Upon completion of its reviews, the CCOP immediately relays its issues and concerns to the Chief of Police in recommendation letters for each case reviewed. For those that the Panel deem to be urgent, the Panel will discuss them in adhoc meetings with the Chief and his executive staff.

Some of the issues may have appeared in prior years. However, the fact that they are repeated in this report is not an indication that they are not

being addressed. Their inclusion in subsequent reports, indicates that the issue or concern is still pending resolution or response. They will continue to be included until the CCOP receives a response.

INVESTIGATION MISSING EVIDENCE

ISSUE: The CCOP received a significant number of investigations that were missing evidence/items. This has not been an issue in the past, but was noteworthy for this quarter, as it had a direct impact on the number of reviews the Panel complete, as compared to prior periods. The files were returned to the Department with a request that the missing evidence be provided to the CCOP forthwith and under the normal referral process.

Of the 36 investigative files the CCOP received this quarter, 10 were missing audio and/ or video evidence. In each case, a letter was sent to the CCOP advising the Panel that the specific evidence could not be duplicated and instructed that if Panel members needed to see this evidence, they must come to the Internal Affairs Division office to view the evidence.

The CCOP found this request unusual and burdensome. The files were returned to the Department with a request that the missing evidence be provided to the CCOP and under the normal referral process. The Department has agreed to secure and provide copies of this evidence in the usual manner. Those files, with copies of missing evidence, are scheduled to be returned to the CCOP during the next quarter.

STATUS: The Department has agreed to provide the evidence in the usual manner. Some files, were returned to the CCOP during the 2nd Quarter.

ESCALATING INCIDENCES OF MISCONDUCT BY INVIDUAL OFFICERS

ISSUE: For Example, the CCOP noted that a Respondent in an investigation exhibited a disturbing pattern of misconduct, in which allegations against the officer were sustained. One occurred on July 6, 2017, just two weeks before the investigation under review, when the Respondent was found guilty of *Criminal and Unbecoming Misconduct* for reckless driving - exceeding 124 mph in another state. A second offense occurred two months prior, when an allegation of *Use of Language* was sustained against the Respondent use of profanity against his supervisor, while in a public space an in view of citizens and other officers. The CCOP has concerns regarding what appears to be escalating incidences of misconduct by the Respondent. The Panel is requested information or a briefing on the actions being taken by the Department

Issues and Concerns (Cont.)

to address this escalating pattern of behavior, not only for this respondent, but when it is observed in other officers, as well.

STATUS: Pending

PROPERTY PROTOCOL

ISSUE: The CCOP's reviews indicated some uncertainty and ambiguity regarding the proper protocol for handling confiscated property. The CCOP recommended that the protocol be clarified, so it can be properly enforced.

STATUS: Pending

USE AND SAFETY OF ASSIGNED FIREARMS

ISSUE: The CCOP reviewed two investigations related to the use and/or security of officers' assigned firearms. In one investigation, an officer failed to properly secure his rifle. However, there was not discharge or injury related to this incident. In another, an officer failed to secure his firearm and it was improperly handle by his girlfriend. Again, there was no discharge or injury. The CCOP is concerned that this may not always be the case,

STATUS: Pending

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

ISSUE: The Panel reviewed an investigation that involved the use an officer use of his personal social media. The question was if in the officer's posting , which was clearly offensive and disparaging, the public could be readily identified as an officer of the Prince George Police Department. The Department's current Social Media Policy prohibits "Any online activity or electronic transmission conducted on-duty or off-duty that may reflect poorly on the Department is strictly prohibited." The panel concern is that if the officer could not readily be identified as a member of the PGPD, the post may not have violated the Department's social media policy. There needs to be guidance in this regard.

