

Bremerton Police Department 2015 Professional Standards Report



- Complaints
- Internal Investigations
- Claims
- Pursuits
- Officer Collisions
- Use of Force
- Bias-based Policing

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COMPLAINTS

The Department recorded 40 complaints in 2015 as compared with 51 in 2014.

General Categories of 2015 Complaints	
Dissatisfied with handling of call, investigation or report	17
Demeanor / courtesy / rudeness	7
Use of force	6
Traffic violations / vehicle use by officer	2
Harassment	2
Conflict of Interest	2
Failure to arrest	1
Slow or no response to call	1
Search and Seizure	1
Bias	1
Didn't agree with traffic ticket	0
Damage / loss to property	0
TOTAL	40

Dispositions	Explanation of Dispositions	# of Complaints in each disposition category
Exonerated	The alleged act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.	12
Unfounded	The allegation was false or not factual or that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve Department personnel.	16
Not sustained	There is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the employee.	3
Sustained	The act occurred and it constituted misconduct.	9
Other	Conduct where Department did not have standing or jurisdiction	0
		40

Date	Description of Complaint	Disposition
1/20/15	Response to a burglary	Unfounded
2/4/15	Claimed officer lied on a traffic ticket, targeted her vehicle and was rude. Complainant misinterpreted notations on ticket.	Unfounded.

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Date	Description of Complaint	Disposition
2/3/15	Complainant uncomfortable with the way she was searched when officer reached into her pocket incident to arrest prior to booking.	Exonerated
2/17/15	Complainant upset that officer did not take a report on his wife calling him.	Exonerated
2/17/15	Man upset about officers' response to his repeated calls for welfare checks on his ex-wife and their kids. He was convinced they are living in squalor. They do not find this to be the case.	Unfounded
4/2/15	Complainant does not understand why the officer, who knows him on sight, continually stops him for driving on a suspended license. Complainant advised to stop driving.	Exonerated
4/3/15	Suspect upset officer came to place of employment to interview her.	Exonerated.
4/5/15	Complainant claims she overheard officers describe her neighbor as a "nut job" to the paramedics. Thought it was inappropriate.	Not sustained
4/14/15	Complainant wrote email about a business trespassing him from their premises. Wrote follow-up email after complaint investigation initiated, saying he was not complaining about the police, only the business.	Exonerated
4/9/15	Unprofessional behavior towards members of the City Parks Department. One comment made by the officer was perceived as bias-based.	Not sustained regarding bias. Sustained regarding demeanor. Employee counseled. Received Record of Discussion
4/26/15	Officer failed to signal a lane change and was talking on phone.	Not sustained. License plate provided did not match any BPD license plates
4/27/15	Unidentified officer speeding without lights or siren. Determined to most likely be an officer who was responding to back-up another officer making on arrest.	Officer counseled on safe vehicle operation responding to call.
5/25/15	Use of force during arrest and jail transport. Mocking comment at jail.	Unfounded
6/8/15	Inquiring about shoulder injury her uncle sustained during an arrest.	Unsustained. Attempted follow-up. Would not speak with investigator.
6/21/15	Complaint about that way officers handled a DV verbal call	Unfounded

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Date	Description of Complaint	Disposition
7/4/15	Demeanor. Failure to provide badge number	1. Demeanor – Not sustained. 2. Failure to provide badge # - Sustained. Verbal counseling
5/21/15	Complainant claimed officer hit him in the head with a flashlight while arresting him for assaulting his 72-year-old mother. No evidence of any type of injury. Cellmate of complainant reported that complainant admitted lying about being hit, hoping he would be released from jail.	Unfounded
7/22/15	Taxi driver called to report an intoxicated man refusing to pay for his ride. Officer told the fare that he had to pay or be charged with theft. Intoxicated man later complained he was coerced into paying for his cab ride, exaggerated the amount, saying officers pocketed some of the money and assaulted him. Cab driver witness said this is all false.	Unfounded
7/22/15	Claimed officers assaulted suspect during arrest	Unfounded
7/20/15	Complainant believed officer inserting himself into an investigation in another jurisdiction because of the personal nature of the incident.	Unfounded
8/7/15	Officer threatened to arrest complainant on a warrant if a stolen cell phone was not returned.	Exonerated
8/19/15	DV Advocate was told by her client that officer refused to investigate a no-contact order violation. This was inaccurate. Officer investigated, wrote a report and requested charges.	Unfounded
8/19/15	Officer directing traffic threw plastic traffic wand at vehicle to get driver's attention and to stop.	Exonerated
6/25/15	Complainant who called 911 about prostitution activity was concerned about the responding officer's familiarity with the prostitute. The officer was familiar because he has arrested the prostitute in the past. No improper relationship.	Exonerated
5/30/15	Complainant believes incomplete investigation led to arrest of her son for assault during soccer game. Felt other player was at fault.	Unfounded
8/15/15	Investigation of Facebook posts critical of police handling of a neighborhood dispute	Unfounded
9/8/15	Complainant believes police posted sex offender fliers at two apartment complexes, warning tenants about her sex offender son.	Unfounded
8/22/15	Complainant's mother suffers from a speech impediment and balance issues, which led an officer to briefly believe woman was intoxicated. Felt officer lacked compassion.	Unfounded

