

2021

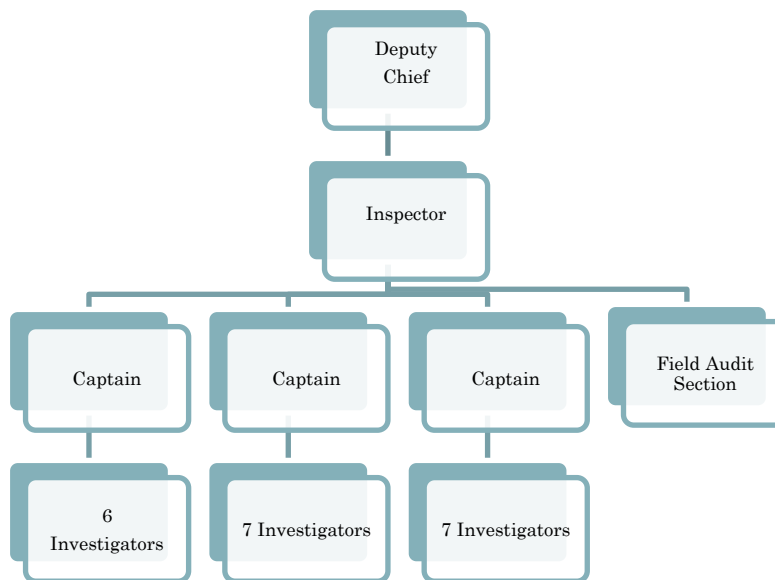
Biased Policing Complaints



Suffolk County Police
Department

The Internal Affairs Bureau

The Suffolk County Police Department is committed to maintaining the highest level of professional responsibility among all its officers and civilian personnel. It strives to maintain the trust and confidence of the public, and to that end, investigates all complaints of misconduct. The Internal Affairs Bureau is responsible for overseeing these investigations in a timely, thorough and impartial manner pursuant to exacting policies and procedures.¹



The Complaint Process

Complaints against SCPD personnel may be lodged in-person at any Department facility with any uniformed supervisor. Members of the public may also lodge a complaint via telephone, email or regular mail. Regardless of how it is lodged, every complaint will make its way to the Internal Affairs Bureau [IAB] within 48-72 hours. Most are received by IAB within 24 hours. Complaints are all entered into a dedicated, secure database [IAPro©] which serves as a central clearing house and early warning system for all misconduct and disciplinary matters within the Department.

All complaints are accepted regardless of the complainant's personal involvement in the incident. Family members, witnesses, advocates, attorneys, members of the Department and even anonymous sources may lodge complaints. The duty to document complaints is assigned to sworn supervisors holding the rank of Sergeant or above, and every Department employee is mandated by policy to accept all complaints by alerting a supervisor.

¹ Policy §1010 "Personnel Investigations and Complaints"

Complainants who have limited proficiency in the English language are offered language assistance regardless of the means chosen to lodge the complaint, i.e., telephonic or face-to-face interpretation, email or document translation, etc.² More than 200 sworn personnel are certified by an independent body to conduct interpretations, and all members of the Department have immediate access to telephonic interpretation services.³

Once an IAB investigation is opened, it is assigned to an investigator who must contact the complainant within 72 hours. Contact with the complainant is then maintained on a regular basis throughout the investigation. All information and evidence obtained from the complainant is kept in strict confidence. Once all investigative leads are exhausted and all relevant parties interviewed, the investigator prepares a report which addresses the complainant's allegations, as well as any additional allegations that were brought to light by the investigation. Every allegation is 'disposed of' in one of four ways:

“Substantiated” – when sufficient evidence exists to establish both that the alleged act occurred and that it constituted misconduct.

“Unsubstantiated” – when the alleged act constitutes misconduct however insufficient evidence exists to establish that it occurred.

“Exonerated” – when sufficient evidence exists to establish both that the alleged act occurred and that it did not constitute misconduct.

“Unfounded” – when sufficient evidence exists to establish that the alleged act did not occur.

Once the investigator's report is complete, the case is reviewed by their immediate supervisor who authors a summary report. This summary catalogues the steps taken by the investigator and includes a determination regarding the disposition of all allegations. Should the supervisor find that an avenue of investigation was not exhausted, the report will be returned to the investigator to explore that avenue. If the supervisor does not concur with the investigator's disposition of any allegation, the supervisor will explain their conclusions in the summary report.

The investigator's report along with their supervisor's summary is then reviewed by the Executive Officer and Commanding Officer. The Commanding Officer will then forward the file to the First Deputy Police Commissioner who will render the final agency determination on the case, and also determine what discipline, if any, is appropriate. Once the file is signed by the First Deputy Commissioner it is returned to IAB and a final letter is sent to the complainant explaining the results of the investigation. If disciplinary action is indicated, charges and specifications are drawn by the investigator and served upon the involved officer who then may request a hearing as provided in the New York State Civil Service law and any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

² Policy §333 “Limited English Proficiency Services”

³ Most marked police cars have video conference capabilities also.

Biased Policing Allegations

In 2014 the Department began classifying all complaints which contain an allegation of discriminatory policing as “Biased Policing”. Policy was also adopted defining Biased Policing as:

The selective enforcement or non-enforcement of the law, including the selecting or rejecting of particular policing tactics or strategies, based upon an individual’s race, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, religion, disability, status as a victim of domestic violence, English language proficiency, economic status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.⁴

Of all the Internal Affairs cases opened in 2021, 35 contained a total of 63 separate allegations of Biased Policing. All of those cases have been closed with an average duration to completion of 389 days. The longest time of completion was 712 days, and the shortest, 118.