STATUS: Pending



1st Quarter 2019

Outreach, Education & Training

One of CCOP's objectives is to strengthen the relationship between the police and the community. The CCOP's efforts to achieve this are normally concentrated in three main areas:

Community Relations—No activities conducted this quarter

Partnership Building— The Panel established a partnership with Prince George Community College to assess and improve how the Panel collects, reports and analyzes its statistical data. The first meeting with key campus partners was held in February 2019. One of the tasks assigned during this meeting was to research the best practices of other oversight agencies and identify practices that could be incorporated in the CCOP reporting process. A recommendation made by the college staff was to simplify the reporting to key data and highlight and minimize the amount of text in the report.

Improved Training for Panel— The Panel did not participate in training this quarter.

1st Quarter 2019

Case Summaries

IA 17-21

The Complainant alleged that Respondent #1 attached prohibited equipment to his departmental issued cruiser and failed to properly secure his rifle. Respondent #2 removed the prohibited property, but failed to ensure the property was submitted to the Property Unit.

Respondent #1

Firearms (Security) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.
Procedure Violation – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.
Procedure Violation – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.

Respondent#2

Procedure Violation – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.

IA 17-42

The Complainant alleged that the Respondents used force. He further alleged that Respondent #1 used inappropriate language and failed to identify himself while conducting a traffic stop.

Respondent #1

Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
Use of Language – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.
Procedure Violation – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.
Procedure Violation – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.
Procedure Violation – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.

Respondent #2

Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
Use of Language – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.
Procedure Violation – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

Respondent #3

Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
Use of Language – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

Respondent #4

Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
Protocol (Attention to Duty) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Exonerated.
Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Respondent #2

Use of Language – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.
Protocol (Attention to Duty) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Exonerated.

Respondent #3

Use of Language – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Respondent #4

Use of Language – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

IA 17-55

The Complainant alleged that Respondent #4 cursed at her while she was inside her vehicle and inappropriately touched her body while taking her into custody.

Respondent #1

Use of Language – The Panel agrees with the finding of Non-Sustained.

Protocol (Attention to Duty) – The Panel agrees with the finding of Exonerated.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agrees with the finding of Unfounded.

Respondent #2

Use of Language – The Panel agrees with the finding of Non-Sustained.

Protocol (Attention to Duty) – The Panel agrees with the finding of Exonerated.

Respondent #3

Use of Language – The Panel agrees with the finding of Unfounded.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agrees with the finding of Unfounded.

Respondent #4

Use of Language – The Panel agrees with the finding of Unfounded.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agrees with the finding of Unfounded.

IAD 17-64

The Complainant stated that the Respondents encountered him on a traffic stop. The Complainant alleged that Respondent #2 touched his genitals twice, while searching inside his underwear. During the incident, Respondents #1 and #3 were alleged to have told the Complainant to “shut up” and used profanity. Respondent #1 failed to record the audio portion of the incident and Respondent #3 failed to complete a Handcuff and Release Report.

Respondent #1

Use of Language - The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained

Protocol - The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Procedure Violation - The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Respondent #2

Unbecoming Conduct - The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained

Procedure Violation - The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained

Protocol - The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained

Respondent #3

Protocol - The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained

Procedure Violation - The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained

IA 17-66

The Complainant alleged that the Respondent told her, "You don't want to bump me again" and engaged in conduct that she considered harassment. The Respondent alleged that the Complainant bumped him with a chair.

Unbecoming Conduct - The Panel DISAGREED with the finding of Exonerated.

Harassment – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.

The Complainant alleged that when she attempted to move a chair from an area where the

Respondent was sitting, the Respondent would not move. She further alleged that she advised the Respondent twice that the chair might bump him as she tried to get it around him. When the Respondent did not move, she proceeded to roll the chair past him. As she did, the Respondent allegedly said, "You don't want to bump into me again." The Complainant perceived this to be a threat. The Complainant stated that she believed this was a reaction to her having reported him earlier in the year for blocking the driver's side door of her car, in a handicap space. The Complainant is a civilian employee in District IV.

