

Bremerton Police Department

2014 Professional Standards Report



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

2014 Annual Report on Internal Investigations, Collisions Use of Force and Pursuits

COMPLAINTS

The Department recorded 51 complaints in 2014 as compared with 21 in 2013. This 240% increase is the result of complying with WASPC accreditation standards. Supervisors are now trained and required to document very minor complaints which may have been handled informally in the past.

General Categories of Complaints	
Dissatisfied with handling of call, investigation or report	16
Demeanor / courtesy / rudeness	12
Use of force	2
Failure to arrest	5
Slow or no response to call	6
Didn't agree with traffic ticket	1
Search and Seizure	1
Harassment	1
Bias	2
Damage / loss to property	1
Traffic violations / vehicle use by officer	4
TOTAL	51

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.	20
Unfounded	The allegation was false or not factual or that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve Department personnel.	21
Not sustained	There is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the employee.	5
Sustained	The act occurred and it constituted misconduct.	4
Other	Conduct where Department did not have standing or jurisdiction	1
		51

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Date	Description of Complaint	Disposition
1/2/14	Complainant felt officer took no action on an assault and noise complaint.	Unfounded
1/3/14	Complainant felt harassed by people around her apartment and that officer was not helping her. Mental issues.	Unfounded
1/26/14	An acquaintance of an employee complained about harassing contact outside the workplace.	Conduct is not associated with work
1/26/14	Attorney upset officer stopped a car looking for a warrant suspect. Suspect was R/O but not in vehicle.	Exonerated
1/27/14	Complainant thought sergeant was at ferry terminal to entrap him. Mental issues.	Unfounded
3/13/14	Upset officers did not make an arrest for assault.	Exonerated
3/13/14	Unknown officer speeding.	Not Sustained
3/18/14	Defendant complained about an officer's court testimony.	Not sustained
3/20/14	Keys placed into evidence for safe keeping returned to wrong person.	Unfounded.
3/20/14	Insurance ticket issued to complainant's daughter.	Unfounded.
3/24/14	Four years ago, officer called DUI arrestee a "criminal" while taking her to jail. Arrestee was offended by this. Officer did not recall the arrest or comment.	Not sustained
5/6/14	Response to a noise complaint.	Unfounded
5/16/14	Parking in a handicap space at school. Officer was responding to an emergency.	Exonerated.
5/20/14	Upset that sergeant took child into protective custody.	Unfounded
5/29/14	Officer didn't arrest complainant's brother. Complainant wanted him arrested.	Unfounded.
5/29/14	Upset that police who raided neighbor's house didn't take him to jail (it was actually DEA). Also mad BPD officers didn't arrest neighbor for DV assault.	Unfounded
5/30/14	Rudeness. Officer responding to investigate a burglary told complainant to get off the phone so they could talk to her about the burglary. Complainant wanted officer to be more polite.	Sustained. Verbally counseled.
6/3/14	Officer's use of city vehicle.	Exonerated
6/9/14	Non-witness complainant believed arrest of his brother-in-law was motivated by bias.	Unfounded

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6/30/14	Wanted officer to show more compassion when complainant called 911 to have officer help him lift his sick dog into car to go to vet. The dog later died.	Unfounded
6/8/14	Complainant was out of town when burglarized. Neighbor told him police did not respond. Officer actually did respond and tried to call complainant.	Unfounded
6/24/14	Bank complaining about officer's response with a forgery suspect in the bank. Rudeness. Unprofessional.	Sustained. Record of Counseling issued
6/24/14	Police response to a large fight. Complainant upset police didn't search neighbor's house for weapons. Officers did not have legal authority to search.	Exonerated.
6/9/14	Upset officer did not mark "hit & run" on accident report.	Exonerated
7/27/14	Custody of child when caretaker arrested.	Exonerated
8/7/11	Lack of response to a neighbor dispute. Shift was very busy. Officers did respond but complainant had left for an appointment before they arrived.	Unfounded
8/11/14	Complainant felt front desk clerk gave wrong directions to bank and was discourteous.	Unfounded
5/21/14	Complainant upset that officer told her she was "making too much of this" regarding a mentally ill man selling complainants motor home.	Exonerated
8/11/14	Handling of an unwanted person call.	Exonerated
8/28/14	Handling of an accident. Not taking the complainant's statement for the report.	Sustained. Officer Counseled.
8/31/14	Slow response to a broken window call. Officer left message that complainant could report it on-line.	Exonerated. Officer on another call.
9/4/14	Officer asked complainant on a traffic stop if he had any warrants or if he was an "axe murderer" in an attempt to be humorous. Complainant did not find it funny.	Exonerated. Officer counseled about his approach.
9/6/14	Complainant was stopped for reckless driving. Complainant felt facial expressions and tone of voice of officer made him seem sarcastic. Another officer present contradicts this.	Unfounded
9/4/14	Complainant felt officer was aggressive when trying to convince her to have her son, who was wanted for a felony assault, to turn himself in.	Not sustained
9/11/14	Complainant has anti-harassment order against adult neighbor. Complainant was upset officer would not arrest neighbor's 6-year-old child for looking in her windows.	Exonerated
9/17/14	Neighbor dispute. Complainant upset that officers told her to	Not sustained