The Cases

Case #21-0008i

Received: 01/08/2021 Completed: 10/01/2021 (266)

Officers: white males Command: Highway Patrol

Allegations:

Biased Policing x2 UNFOUNDED x2

Improper Police Action x2 UNFOUNDED x2

Summary: Complaint received from the Human Rights Commission. Complainant was involved in a motor vehicle collision 7 months earlier, on June 7, 2020, and states that a vehicle cut her off on the highway and its front bumper fell off, damaging her vehicle. Complainant alleges that the responding officer said that the bumper was not what caused the damage, and was rude to her. Complainant also alleges that the supervisor who came to her home at her request told her that the accident report would not be changed. Complainant feels that both officers were biased due to her race and color.

Complainant: African-American female

⁴ Policy §401 “Bias Free Policing”

Case #21-0036i

Received: 01/25/2021 Completed: 08/31/2021 (218)

Officers: white males Command: 3rd Precinct

Allegations:

Biased Policing x4	UNSUBSTANTIATED x4
Illegal Search/Seizure x4	UNSUBSTANTIATED x4
Unprofessional. Lang/Att x4	UNSUBSTANTIATED x4
Excessive Force x4	UNFOUNDED 4x

Summary: Complainant alleged that her son was a passenger in a car that was pulled over by an unmarked police car. Complainant alleges that during the traffic stop, an officer in plain clothes pulled her son out of the rear of the car and slammed him to the ground, searched him and used the 'N' word during the incident. Complainant stated that her son's chest hurt a little bit after the incident but did not seek medical treatment and is fine now. Complainant was not a witness to the incident but wished to make a complaint on behalf of her son.

Complainant: African-American female

Case #21-0038i

Received: 01/25/2021 Completed: 10/25/2021 (273)

Officers: white male, white female Command: 3rd Precinct

Allegations:

Improper Police Action x2:	UNFOUNDED x2
Biased Policing x2:	UNFOUNDED x2

Summary: Complainant alleged that 5 months earlier, on 08/23/20, he called 911 and the responding officer failed to provide a police report, was unprofessional and threatened to arrest him. Complainant feels if he was another race, the situation would have been handled differently

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0073i

Received: 02/24/2021 Completed: 03/22/2022 (391)

Officers: white males Command: 1st Precinct

Allegations:

Illegal Search/Seizure x2: UNSUBSTANTIATED x2

Biased Policing x2: UNSUBSTANTIATED x2

Improper Police Action: SUBSTANTIATED

Summary: Attorney called IAB on behalf of her client, and alleged that he was pulled over for speeding, removed from his car and searched without legal justification.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0072i

Received: 02/25/2021 Completed: 09/01/2022 (553)

Officers: white males Command: 6th Precinct

Allegations:

Excessive Force x6 UNSUBSTANTIATED x6

Excessive Force x3 SUBSTANTIATED x3

Insubordination x2 SUBSTANTIATED x2

Lying/False statement x5 - SUBSTANTIATED x5

False Arrest x2 SUBSTANTIATED x2

Unprofessional. Language/Att x2- SUBSTANTIATED x2

Biased Policing x7 UNSUBSTANTIATED x7

Policy/Procedure x4 SUBSTANTIATED x4

Improper Police Action UNSUBSTANTIATED

Improper Police Action SUBSTANTIATED

Summary: Department initiated investigation of the facts surrounding video recordings which show a Suffolk County Police Officer striking a male while the subject is lying on the ground.

Complainant: Latino male

Case #21-0080i

Received: 02/26/2021 Completed: 02/08/2023 (712)

Officers: white male Command: 3rd Precinct

Allegations:

Biased Policing UNSUBSTANTIATED

False Arrest EXONERATED

Summary: Complaint received via NAACP reference an incident which occurred on August 30, 2020 at Ross Park in Brentwood. Subject alleged to NAACP that he was falsely arrested and is being targeted by SCPD members because he is Black/African American.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0081i

Received: 02/26/2021 Completed: 07/07/2022 (496)

Officers: white female Command: 3rd Precinct

Allegations:

Biased Policing UNFOUNDED

False Arrest EXONERATED

Summary: Complaint received via NAACP reference an incident which occurred on August 30, 2020. Subject alleged he was falsely arrested and is being targeted by SCPD members because she is Black/African American.

Complainant: African-American male and female

Case #21-0078i

Received: 02/27/2021 Completed: 08/31/2021 (185)

Officers: white male, white female Command: 3rd Precinct

Allegations:

Biased Policing x2 UNFOUNDED x2

Excessive Force x2 EXONERATED x2

Improper Police Action x2 UNFOUNDED x2

False Arrest x2	EXONERATED x2
Illegal Search/Seizure x2	EXONERATED x2
Unprofessional Language/Att	UNSUBSTANTIATED

Summary: Complaint received via NAACP subject stated he is the target of police harassment and abuse

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0079i

Received: 02/27/2021 Completed: 08/15/2022 (534)

Officers: Latino male, white males Command: 3rd Precinct

Allegations:

Biased Policing x3	UNFOUNDED x3
False Arrest x2	EXONERATED x2
Illegal Search/Seizure	EXONERATED
Improper Police Action x2	UNSUBSTANTIATED x2