In a memo, a Lieutenant stated that this was a matter that should not be handled by the Internal Affairs and that nothing in the complaint or interview warranted any type of investigation. The Lieutenant recommended that the complaint be administratively closed. However, a completed investigation was done and recommendations for the allegations investigated were made.

The G.O.M., VOLUME I, CHAPTER 32, PROTOCOL, Section 4, states that hostile or disrespectful behavior towards fellow employees, such as, disrespectful/hostile/combative communications (written/verbal) may be viewed as unbecoming conduct. The Respondent admitted that he specifically said, "You don't want to bump into me again." The use of these exact words implies an explicit threat of further undesirable actions. This is both hostile and combative. Therefore, the CCOP recommended that Allegation #1, Unbecoming Conduct, for this Respondent be Sustained.

The CCOP found that the incident with the chair did not demonstrate harassment. Therefore, the Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded for Allegation #2, Harassment. However, the Panel was concerned that other occasions of harassment by Respondent, as outlined by Respondent #1, were not fully investigated.

IA 17-67

The Complainant alleged that the Respondents grabbed, pushed, kicked, and kned her son and damaged property in her residence.

Use of Force - The Panel agreed with the finding of Use of Force Exonerate
Use of Force - The Panel agreed with the finding of Use of Force Exonerated

IA 17-68

The Complainant alleged that the Respondent stopped her for a traffic infraction, spoke to her in a rude manner, violated her civil rights and cursed at her during the stop.

Use of Language – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.
Procedure Violation – The Panel agreed with the finding of Exonerated.
Protocol Violation – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.
Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

The CCOP noted that the Report of Investigation stated that the Respondent Officer was given a training memo for not having deployed his audio MVS. However, the investigative files did not contain a copy of the training memo.

IA 17-69

While working a store event, the Respondents allegedly engaged in a verbal argument, in public view.

Respondent #1

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with Unfounded
Use of Language – The Panel DISAGREED with Non-Sustained

Respondent #2

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with Unfounded
Use of Language – The Panel DISAGREED with Non-Sustained

The CCOP agreed with the findings regarding Use of Language for the Respondents. However,

the CCOP disagreed with the findings on Unbecoming Conduct for both Respondents. The record contained sufficient evidence to show that these Respondents engaged in a very public verbal argument, which reflected poorly on themselves, the Department and the County.

IA 17-70

The Complainants alleged that the Respondent made disparaging comments about his character during a training session, which the Complainant was teaching.

- Unbecoming Conduct- The Panel agreed with the finding of Exonerated.
- Unbecoming Conduct- The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.
- Unbecoming Conduct- The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

IA 18-01

The Complainant alleged that the Respondents took money belonging to him during a traffic stop. The Complainant also alleged that the Respondents damaged his vehicle during this traffic stop.

Respondent #1

- Ethics Violation – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
- Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Respondent #2

- Ethics Violation – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
- Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

IA 18-03

An anonymous complaint was sent to IAD alleging the Respondent was a safety issue to her squad; that she was often toned by dispatch; played a game on her phone all day; made inappropriate statements to the squad; made officers leave the squad; was paid for days she wasn't at work and worked overtime, while injured.

- Ethics – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
- Protocol – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

IA 18-04

The Complainant alleged that, during a traffic stop, Respondent #2 told him "I was going to let you go, but you had to act like a smart ass." The Complainant also alleged that his vehicle was damaged during impound and his sunglasses are missing.

Respondent #1

- Procedure Violation – The Panel agreed with Sustained
- Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel Disagreed with Unfounded

Respondent #2

- Procedure Violation – The Panel agreed with Sustained
- Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel Disagreed with Unfounded.
- Use of Language – The Panel agreed with Non-Sustained

The CCOP ADDED the following allegations:

- Procedure Violation - The Panel Recommended adding this allegation
- Procedure Violation - The Panel Recommended adding this allegation

The CCOP agreed with the sustained findings in this case for both Respondents and for the Non-Sustained allegation for Respondent #2. However, there was also an Unbecoming Conduct allegation for laughing and joking about the Complainant's arrest, the CCOP disagreed with the unfounded recommendation for that allegation. The record does not establish that this did not occur—especially since the Officers' failed to record the stop. The CCOP recommended that finds that these two allegations should be Non-Sustained.