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Date	Description of Complaint	Disposition
9/5/15	Excessive force.	Exonerated
10/20/15	Upset with an unprofessional phone message an officer left the complainant.	Sustained. Letter of Discussion
10/20/15	Involuntary mental commitment complained of bruising. Likely caused by 4-point restraints used by hospital.	Unfounded
9/12/15	Officer's handling of a call	Sustained Counseling
10/6/15	School counsel upset officer didn't interview a child victim. Did not understand this was in accordance with established child sexual assault protocols	Exonerated
10/11/15	Upset about officer's limited stay at a "keep-the-peace" call while complainant was trying to remove items.	Exonerated
11/13/15	Officer used profanity while directing a confused motorist around a collision scene.	Sustained Letter of Discussion
8/7/14	Inadequate collision investigation. Claimed officer smelled of alcohol.	Exonerated
11/16/15	Handling of a "keep the peace" detail.	Sustained Letter of Discussion
10/20/15	Handling of a report of a suspicious powder in a hotel room	Sustained Letter of Discussion
11/30/15	Handling of an unwanted person detail. Failure to take a report.	Sustained Letter of Discussion
12/15/15	Level III Sex offender felt officers did not sufficiently investigate his claims of being discriminated against because of his sex offender status.	Unfounded

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2015 INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

Control Number	Description	Disposition	Action Taken
01-15	Discriminatory harassment of a co-worker.	Sustained	3 days suspension without pay
02-15	Attendance. Missed an off-duty work assignment without authorization. History of similar violations.	Sustained	1 day suspension without pay. 6 months suspension of off-duty work permit.
03-15	Failed to properly handle evidence. Lied to investigator looking into the matter	Resignation.	Resignation in lieu of termination.

2014 CIVIL CLAIMS

Inc. Date	Cause	Effect	Demand Amt.	Amount Paid	Status
1/29/2015	Pushing stalled vehicle	Damaged rear bumper	\$320.67	\$320.67	Closed with payment
10/1/2014	Seized property	Loss of personal property	\$1,525.37		Open
8/26/2015	Cell phones taken into custody	Damaged cell phone		\$0	Closed - no payment
12/12/2014	Workplace environment	Hostile work env., discrimination & other	\$2,500,000	\$175,000	Closed with payment
6/8/2015	Failure to accommodate & confidentiality violation	Emotional distress, lost wages and benefits, etc.	\$500,000.	\$0.	Closed - no payment
9/6/2014	Auto collision	Personal injury	\$10,509.48	\$0.	Closed - no payment

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BIAS-BASED POLICING

The Bremerton Police Department prohibits race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, economic status, age, cultural group, disability or affiliation with any other similar identifiable group from being used as the basis for providing differing levels of law enforcement service or the enforcement of the law.

The most frequent way that police agencies have attempted to learn whether bias based policing is systematically occurring is through analysis of discretionary traffic stops.

The Bremerton Police Department has the ability to track infractions issued by race through the electronic capture of SECTOR data. The Department also tracks citizen complaints of bias-based policing.

Citizen complaints of biased based policing in 2015: 1

4/9/15	Unprofessional behavior towards members of the City Parks Department. One comment made by the officer was perceived as bias-based.	Not sustained regarding bias. Sustained regarding demeanor. Employee counseled. Received Record of Discussion
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Race	Criminal Traffic Infractions (e.g. DUI, Driving While License Suspended, Reckless Driving)		Traffic Infractions (e.g. Speeding, Failure to Yield, cell phone violations, seatbelt violations)		Totals		Bremerton Demographics
	# by race	% by race	# by race	% by race	# by race	% by race	
White	171	62.9	1468	73.6	1639	72.3	74.0%
Black	55	20.2	187	9.4	242	10.7	6.7%
Hisp	14	5.1	86	4.3	100	4.4	6.8%
Asian - Pl	12	4.4	89	4.5	101	4.5	9.6%
Amer Ind	2	0.7	8	0.4	10	0.4	2.0%
Unk	18	6.6	157	7.9	175	7.7	
Totals	272		1995		2267		

Notes / Trends

- Infraction statistics from SECTOR
- Demographic data from 2010 US census
- Infractions include both traffic and non-traffic infractions

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EMPLOYEE COLLISIONS

Per internal policy, all collisions involving police department employees are thoroughly investigated regardless of the degree of damage.