Summary: Complaint received via NAACP reference an incident which occurred on August 30, 2020. Subject alleged he was falsely arrested and is being targeted by SCPD members because he is Black/African American.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0082i

Received: 03/01/2021 Completed: 08/26/2022 (543)

Officers: white male, Latino male, white female Command: 2nd Precinct

Allegations:

Biased Policing	UNFOUNDED
Improper Police Action	EXONERATED
Unprofessional Language/Att x2	UNSUBSTANTIATED x2

Summary: Complainant states he believes he was racially profiled because he was pulled over for tinted windows. Complainant states that his tint is 2% darker than that allowed by NY law, but it is legal in his home state. He doubted the officer's ability to distinguish 2%

difference in tint, and called the Precinct to complain. Complainant states he was treated rudely on the phone and then again when he walked in to the Precinct.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0113i

Received: 03/16/2021 Completed: 08/15/2022 (517)

Officers: white males Command: 1st Precinct

Allegations:

Biased Policing x6 UNFOUNDED x6

Unprofessional Language/Att x6 UNSUBSTANTIATED x6

Summary: Complainant alleges she was mistreated by the police while she was looking for her cat. She and her daughters were looking for the cat behind a Mercedes Benz Dealership when several police officers responded to the area and questioned them about why they were at the location. The officers spoke to her in an aggressive manner and she believes they were harassing her and her daughters for no reason. She felt she was treated this way because of her race.

Complainant: African-American female

Case #21-0111i

Received: 03/18/2021 Completed: 10/13/2021 (209)

Officers: white male, white female Command: 6th Precinct

Allegations:

Biased Policing: UNFOUNDED

False Arrest: EXONERATED

Illegal Search/Seizure: EXONERATED

Summary: The complainant alleges that her son was arrested based on his race and his car was searched illegally. The complainant was not present during the arrest.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0124i

Received: 03/24/2021 Completed: 09/12/2022 (537)
 Officers: white males and females Command: Major Crimes Bureau

Allegations:

Excessive Force x4	EXONERATED
Biased Policing	UNFOUNDED
Improper Police Action x6	EXONERATED
False Arrest	EXONERATED

Summary: Complaint received via Summons & Complaint -Pro Se. alleges that on May 2, 2019, he was falsely arrested, subjected to excessive force and that detective falsified documents in order to strengthen case against him.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0129i

Received: 03/30/2021 Completed: 10/01/2021 (185)
 Officers: white males Command: 1st Precinct

Allegations:

Unprofessional Language/Att x2	UNSUBSTANTIATED x2
Biased Policing x2	UNFOUNDED x2

Summary: Complainant alleges that a marked police car drove past her house while she was outside and said to her "Hi black ass" and then gave her the middle finger. She has Ring video of the incident.

Complainant: African-American female

Case #21-0166i

Received: 04/14/2021 Completed 09/01/2022 (505)
 Officers: white male, white female Command 1st Precinct

Allegations:

Excessive Force	UNSUBSTANTIATED
Biased Policing	UNSUBSTANTIATED

False Arrest EXONERATED

Missing property UNSUBSTANTIATED

Summary: The complainant alleges officers used excessive force when removing him from his vehicle and placing him in custody. Complainant reports he has video recording of the interaction but was unable to provide it at the time this report was completed.

Complainant: Asian male

Case #21-0174i

Received: 04/21/2021 Completed: 10/06/2021 (168)

Officers: white male Command: Highway Patrol Bureau

Allegations:

Biased Policing UNFOUNDED

Improper Police Action EXONERATED

Summary: Complainant called Internal Affairs multiple times while stopped on the LIE by a Highway Patrol unit. He stated that he needed to leave the stop because he needed to take his diabetic medication. When an ambulance arrived at the scene complainant refused medical and then stated that the traffic stop was racially motivated and he wished to file a complaint. The complainant states that he was picked out among thousands of drivers because he is black.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0176i

Received: 04/21/2021 Completed: 03/01/2022 (314)

Officers: white males Command: 2nd Precinct

Allegations:

Improper Police Action x4 UNSUBSTANTIATED x4

False Arrest x2 EXONERATED x2

Biased Policing x2 UNSUBSTANTIATED x2

Improper Police Action x2 UNFOUNDED x2

Improper Police Action EXONERATED

Illegal Search/Seizure UNFOUNDED

Summary: Complaint received via Notice of Claim Complainant alleges he was pulled over by an officer who is known in the community for profiling under false pretenses. Complainant alleges that after his arrest for DWI his vehicle and telephone were searched.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0192i

Received: 04/29/2021 Completed: 10/13/2022 (532)

Officers: white male Command: 3rd Precinct

Allegations:

Improper Police Action x2 UNFOUNDED x2

Unprofessional Language/Att UNSUBSTANTIATED

Biased Policing UNFOUNDED

False Arrest EXONERATED

Summary: Complainant called IAB and reported that an officer put a gun in his face, and pulled a recorder out while saying the complainant does heroin and coke and told the complainant that he was "going to put a bullet in your black head you n....."

