



2020 Professional Standards Synopsis and Summary

In 2020, six (6) officer complaints were filed with the Professional Standards Unit of the Barnegat Township Police Department. These complaints were lodged by either citizens (3) or other police officers (3).

All of the complaints brought forth by citizens were as follows; one (1) complaint of improper demeanor by an officer, one (1) included a report of improper search or entry, and one (1) included the excessive use of force by officers. Out of the six complaints, three (3) were generated internally by members of the agency for violations of agency rules and regulations. Each complaint can result in agency discipline. Violations of agency 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 complaint of improper demeanor by an officer resulted in a finding of exonerated. The complaint of improper search or entry resulted in a finding of exonerated. The complaint involving an allegation of excessive use of force resulted in a finding of exonerated. The three complaints involving a violation of agency rules and regulations all resulted in a finding of sustained. Of the three complaints that were found to be sustained, two (2) resulted in minor discipline.

One (1) complaint resulted in major discipline. The complaint involved an officer who, while off duty, engaged in conduct that resulted in the damage of property at a business. The officer received an unpaid suspension of sixty (60) days as the Professional Standards Investigation sustained the complaint and determined that the officer's actions violated the agency's rules, regulations, Standards of Conduct, and Code of Ethics.

Officers of the Barnegat Police Department received two hundred and eighty (280) compliments and notices of positive performance in 2020 from citizens and police supervisors. Every Barnegat police officer is held to a standard of exceptional



BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP
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professional performance and the positive feedback by the public and our supervisors exemplifies those highest standards of dedication and determination.

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KEITH A. GERMAIN
CHIEF OF POLICE

1 Demeanor: 1 exonerated
3 Policy Violation: 3 sustained
1 Improper search: 1 exonerated
1 Use of Force: 1 exonerated

6 total complaints – 3 exonerated, 3 sustained, 0 pending