The CCOP found multiple issues in this case. First, and most importantly, the officers failed to verify the legality of the Complainant's license. The record shows that Respondent #1 after placed the

Complainant in custody, he spoke with Respondent #1 about the status of Complainant's Texas license, showing he was unclear as to whether the Involved Citizen's license was valid.

Second, the CCOP recommended an additional allegation for Respondent #2 for failing to link multiple violations for traffic citations and criminal arrest. Per GOM June 2018 edition, Volume II, Chapter 55, Traffic Law Enforcement, Section V (Procedures), Subsection 2 (Multiple Violations), Traffic Citations and Criminal Arrests, to establish probable cause in court, Officers making traffic stops that lead to an arrest should ensure that the individual is cited for the violation that led to the traffic stop. For example, a driver who commits an unsafe lane change and is subsequently arrested for DUI should be cited for the unsafe lane change. In this case, the Officers failed to cite the Involved Citizen for his traffic violation before taking him into custody and arresting him. Because the Officers failed to give him a traffic citation, the criminal arrest and subsequent citation cannot be established, per this section. The CCOP found that the Respondent failed to proceed on a valid, articulable cause and, instead, pursued an invalid reason to arrest the citizen that led to the search.

IA 18-09

The Respondent reported to a domestic incident between the Complainant and the Involved Citizen. The Complainant alleged that the Respondents assaulted him and were verbally abusive. Respondent #1 stated there was no physical contact with the Complainant and both Respondents deny using inappropriate language. The Complainant later refused to cooperate with the investigation and refused to provide details of the incident. After multiple attempts, the investigator was unable to obtain statements from the Involved Citizen and citizen Witnesses.

Respondent #1

- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with Unfounded.
- Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with Unfounded.

Respondent #2

- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with Unfounded.
- Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed Unfounded.

IA 18-10

The Complainant alleged that the Respondents kicked and punched him during a traffic stop. The Complainant further alleged that Respondent #4 cursed at him, spat in his face and ripped his shirt and jacket.

Respondent #1

- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

Respondent #2

- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

Respondent #3

- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

Respondent #4

- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.
- Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.
- Use of Language – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained

IA 18-15

The Complainant alleged that the Respondent used inappropriate language towards him and was discourteous while on the scene of a breaking and entering.

- Use of Language – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

IA 18-25

The Complainant alleged he was arrested without cause by the Respondents. The Complainant also alleged that his personal property was damaged and that Respondent #2 told him that he was going to leave him in an alley, which the Complainant considered threatening.

Respondent #1

Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Exonerated.
Protocol (Attention to Duty) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
Protocol (Courtesy) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

Respondent #2

Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Exonerated.
Protocol (Attention to Duty) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
Protocol (Courtesy) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.
Protocol (Courtesy) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

The Panel noted that the Report of Investigation stated that a Police Witness Officer and Respondent #1 failed to activate their microphones during this stop and that a training memo regarding this failure was forwarded their commander for corrective action. However, a copy of this memo was not included in the investigative file referred for the CCOP's review.

IA 18-46

The Complainant alleged that he was stopped for no reason and given false warnings related to the traffic stop and that the Respondent stole property from his vehicle. He stated that although he did not physically see the Respondent take the property, the property in question could be clearly seen in the vehicle, on the video he recorded of the incident, but was missing when the officer left the scene.

Ethics – The Panel agreed with Unfounded.

The Panel ADDED the following allegations:

Protocol - The Panel Recommended adding and sustaining this allegation.

Procedure Violation -- The Panel Recommended adding and sustaining this allegation.

The CCOP agreed with the finding for the Ethics allegation presented in this investigation. However, the Panel recommended adding and sustaining two additional allegations for Protocol and Procedure Violations.