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0193i

Received: 04/29/2021 Completed: 11/13/2021 (198)

Officers: white male Command: Highway Patrol Bureau

Allegations:

Biased Policing UNFOUNDED

Improper Police Action EXONERATED

Summary: Complainant called IAB to report that he was pulled over on the Long Island Expressway and issued a summons for an HOV buffer violation. Complainant stated that the officer was very professional but he believes the only reason he stopped him is because he is a black male. He further stated that he believes the police drive around "looking for black people" and when they see one they say, "oh look here's an easy one, we can get him".

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0209i

Received: 05/13/2021 Completed 03/24/2022 (315)

Officers: white males Command 2nd Precinct

Allegations:

Improper Police Action x2 EXONERATED x2

Biased Policing x2 UNFOUNDED x2

Summary: Complainant states he was pulled over by officer who questioned the legitimacy of his out-of-state plate. Complainant feels the real reason he was pulled over was because he is a black man driving a BMW. Complainant states 7 summons were issued including one for Improper Plates.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0251i

Received: 06/02/2021 Completed: 12/05/2022 (551)

Officers: white male Command: Highway Patrol Bureau

Allegations:

Biased Policing UNFOUNDED

Improper Police Action EXONERATED

Summary: Complainant states he feels he was pulled over because he is black, drives a nice car, and lives in a white neighborhood. The complainant states the police officer said he observed him smoking marijuana "joint" while driving but the complainant states he was smoking a cigar and it was raining out and it would not have been possible to tell if it was a joint or a cigar.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0236i

Received: 06/02/2021 Completed: 10/27/2022 (512)

Officers: white male, Latino male Command: Patrol Special Operations Team

Allegations:

Illegal Search/Seizure EXONERATED

Improper Police Action x2 UNSUBSTANTIATED x2

Biased Policing

UNSUBSTANTIATED

Summary: Complainant alleges she and her passenger were pulled over, questioned without probable cause.

Complainant: African-American female

Case #21-0259i

Received 06/16/2021

Completed: 03/10/2022 (267)

Officers: white male

Command: Highway Patrol Bureau

Allegations:

Improper Police Action

EXONERATED

Biased Policing

UNFOUNDED

Summary: Complainant alleges that he was not speeding and feels he was only stopped because he is black.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0273i

Received: 06/27/2021

Completed: 12/22/2022 (543)

Officers: Unknown

Command: Unknown

Allegations:

Biased Policing x3

UNFOUNDED

Excessive Force x2

EXONERATED

Unprofessional Lang/Att. x2

UNFOUNDED

Summary: Community activist reached out to make a complaint on behalf of a subject who allegedly was subjected to bias and excessive force by member(s) of the Suffolk County Police Dept.

Complainant: African-American female

Case #21-0275i

Received: 06/29/2021

Completed 12/27/2021 (181)

Officers: white males

Command Patrol Special Operations

Allegations:

Biased Policing x2	UNFOUNDED x2
Improper Police Action x2	EXONERATED x2

Summary: The complainant reports he was approached in the courthouse by two white, plain clothes officers who handcuffed him. The officers told him that he matched the description of a subject they were looking for with dreadlocks. Once the officers accurately identified the complainant they released him. Complainant believes he was racially profiled because he matched the description.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0280i

Received: 06/30/2021	Completed: 10/26/2021 (118)
Officers: white male	Command: Highway Patrol Bureau

Allegations:

Biased Policing	UNSUBSTANTIATED
Unprofessional Language/Att	UNSUBSTANTIATED
Improper Police Action	UNSUBSTANTIATED

Summary: The complainant telephoned IAB to report he received a ticket for speeding and not having his daughter in a child seat. The complainant states that although he paid for the tickets, he did not commit these offenses. Furthermore, the complainant said that when he began to talk Arabic to his daughter, the officer banged on his windshield and demanded that he speak English. The complainant believes the officer is a racist, and he received the tickets because of his ethnicity. The undersigned conducted the above telephone call with the assistance of the language line.

Complainant: Asian male

Case #21-0318i

Received: 07/23/2021	Completed: 08/15/2022 (388)
Officers: white male	Command: 2 nd Precinct

Allegations:

Improper Police Action:	EXONERATED
Biased Policing:	UNFOUNDED

Summary: The complainant alleges that he was racially profiled because the officer who stopped him had no right to and did so because he saw a person of color leaving a gas station. He believes this is a case of racial profiling and the officer had no right to stop him or issue him 6 vehicle and traffic citations.

Complainant: white, Native American and African-American

Case #21-0379i

Received: 09/01/2021 Completed: 10/27/2022 (421)
 Officers: white female Command: Precinct Detective Bureau

Allegations:

Biased Policing	UNFOUNDED
False Arrest	EXONERATED
Improper Police Action	UNSUBSTANTIATED
Unprofessional Language/Att	UNSUBSTANTIATED

Summary: The complainant alleged that he was falsely arrested on two separate occasions by the same officer. The complainant feels that he was arrested because the officer was either involved sexually with his ex-girlfriend or because he is a brown Muslim man. He alleges that he was wrongfully arrested for rape and burglary and the officer did not take him seriously when he stated that his ex-girlfriend somehow broke into his home while he was asleep and was able to overpower him because she is tall.