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	"take it down a notch" and that they didn't arrest other half of dispute.	
9/21/14	Euthanizing injured deer near families in a park without warning them.	Exonerated
9/15/14	Slow response to a discovered burglary, not in progress	Exonerated. Officers were busy on higher priority calls.
9/25/14	Third party mistakenly believed a stolen van at her store was re-stolen after she reported it to the police	Unfounded
9/30/14	Rudeness. Complainant refused to cooperate with lieutenant trying to investigate the complaint.	Unfounded
10/10/14	Complainant upset because a CenCom dispatcher told him to call the health department for a littering complaint. No police response to his on-line report regarding the incident.	Unfounded
10/17/14	Officer used an expletive when yelling at juveniles to get out of the road.	Sustained. Officer received Record of Discussion.
10/17/14	Complainant upset that two suspects who stole his computer were "allowed to walk free." Subjects were arrested but released by KCSO jail per their policy.	Unfounded.
10/20/14	Officer on his way to work in his private vehicle temporarily exceeded speed limit as he entered on-ramp to merge. Complainant recognized BPD patch.	Exonerated.
10/30/14	Apartment manager upset detectives did not inform him of what was going on when they tried to contact a witness at the complex.	Unfounded
11/8/14	Complainant believes the sergeant has protection order against complainant. Sgt. was dispatched to a call where complainant was trespassing. Complainant felt Sergeant was trying to get him to violate the order. No order in the system.	Exonerated
11/15/14	Woman with mental health issues and a history of making false allegations claimed officer pushed his body into her buttocks while arresting her. Officer reports woman was struggling and he pushed her against a couch while handcuffing her. Two relatives of the complainant were present and disputed the complainant's account and supported the officer's actions.	Unfounded
11/24/14	Complainant with mental issues upset officer made him leave a residence where he was an unwanted guest.	Exonerated
11/4/14	Biased policing. Officer stopped complainant believing it was complainant's brother, who had a felony warrant and looks similar to complainant.	Exonerated

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12/2/14	Complainant was trespassed from a rehab center that was treating her husband because she was being loud and aggressive. She refused to leave when officers arrived. She was arrested and officers used a wrist hold to get her out of the room. Complainant said her wrist hurt (opposite wrist from the one the officer actually grabbed).	Exonerated.
11/9/14	Complainant upset about being arrested for DV assault and not being allowed to take personal items to the jail.	Exonerated.

INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

Date	Control Number	Description	Disposition	Action Taken
1/7/14	01-14	Taking off work without putting in leave slips.	Sustained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30-Day suspension Forfeit 126.5 hours of vacation Removal from specialty assignment Apology letter to Department
6/20/14	02-14	Workplace harassment by a supervisor toward an acting supervisor.	Not Sustained	None
9/29/14	03-14	Conflict of interest. Dumping tires 19 years ago at shooting range.	Unfounded	None
10/10/14	04-14	Dishonesty. Mishandling evidence. Inaccurate report writing.	Sustained	Pending
12/16/14	05-14	Making sarcastic comments to a patient who assaulted hospital staff.	Sustained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter of Counseling Apology letter to complaining officer

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2014 CIVIL CLAIMS

Inc. Date	Report Date	Cause	Effect	Demand Amt.	Status
5/17/13	4/8/14	Contact with police	Harassment	\$0	Claim denied
9/12/11	3/14/14	Violation of Public Records Act	Failure to provide records and alteration of record	\$0 – Penalties and attorney fees requested	Litigated; City dismissed with no award
6/4/14	7/30/14	Hit fence while turning around	Damaged fence	\$250.54	Claim paid

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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 2014: 2

6/9/14	Non-witness complainant believed arrest of his brother-in-law was motivated by bias.	Unfounded
11/4/14	Biased policing. Officer stopped complainant believing it was complainant's brother, who had a felony warrant and looks similar to complainant. Complainant thought the stop was because of his race.	Exonerated