The majority of these driving incidents involved low speeds and minimal damage (i.e. minor scrapes and dents) and would not be classified as reportable collisions under Washington law.

Each collision is reviewed by an internal panel of Department members who evaluate all available data and then classify the collision as 'preventable' or 'non-preventable.'

Action taken depends on many factors, including the employee's previous driving history, the amount of damage and the degree of inattention involved.

Collisions by Category	
# of officer involved collisions	7
# of collisions that were ruled 'Preventable'	4
# of collisions that were ruled 'Non-preventable'	3
# of collisions that involved injury	0
# of collisions that involved pursuits	0
# of backing collisions	2

DATE	BRIEF	PREV.	NON-PREV.	DISPOSITION
2/13/2015	Officer drove over curbing that he did not see, high centering his vehicle and damaging a portion of the exhaust system.	X		No Further Action
2/14/2015	Officer backed and struck a parked vehicle that he did not see. Very minor damage to patrol car. No repair required. No damage to other car.	X		2 nd preventable incident in a very short time. Written counseling
3/15/2015	An officer backed his vehicle into a fire hydrant that he did not see. Damage was minimal. No repair required.		X	No further action.
9/21/2015	Officer was patrolling the Olympic College parking lot looking for a warrant suspect. Struck the right front tire and rim on a curb, causing damage to the rim and tire.	X		No further action
10/18/2015	Officer was pulling out of a parking lot. Struck the curb damaging the skidpan.	X		No further action
10/25/2015	A deer jumped into the roadway. Officer initiated emergency braking and avoided the deer, only to be struck by a second deer that was following the first.		X	No further action.
10/28/15	The driver of a vehicle whose view was blocked by a stopped school bus, pulled in front of officer from a side street. The officer braked but could not avoid the collision. WSP investigated. Other driver cited for failure-to-yield and driving on a suspended license.		X	No further action.

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PURSUIITS / ELUDING

Pursuit Statistics	2014	2015
Total number of pursuits / eluding	21	8
Day pursuits	7	2
Night pursuits	14	6
Pursuits discontinued by officer	15	7
Pursuits terminated by: collision	7	2
spike strip	1	0
Pursuits ruled "Within policy"	16	8
Pursuits ruled "Outside of policy"	5	0

Reasons for the 2015 Pursuits	
Robbery	1
Traffic violation / Speed / DUI	2
Stolen vehicles	2
Assault	1
Assault / Robbery / Kidnapping	1
Vehicle Prowl	1

Notes / Trends

- These statistics include those circumstances where an officer attempts to stop an offender, the offender refuses to stop and the officer never engages in a chase.
- 62% decrease in the number of pursuits is attributed to policy changes that raised the threshold of when pursuits could be initiated to or continued.
- Training was conducted both in the classroom and at the driving range to reinforce the new policy.

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USE OF FORCE

Use of Force: Type of Force			
Primary Type – the first tool or tactic an officer used.		Secondary Type – used when the 1 st tool or tactic proved ineffective	
Physical controls	90	Physical controls	1
Taser: Air deployment	12	Taser: Air deployment	3
Taser: Contact deployment	1	Taser: Contact deployment	5
OC / Chemical	1	OC / Chemical	1
Impact	2	Impact	0
Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint	0	Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint	0
Firearm	0	Firearm	0
Personal Weapons	3	Personal Weapons	0
Impact Munition	0	Impact Munition	0
Other	0	Other (leverage tools)	1
Leg Restraints	1	Leg Restraints	7
TOTAL	110	TOTAL	18

Use of Force Aggravating Factors	
Intoxicated / Drugs	47
Domestic Violence	6
Mental Health	19

Use of Force by Race	
White	74
Black	22
Asian	7
Native American	2
Hispanic	3
Multiple / Unknown / Other	2

Use of Force by Gender of Subject	
Male	85
Female	25

	Use of Force Injuries			
	# of Injuries (visible or complained of)	Treatment		
		Minor – No treatment required	On-scene by Aid	Hospital
Officer	10	6	2	2
Suspect	13	2	7*	2

Notes / Trends

- Total incidents where officers used force: 110
- Total Incidents: 53,456
- % of Incidents in which force was used: 0.21%

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- Injury statistics do not include those cases where the only “injury” was probe penetration from the use of the Taser.
- In two of the incidents, the suspect could have been treated for their minor injuries by on-scene aid, but went to the hospital for reasons other than the police use of force. In these two cases, the suspects went to the hospital for a DUI blood draw and for a drug overdose/excited delirium. Though they were treated at the hospital for these minor injuries, they were not included in the “Hospital Treatment” category. That category is reserved for injuries that require hospital care because of a police use of force.