



2017 Professional Standards Review

In 2017, ten (10) officer complaints were filed with the Professional Standards Unit of the Barnegat Township Police Department. These complaints were lodged by either citizens or other police officers concerned by the actions of their colleagues.

All of the complaints brought forth by citizens were as follows; five (5) complaints of excessive use of force by officers, two (2) involved a violation of department rules and regulations, one (1) involved a complaint about the demeanor of an officer, and one (1) included a report of improper conduct off duty. There was one (1) supervisory complaint alleging a violation of departmental rules and regulations. Each complaint can result in departmental discipline. Violations of departmental rules and regulations can range in punishment from a negative performance notice to dismissal from the agency.

In each case, the Professional Standards Unit initiated an internal investigation to determine whether the complaint was valid. Investigations were completed in all of the reported complaints. The outcome of each investigation was documented as follows: the allegations of excessive use of force resulted in the officers being cleared of any wrongdoing (exonerated). The reports of improper demeanor and improper conduct off duty also resulted in officers being cleared of any wrongdoing (exonerated). All allegations of violations of departmental rules and regulations were sustained, meaning that there was clear evidence to prove the incident occurred. Those violations of departmental rules and regulations initiated by citizen complaints resulted in punishments of a negative performance notice and a written reprimand.

The single supervisory complaint of a violation of departmental rules and regulations resulted in a punishment of suspension from duty without pay.

The Barnegat Police Department received one hundred and thirteen (113) compliments in 2017 from citizens and police supervisors pleased with officer performance.