	Infractions Issued	% of Infractions by Race	Bremerton Demographics
White	2423	76.8%	74.0 %
Black	263	8.3%	6.7 %
Asian / Pacific Islander	147	4.7%	6.8 %
Hispanic	116	3.7%	9.6 %
American Indian	13	0.4%	2.0 %
Unknown	192	6.1%	N/A
TOTAL	3154		

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	12
# of collisions that were ruled 'Preventable'	10
# of collisions that were ruled 'Non-preventable'	2
# of collisions that involved injury	0
# of collisions that involved pursuits	0
# of backing collisions	3

DATE	BRIEF	PREV.	NON-PREV.	DISPOSITION
1/1/2014	Officer responding to armed robbery. Struck the curb. Flattened tire and dented the rim.	X		No further action.
2/3/2014	Officer struck low profile curbing with the right rear wheel of vehicle.	X		No further action.
3/14/2014	Officer struck a raised bulkhead in a parking lot.	X		No further action.
3/27/2014	Officer was turning around at the end of a dead-end street. Tapped a mailbox post.	X		No further action.
5/11/2014	Officer working the watershed and backed into catwalk structure attached to the dam.	X		No further action.
6/2/2014	Officer backed over a curb and went partially down an embankment causing the vehicle to become "high-centered".	X		Required to conduct a "Commentary Ride" with a department driving instructor.
6/4/2014	Officer was backing when he struck a fence with the front end of his vehicle.	X		Corrective memo.
7/29/2014	Another motorist backed into officer's vehicle in parking lot.		X	No further action.

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8/22/2014	A motorist backed out of a parking space and struck the side of the police vehicle.		x	No further action.
9/11/2014	Officer pulling into the drive thru window lane of a coffee establishment. Struck a pole that was positioned to protect the building from vehicle strikes.	x		No further action.
10/6/2014	Officer caused scratch on bumper while parking.	x		No further action.
10/30/14	Officer drove over edge of loading dock with no guard rail while responding to assist other officers.	x		Letter of Reprimand

Notes / Trends

- None of the collisions revealed a trend of reoccurring collisions with any particular officer.
- None of the collisions resulted in serious injury.
- Backing collisions accounted for 25% of the preventable collisions, a significant improvement from 2013, when 66% of the preventable collision occurred during backing. This may be the result of an increased emphasis on backing during Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) training.

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PURSUIITS

Pursuit Statistics	
Total number of pursuits	21
Total number of fail to yield	0
Day pursuits	7
Night pursuits	14
Pursuits discontinued by officer	15
Pursuits terminated by: collision	7
spike strip	1
Pursuit Intervention Technique	0
Pursuits ruled "Within policy"	16
Pursuits ruled "Outside of policy"	5

Reason for the Pursuit / Fail To Yield	
Traffic violation / Speed / DUI	11
Felony warrants	1
Reckless	1
Stolen vehicles	4
Threats	1
Shooting suspect	1
Other	1
Drugs / Warrants	1

Notes / Trends

- During the pursuit reviews, five pursuits were determined to be "out of policy." The staff discovered a common theme was confusion about the wording of a section of the pursuit policy that covers when initiation of a pursuit is authorized. As a result, the department re-wrote the policy to make it clearer.
- Two officers initiated more than one pursuit (2 each).
- None of the pursuits revealed a trend of reoccurring out of policy chases with any particular officer.

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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	95	Physical controls	1
Taser: Air deployment	7	Taser: Air deployment	4
Taser: Contact deployment	1	Taser: Contact deployment	1
OC / Chemical	2	OC / Chemical	1
Impact	0	Impact	2
Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint	0	Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint	0
Firearm	0	Firearm	0
Personal Weapons	2	Personal Weapons	2
Impact Munition	0	Impact Munition	0
Other	0	Other	0
Leg Restraints	0	Leg Restraints	8
TOTAL	107	TOTAL	19

Use of Force Aggravating Factors	
Intoxicated / Drugs	63
Domestic Violence	6
Mental Health	21

Use of Force by Race	
White	74
Black	21
Asian	8
Native American	0
Hispanic	4
Multiple / Unknown / Other	0

Use of Force by Gender of Subject	
Male	73
Female	34

	Use of Force Injuries			
	# of Injuries	Treatment		
		None	On-scene	Hospital
Officer	8	5	2	1
Suspect	15	4	5	6

Notes / Trends

- Total incidents where officers used force: 107
- Total Incidents: 55,223
- % of Incidents in which force was used: 0.19%