Complainant: Asian male

Case #21-0405i

Received: 09/16/2021 Completed: 03/08/2023 (538)
 Officers: Latino male Command: Precinct Detective Bureau

Allegations:

Biased Policing	UNFOUNDED
Improper Police Action	EXONERATED
Improper Police Action	UNFOUNDED

Summary: Complainant stated that on a date and time he could not recall, a detective pulled up next to his vehicle and displayed a gun. Complainant stated that he feared for his life so he

fled the scene in his vehicle and removed his Probation Post-Release ankle bracelet during the incident.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0412i

Received: 09/20/2021 Completed: 02/29/2023 (526)

Officers: Latino male, white male Command: 5th Precinct

Allegations:

Improper Police Action x2	EXONERATED
Unprofessional lang/att x2	UNSUBSTANTIATED
Biased Policing x2	UNSUBSTANTIATED
Policy/Procedure Violation x2	UNSUBSTANTIATED

Summary: Complainant, alleged that on 3/3/21 he and his passengers were stopped by two police officers in a hostile manner. Both officers used threatening tones and gestures throughout the stop and were disrespectful to the occupants of the vehicle. The officers were asked to maintain a respectful distance due to Covid and were not wearing masks. One officer stated " I'm giving you a summons for having a Dominican Flag!", and the officer did not explain the summonses.

Complainant: Latino male

Case #21-0438i

Received: 10/01/2021 Completed: 10/27/2022 (391)

Officers: white males Command: 2nd Precinct

Allegations:

Improper Police Action x2	EXONERATED
Biased Policing x2	UNFOUNDED

Summary: Complainant reports she was aggressively removed from a concert by a bouncer and injured. Outside the venue, she called 911 and the responding officer refused to investigate her assault allegation and requested a supervisor. The responding supervisor also failed to properly handle the assault. Complainant believes she may have been prejudiced against because she is a gay female.

Complainant: Gay female

Case #21-0458i

Received: 10/13/2021 Completed: 05/11/2022 (218)
 Officers: white male Command: Highway Patrol Bureau

Allegations:

Improper Police Action	EXONERATED
Biased Policing	UNSUBSTANTIATED
Improper Police Action	UNSUBSTANTIATED

Summary: Complainant states that he was stopped on the highway 10 months earlier and issued 6 Summonses. Complainant states that the stop may have been racially motivated because there is no other reason he should have been stopped. Overall, he felt the officers were unprofessional and that the tickets were petty in nature.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0473i

Received: 10/14/2021 Completed: 02/23/2023 (497)
 Officers: white male, Latina female Command: 2nd Precinct

Allegations:

Improper Police Action	UNSUBSTANTIATED
R&P violation	EXONERATED
Biased Policing	UNSUBSTANTIATED

Summary: Complainant, reports officers pulled him over and questioned him asking if he was smoking marijuana, whether the tint on the vehicle was legal, why he was in New York with a vehicle registered elsewhere and how long he would be in the state. After requesting license registration and insurance information he was issues 3 tickets after explaining that his wife was authorized for the tint due to suffering from migraines. Complainant also states the officer was not wearing a mask.

Complainant: African-American male

Case #21-0500i

Received: 11/04/2021 Completed: 10/28/2022 (358)

Officers: white male Command: 2nd Precinct

Allegations:

Biased Policing	UNSUBSTANTIATED
Unprofessional Language/Att	UNFOUNDED
Policy/Procedure	EXONERATED
Improper Police Action	UNSUBSTANTIATED

Summary: Complainant claims her husband was pulled over while driving in Huntington because they are a black family. Complainant states that the officer had an unprofessional attitude towards them.

Complainant: African-American female

Case #21-0531i

Received: 11/12/2021 Completed: 02/13/2023 (458)

