

KENDALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS ANALYSIS AND REPORT

OPERATIONS DIVISION

CALENDAR YEAR 2022

REPORT CREATED BY:
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The Kendall County Sheriff's Office treats all complaints seriously which reflect upon the service provided by the Office and the conduct of its members. We accept and address all complaints of misconduct in accordance with applicable federal, state and local law, County ordinances, the policies and rules of this Office, and the requirements of any collective bargaining agreements. It is also the policy of this Office to ensure that the community can report alleged misconduct without concern for reprisal or retaliation.

Personnel complaints include any allegation of misconduct or improper job performance that, if true, would constitute a violation of federal, state or local law, Office policy or rule. Personnel complaints may be generated internally or by the public. The Sheriff's Office will accept complaints anonymously and have been doing so since our Citizen Complaint policy was implemented in June of 2004.

Inquiries about conduct or performance that, if true, would not violate any federal, state or local law, County ordinance, policy or rule, may be handled informally by a supervisor and shall not be considered a personnel complaint; however, they are investigated thoroughly and documented appropriately. Such inquiries generally include clarification regarding policy, procedures, or the response to specific incidents by the Office. For inquiries that are satisfied by providing such information, no further investigation is required.

At the conclusion of all investigated formal complaints received either internally or externally, the employee assigned to conduct the investigation shall conclude his/her report by classifying the disposition into one of the following categories:

Unfounded - When the investigation discloses that the alleged acts did not occur or did not involve department members. Complaints that are determined to be frivolous will fall within the classification of unfounded.

Exonerated - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred but that the act was justified, lawful, and/or proper.

Not sustained - When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the member.

Sustained - When the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted misconduct.

If an investigation discloses misconduct or improper job performance that was not alleged in the original complaint, the investigator shall take appropriate action with regard to any additional allegations including initiating a separate investigation when necessary.

A summary of the complaints received and investigated in 2022 is included in this report, as well as a year-to-year comparison for the timeframe between 2019-2022. The Sheriff's Office conducts reviews of Use of Force incidents separately. Those investigations are not part of this report and are documented in an independent annual use of force analysis and report.

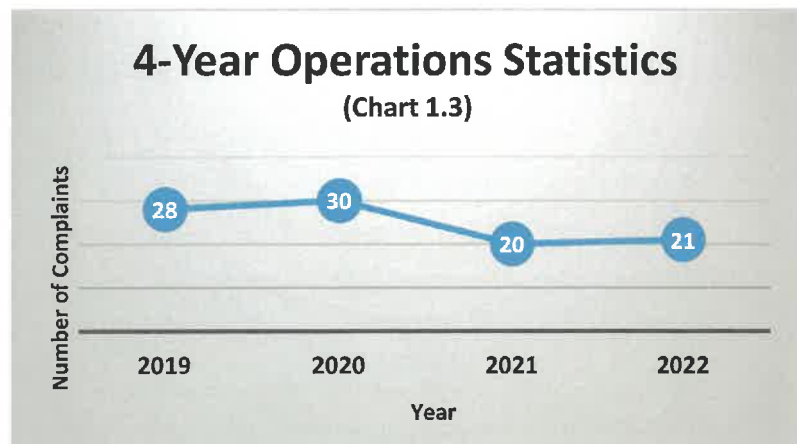
In 2022, the Kendall County Sheriff's Office Operations Division conducted 21 administrative internal investigations; of which 16 were initiated internally and 5 were external sources (Chart 1.1).

These internal investigations consisted of vehicle pursuits and policy infractions, which includes squad damage and other actions that occurred during a department member's regular course of duty. These infractions were investigated and handled with appropriate corrective and preventative actions, ranging from corrective counseling to termination. The external investigations involved citizen complaints against members of the department. After a review of these complaints, 11 of the 21 total complaints were sustained (Chart 1.2).



Patrol Deputies handled approximately 25,000 incidents in 2022 involving citizen contact, traffic violations, and individuals involved in criminal activity. Of those 25,000 incidents, only 0.08% of contacts resulted in a formal complaint or administrative investigation. Deputies also conducted approximately 6,500 traffic stops with only 3 reported incidents where a traffic violator did not stop for the deputy and a vehicle pursuit ensued.

Since 2019, the Operations Division has averaged 24.25 administrative internal investigations per year (Chart 1.3). Of those investigations, 47.47% have been sustained and resulted in discipline ranging from corrective counseling to termination (Chart 1.4).



A list of administrative internal investigations conducted in 2022 is on the following page (Chart 1.5). An analysis of these investigations determined that none of the administrative internal investigations resulted in any negative findings of systemic or organizational deficiencies requiring immediate corrective action.



The Sheriff's Office implemented ArxAlert software in 2021 for tracking internal reviews. ArxAlert has allowed the Sheriff's Office to have greater accountability of our office through a cloud-based community software platform. This software allows us to see, analyze, and act on the critical information impacting the community we serve. In 2022, we implemented a public facing dashboard with real-time data for the community to review.

In 2021, an Inspector General position was approved by the Kendall County Board and the position was staffed through a portion of 2022. The spot is currently vacant and we are looking to have the position filled by summer of 2023. The Inspector General for the Office of the Sheriff directs, manages, supervises, and coordinates the programs and activities of internal investigations and complaints within the Sheriff's Office. This position functions as an independent and impartial investigator for use of force incidents and complaints of misconduct regarding any member of the Office. This position helps ensure public accountability of all Sheriff's Office policies and procedures. Filling this role in 2023 is a priority.

The Sheriff's Office will continue to strive for excellence and expect the utmost professionalism from our staff as we continue to serve our community. As we move forward, the Sheriff's Office will continue to update our administrative internal investigation process.

I have no additional recommendations or observations regarding our administrative internal investigations process.

Deputy Commander Caleb Waltmire

Commander Jason Langston

Undersheriff Bobby Richardson

Sheriff Dwight Baird