First, the CCOP recommended adding and sustaining an allegation of Protocol Violation for the Respondent, for violation of General Order, Volume I, Chapter 32, Protocol, Section 8, which states that "Citizens have the right to observe, video record (with or without a simultaneous audio recording), and/or photograph the actions (such as a Terry stop or an arrest) of any Departmental employee so long as the bystanders' actions do not: [p]lace the safety of any Officer, victim, Witness, suspect, or the bystander themselves, in peril; [i]nterfere with the execution or performance of an Officer's official duties; [v]iolate the law." In this case, the record shows that the Respondent turned off the Complainant's cell phone that was sitting in the console of the Complainant's vehicle while the phone was turned on and streaming Facebook Live. No exceptions to this General Order rule applied since the Complainant was already out of the vehicle and not interfering with the Respondent's duty.

Second, the CCOP recommended adding and sustaining an allegation of Protocol Violation for the Respondent for violation of General Order violation of Volume II, Chapter 29, Field Interviews, Stop and Frisk (Terry Frisk). The rule provides that an Officer shall submit a Field Interview Record prior to the end of the shift when an Officer conducts a pat down or a frisk for a weapon regardless of whether an arrest is made. In this case, the Respondent stopped and frisked the Complainant but, did not submit a Field Interview Record prior to the end of the shift.

IA 18-54

The Complainant alleged that the Respondent posted an inappropriate comment on social media, while representing himself as a Prince George's County Officer.

Procedural Violation (Social Media Policy) – The Panel agreed with Exonerated.

Procedural (Social Media Policy) – The Panel DISAGREED with Exonerated.

The CCOP agreed with the findings for Allegation #1, but disagreed with finding for Allegation #2. The CCOP found that the Respondent was in violation of the Social Media Policy that prohibits "Any online activity or electronic transmission conducted on-duty or off-duty that may reflect poorly on

the Department is strictly prohibited.” The CCOP also found that the Respondent’s statement on Facebook that he was “sexually assaulted by Hillary Clinton...I said it so it must be true,” easily identified him, to the public, as a Prince George’s County Officer and disparaged a classification of individuals—namely sexual assault victims.

The CCOP also found that the substance of the comments and subsequent responses violated Volume 1, Chapter 32, A, Social Media, V, Subsection 1, which prohibits the transmission of messages that criticizes any person, group or classification of individuals in a manner that is destructive and discriminatory, or harms the reputation of a group or organization. Therefore, the CCOP recommended that Allegation #2, Social Media Policy, be Sustained.

SI 15-32

The Respondent was involved in a custody dispute. The Respondent’s mother took his service weapon and shot the Involved Citizens and then fled the scene on foot. One of the Involved Citizens survived and identified the Respondent’s mother as the shooter. The Respondent was also investigated in this incident.

Violation of Law (x2) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Violation of Law (x11) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.

Ethics (x2) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Ethics (x12) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.

SI 17-24

The Involved Citizen alleged that the Respondents stopped him and impounded his vehicle without cause, after they illegally searched the vehicle. He also alleged that the same Respondent stopped him again. He alleged that Respondent #2 struck him with his car and that he was assaulted, which resulted in him being hospitalized. He further alleged that the Respondents left him at the hospital, without announcing that he was under arrest or providing explanation for the stop or his arrest.

Respondent #1

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Respondent #2

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

SI 17-37

The Respondents conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle operated by the Involved Citizen. Upon approaching the vehicle, the Respondents stated that they observed the Involved Citizen reaching in his waistband and at the floor board area and they detected the smell of marijuana. They ordered the occupants to exit the vehicle and the Involved Citizen actively resisted pat down attempts. The Involved Citizen was found to be in possession of a handgun. While attempting to gain control of the weapon, the Respondents stuck the Involved Citizen in his upper body and face with closed fists. When the handgun was recovered and secured, the Involved Citizen was placed under arrest.

Respondent #1

Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Exonerated.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

Respondent #2

Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Exonerated.