Officers: white male Command: 2nd Precinct

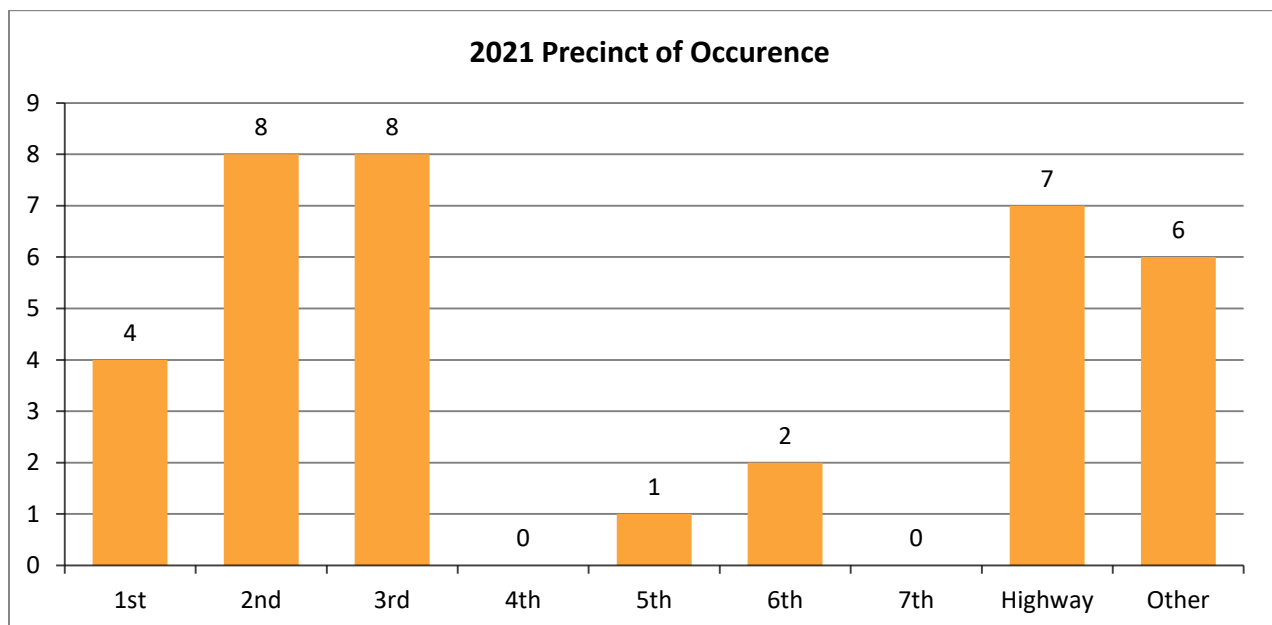
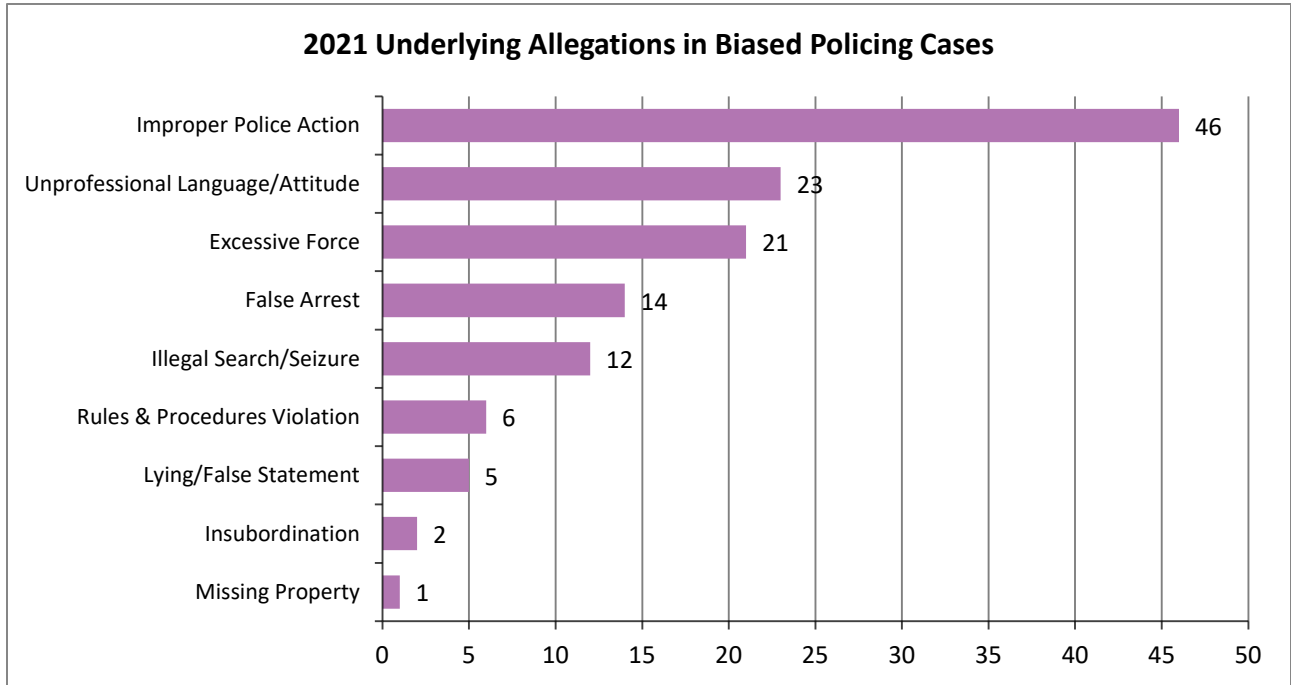
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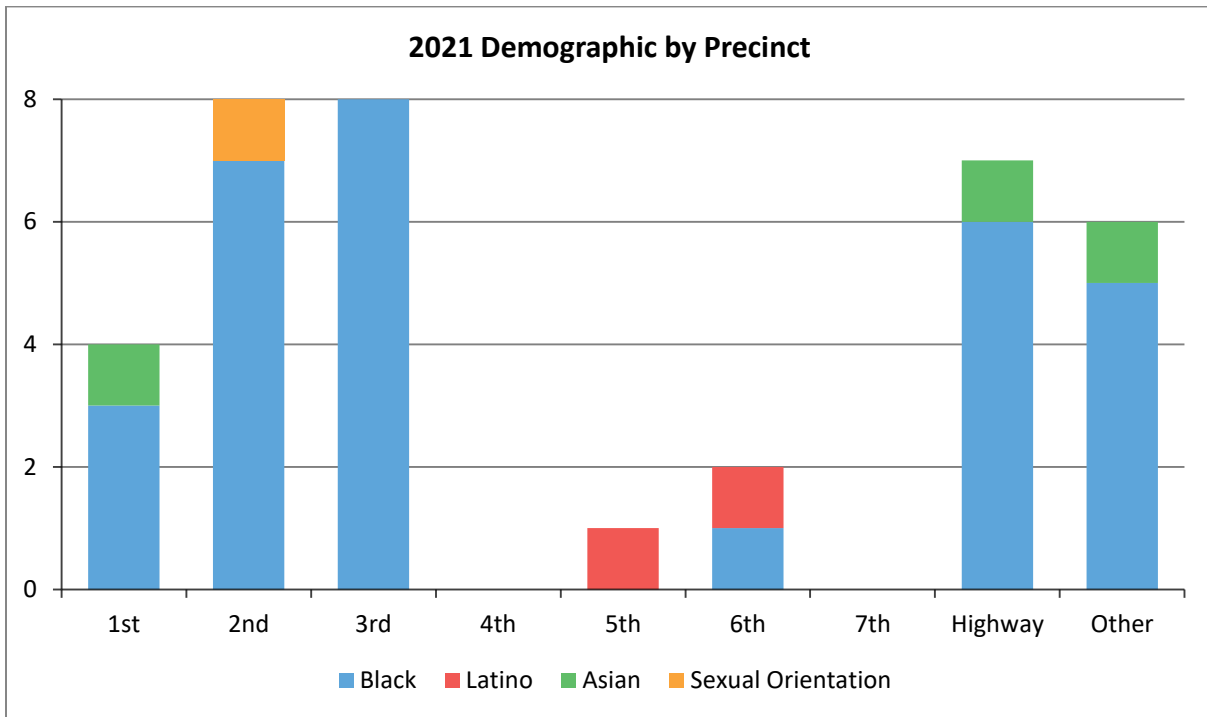
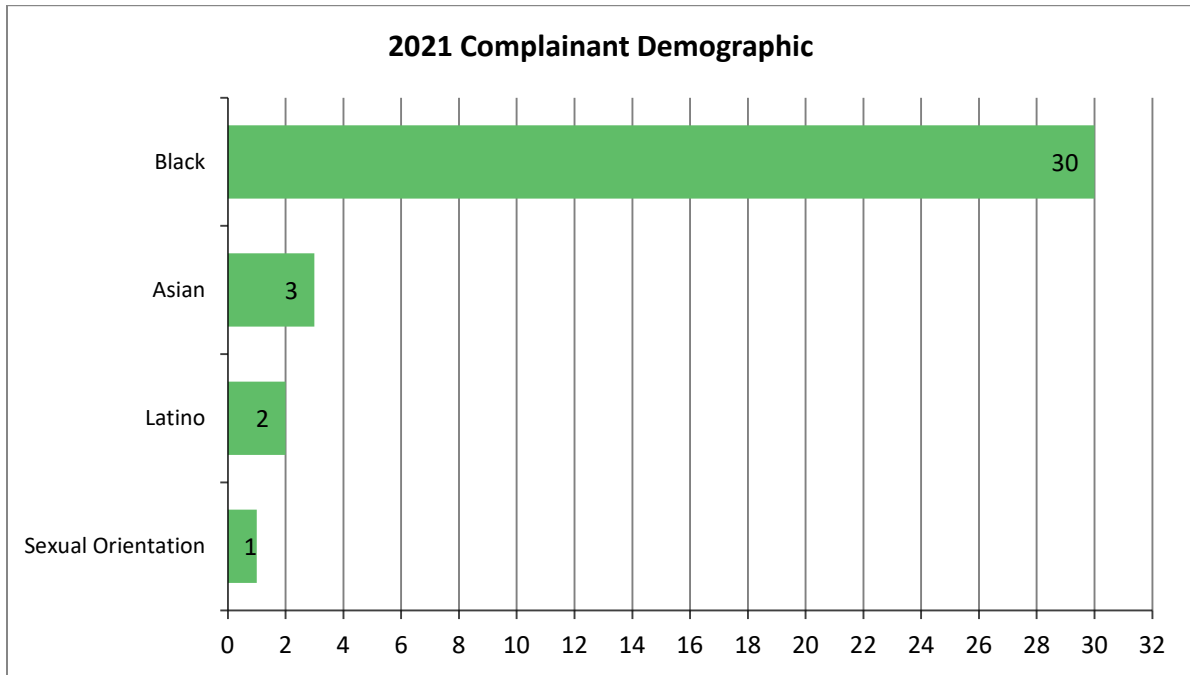
Biased Policing	UNFOUNDED
Improper Police Action	UNFOUNDED