Unbecoming Conduct - The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

Respondent #3

Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Exonerated.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

SI 17-53

The Involved Citizen was stopped for consuming an alcoholic beverage and loitering. The

Involved Citizen provided officers with a false name and was arrested. The Involved Citizen resisted arrest and allegedly spat on the Officers. The Involved Citizen was struck in the face by Officers and sustained a fracture of the orbital bone.

Respondent #1

- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Exonerated.
- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Respondent #2

- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
- Use of Force – The Panel DISAGREED with the finding of Exonerated.

Respondent #3

- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Exonerated.
- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
- Use of Force – The Panel DISAGREED with the finding of Exonerated.

Respondent #4

- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded
- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
- Use of Force – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

The Involved Citizen was stopped for consuming an open alcoholic beverage and loitering near a local liquor store. The Involved Citizen provided Officers with a false name, date of birth and social security number. Respondent #1 attempted to verify this information and determined that it was false. Respondent #1 advised the Involved Citizen that he was under arrest and the Involved Citizen became irate. A struggle ensued and the Involved Citizen resisted attempts to be handcuffed. The Involved Citizen was taken to the ground and handcuffed. He then resisted attempts to place him the police cruiser and spat in the Respondent's face. At that time, he was simultaneously struck in the upper body/face area by Respondent #2 and Respondent #2, causing severe injuries that required three levels of treatment at two different hospitals. Medical records show that the Involved Citizen had a fracture of the right orbital bone.

The CCOP disagreed with the findings of exonerated for the Use of Force Allegation #4 (Punching Complainant while he was handcuffed) for both Respondent #2 and #3. The Panel found that the use of force applied by the closed fist strikes to the Involved Citizen's face was an excessive response, as the Involved Citizen was handcuffed at the time.

SI 17-55

The Complainant alleged that the Respondent committed perjury when he testified that about an Officer abusing a detained and restrained suspect. The Complainant alleged that the Respondent lied under oath in his testimony regarding Officer taken by the Officer when the Officer delivered strike to the suspect's body. The Complainant also alleged that the Respondent made other false statements during his testimony.

- Ethics – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
- Ethics – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.
- Ethics – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

SI 17-56

It was alleged that the Respondent was selling a dog online that he adopted from a shelter that has a policy against selling adopted dogs. Involved Citizen #2, a director of a local animal recuse shelter, was notified that a dog adopted by the Respondent was being offered for free in a Facebook ad. Involved Citizen #2, asked Involved Citizen #1, a shelter volunteer, to go to the Respondent's listed address and inquire about the dog. Involved Citizen #1 went to the address and left a note saying she was interested in the dog. Involved Citizen #1 advised that she

told the Respondent that she was looking for a dog for her nephew and did not advise the Respondent that she was associated with the animal shelter. The Respondent requested that Involved Citizen #1 not come back to his home or contact him or he would pursue trespassing charges. Involved Citizen #1 perceived this as intimidation and an argument ensued. The Respondent applied for and obtained a Criminal Summons for Trespassing against Involved Citizen #1. Involved Citizen #1 alleged that the Respondent perjured himself when applying for Summons in an unspecified manner. The Investigator recommended that each of these allegations be exonerated.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel DISAGREED with a finding of Exonerated.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel DISAGREED with a finding of Exonerated.

Based on the investigative report, CCOP found that the exonerated finding should not apply. The officer was not acting in his official capacity as a police officer when the summons for trespassing against Involved Citizen #1 was requested, and the actions taken by the Respondent to obtain the Summons were done as a private citizen. There was also no evidence to suggest that the Respondent perjured himself while obtaining the Summons. Accordingly, the CCOP found that Allegations #1 and #2, Unbecoming Conduct should both be Unfounded.