Summary: Complainant reports via letter that SCPD members were ringing his doorbell when an incident was occurring next door. Complainant states the constant harassment is unbelievable and whites are given preferential treatment even if they are causing trouble. Complainant believes the SCPD is marred in racism and misconduct.

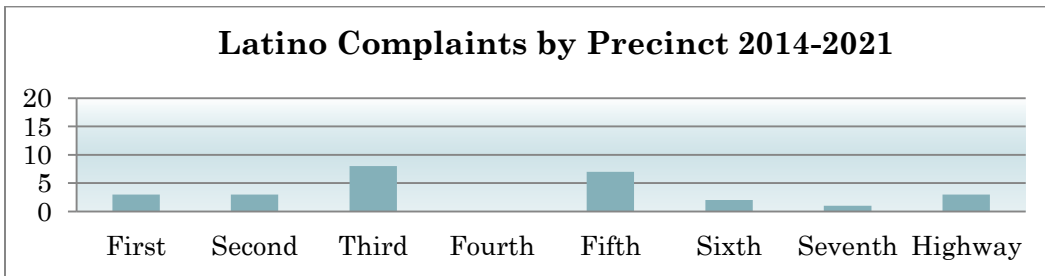
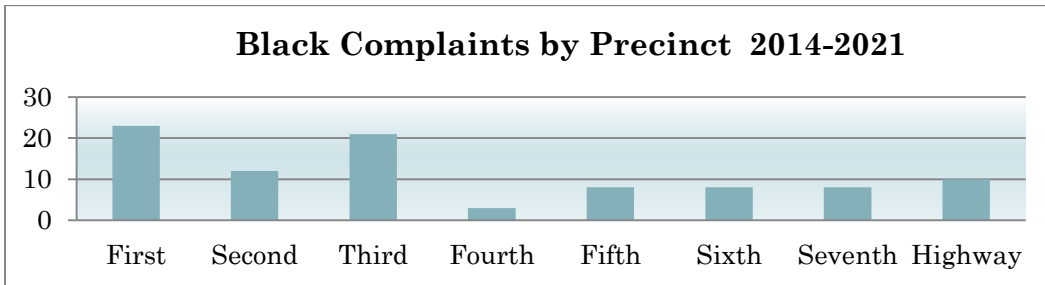
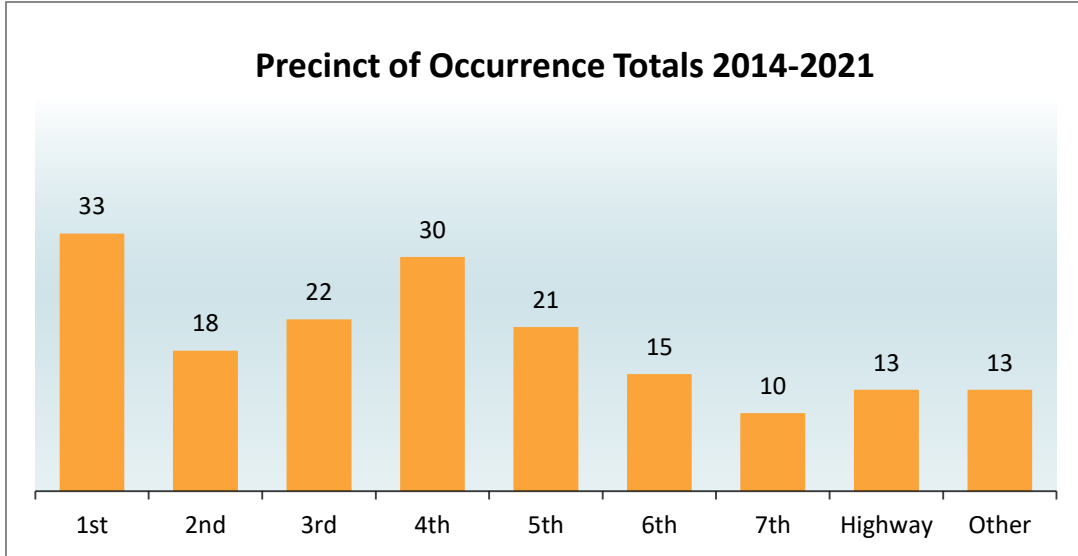
Complainant: African-American male

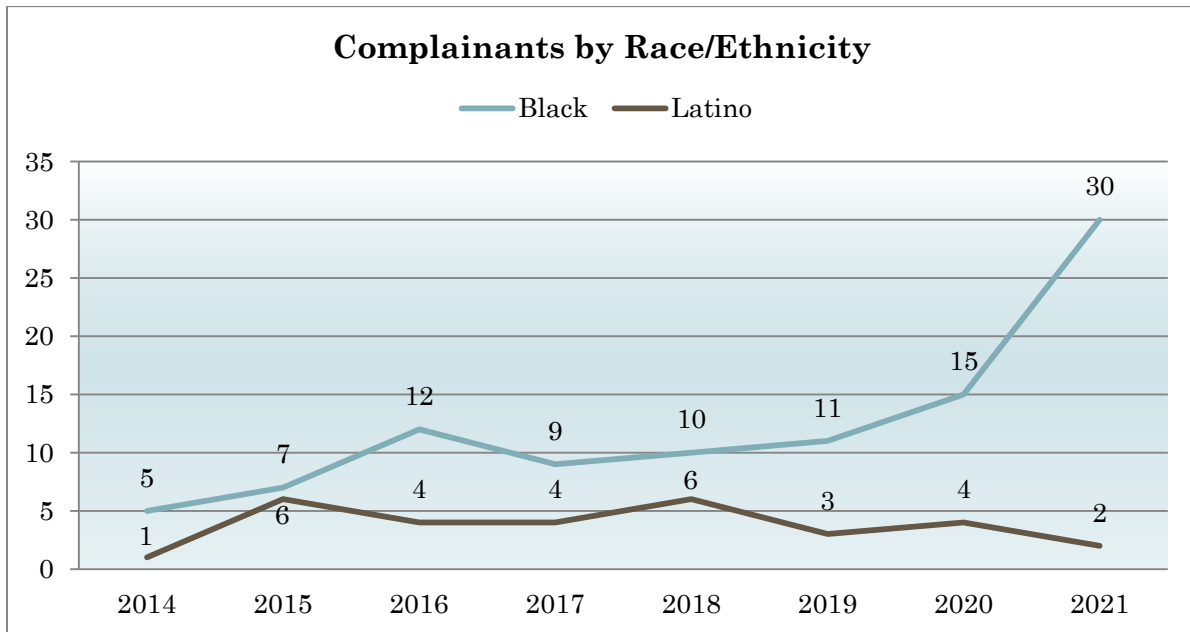
2021 Charts and Visualizations





Historic Data





Complainant Demographics by Year