SI 17-64

Complainant #1 stated that conversations with the Respondent Officer regarding a traffic stop conducted by another Officer were inappropriate and intimidating. The Respondent allegedly pressured the Complainants regarding their version of events involving the other officer and his trial. Both Officers were witnesses who brought the incident to the attention of the Department. According to the Complainants, the Respondent labeled them the “rat squad” and asked if they were sure they wanted to go forward with the complaint.

Use of Language (Inappropriate) – The Panel agreed with Non-sustained.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel DISAGREED with Non-sustained.

Unbecoming Conduct - The Panel DISAGREED with Non-sustained.

The CCOP agreed with the findings related to the Use of Language allegation. However, CCOP disagreed with findings for Allegations #2 and #3.

With regards to Allegation #2, Unbecoming Conduct, the Respondent attempted to influence or alter the Complainants’ testimony. The CCOP found that sufficient evidence established that the Respondent attempted to influence the Complainants’ testimonies. The Respondent’s own testimony revealed that his questioning caused Respondent #2 to become agitated and question the propriety of his line of questioning. The CCOP found that the Respondent questioning under these particular circumstances served to influence the Complainants’ upcoming testimony against other Officer—who was, in fact, convicted during a criminal trial.

The CCOP also found a witness testimony probative of its disagreement and provided sufficient proof that the Respondent intended to influence the testimonies. Therefore, the CCOP recommended that Allegation #2 be sustained.

In regards to Allegation #3, Unbecoming Conduct (Inappropriate language or actions designed to intimidate and harass the Complainants), the CCOP found sufficient evidence to prove that the Respondent did use in inappropriate language. The CCOP referred to the referenced testimony in support of its disagreement with the findings for this allegation. Therefore, the CCOP recommended that this allegation be sustained.

SI 17-69

The Involved Citizen and the Respondent were in a relationship. The Involved Citizen advised that when she broke up with the Respondent, that the Respondent was upset over the break up. She stated that the Respondent left the home and returned with a large quantity of alcohol, which he began to drink. She promptly took the alcohol and poured out, before the Respondent could stop her. She alleged this further upset the Respondent and she subsequently found him in the bedroom holding a weapon that he pulled from its holster. The Involved Citizen advised that she pushed the gun back into the holster and took it from the Respondent. This further upset the Respondent and he grabbed the Involved Citizen by the throat and pushed her into a night stand, causing her to hit her head. The

Involved Citizen also alleged other incidences of abuse and that the Respondent had threatened to send a sex video of her to her ex-boyfriend.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-sustained.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel DISAGREED with the finding of Non-sustained.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-sustained.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.

The CCOP agreed with Allegations #1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. However, the Panel disagreed with Allegation #3 (Unbecoming Conduct for being inebriated while in possession of a firearm, having it secured by Involved Citizen). Specifically, guidance for the disposition of Allegation #3 can be found in Volume II, Chapter 58, Section 7 (Firearms), which states that Officers are responsible for the safe handling...and security of all assigned firearms. In the Respondent's interview, he admitted that he regularly leaves his gun on the nightstand or on the bed next to him, thus leaving it improperly secured. Section 7, Firearms and Intoxicants further states that Officers shall not be armed while under the influence of alcoholic beverages...that may render them incapable of effectively using a firearm. In this case, the Respondent admitted that he was intoxicated in the bedroom. Therefore, the CCOP Recommended that Allegation #3 be sustained.

The CCOP also noted that the Respondent has exhibited a disturbing pattern of misconduct, in which allegations against the Officer were sustained. One occurred on July 2017, just two weeks before the current incident, when the Respondent was found guilty of *Criminal and Unbecoming Misconduct* for reckless driving - exceeding 124 mph in another state. A second offense occurred two months prior, when an allegation of *Use of Language* was sustained against the Respondent use of profanity against his supervisor, while in a public space an in view of citizens and other Officers.

The CCOP had concerns regarding what appeared to be escalating incidences of misconduct by the Respondent. The Panel request information or a briefing on the actions being taken by the Department to address this escalating pattern of behavior, not only for this Respondent, but when it is observed in other Officers, as well.

SI 18-05

The Emergency Service Team (EST) was assisting the Pawn Unit with a search warrant. After making entry, EST began searching the building. The Respondent entered a small crawl space in the basement of the building and unintentionally discharged his firearm.

Procedure (Discharge of Firearm) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.

SI 18-06

It is alleged that Respondent #1 failed to properly submit a recovered firearm into property and failed to transport that firearm to the Firearms Examination Section within the required timeframe. It is also alleged that the Respondent failed to complete a 24-Hour Fusion Center Report in the required timeframe and then backdated the report to the date of recovery. It is also alleged that Respondent #2, who is assigned to another district station, acted as a supervisor and approved the property submission at a later date.

Respondent #1

Procedure Violation (Report and Records) – The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.

Procedure Violation (Property and Evidence) – The Panel agreed with the finding Sustained.

Respondent #2

Procedure Violation (Property and Evidence) – The Panel agreed with the recommendation of Sustained.

Protocol (Attention to Duty) - Procedure Violation (Property and Evidence) – The Panel agreed with the recommendation of Non-Sustained.

The CCOP agreed with the findings as they relate to Respondent #1, as well as the Procedure Violation (Property and Evidence) for Respondent #2. However, the Panel is unclear on why Allegation #2-Protocol (Attention to Duty), for Respondent #2 was non-sustained. The ROI summary seems to indicate that Respondent #2's approval of property records outside of her chain of command was a violation.

However, there appears to be some uncertainty and ambiguity regarding the proper protocol. Therefore, the CCOP recommended that the protocol be clarified, so it can be properly enforced. In the absence of such clarity, the CCOP agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained of Allegation #2 for Respondent #2.

SI 18-30

The Respondent was working secondary employment when he observed a fight. The Involved Citizen ran from the building. The Respondent gave chase. As he was in pursuit, a gun fell from the Involved Citizen's person. A Witness retrieved the gun and gave it to the Respondent. Another Witness indicated that the Respondent took the Involved Citizen to the ground by slamming him on the grass. The Involved Citizen was apprehended and transported to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with an orbital fracture.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Non-Sustained.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Firearms Security– The Panel agreed with the finding of Sustained.

Ethics Violation – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

Unbecoming Conduct – The Panel agreed with the finding of Unfounded.

1st Quarter 2019

Important Information

REPORTS

- Annual reports are issued within 180 days after the end of a calendar year.
- Beginning with the 1st quarter of 2019, quarterly reports will be posted to the CCOP website within 45 days after the end of the quarter.

CONTACT INFO: The CCOP's office has moved. Our new location is
9200 Basil Court
Suite 406
Largo, MD 20774

Telephone #: 301-883-5042

Fax #: 301-883-2655

Email Address: ccop@co.pg.md.us

Webpage: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/644/Citizen-Complaint-Oversight-Panel>

ENABLING LEGISLATIONS

- CB 25 -1990 Established the CCOP
- CB 44 -1994 Amended the terms of the Panel members
- CB 59 -2001 Expanded the Authority of the CCOP

CCOP MEETINGS

Due to privacy and personnel issues, regular CCOP Panel meetings are closed to the public. Beginning in 2019, the CCOP will periodically conduct public meetings. These public meetings will not include discussions or reviews of individual investigations, situations or officers. They will include open discussions and feedback for the trends, issues and concerns noted by the Panel and included in its reports to the public. These meeting dates will be announce on the County's website and the CCOP's webpage.

COMPLAINT FORM

The Complaint Against Police Practices (#1071) form is found on the CCOP's and Police Department's webpages on the County's website. Form can be obtained from your district police station, your local library or contacting the CCOP directly. ***All complaint forms involving the use of force or brutality must be notarized.***

REQUESTS FOR CCOP TO ATTEND EVENT

If you would like for a representative of the CCOP to participate in a community event or attend a meeting, please contact us on 301-883-5042. Please allow two weeks for your request to be processed and a response