



Internal Affairs, Riverside Police Department

Community Police Review Commission

December 14, 2022

RPDonline.org

Internal Affairs Staff

(1) Lieutenant

(3) Sergeants

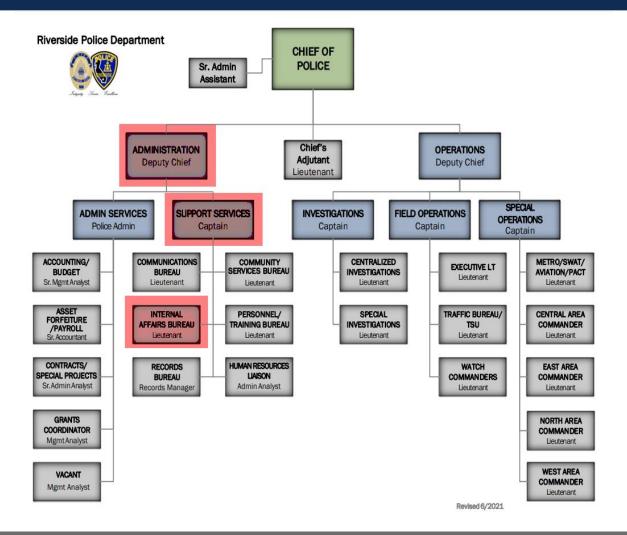
(2) Civilian Administrative Specialists







Command Structure







Responsibilities of Internal Affairs

- Review, track, and maintain copies of all external complaints and internal administrative investigations (approximately 70 investigations per year)
- Typically focus on more involved/sensitive investigations, especially those concerning criminal allegations, racism/discrimination, excessive force, or when significant discipline may be imposed.
 - Others are handled at the division level (usually simple investigations)
 - Bifurcation of criminal and administrative investigations
- Conduct administrative reviews of all Officer Involved Shootings (OIS)/Officer Involved Deaths (OID)
- Process claims and lawsuits
- Conduct audits
 - Complaint process, collection, storage and destruction of narcotics and firearms, and use of confidential funds







Responsibilities of Internal Affairs

- Review, track, and maintain files of all incidents requiring a Supervisor's Administrative Review (SAR)
 - Use of force
 - Vehicle pursuits
 - Property damage
 - Officer involved traffic collisions
 - K9 deployments
- Pitchess motions
 - Motions for discovery of a peace officer's personnel records
- Testify at arbitration hearings





File Retention Periods

- Supervisor Administrative Reviews are maintained for a minimum of two years
- All complaint investigations (regardless of the outcome or findings) are retained for a minimum of five years per 832.5 (b) PC
 - » SB16 will raise the minimum to 15 years in 2023 (for cases with sustained findings)
- These are minimums; they are often extended when civil litigation is initiated or anticipated







How Are Citizen Complaints Received?

- ✓ Via a citizen contact with a supervisor
- ✓ From our Department Website
- ✓ Complaint Forms are available in all stations
 - ✓ Lincoln, Magnolia & Orange
- ✓ Through Internal Affairs
- ✓ The Community Police Review Commission (CPRC)



✓ We even accept 3rd party and anonymous complaints.







Complaint Control Form

RIVERSIDE POLICE DE COMPLAINT CONTROI		Complaint File Nu lice Report/Cite Nu	ımber:
Location of Incident:		Date:	Time:
Received By:			
Subject Employee:			
Complainant:			
Address:	City:	State:	Zin Code:
Home Phone:	Business Phone:	State	Zip code
Business Address:			
Witness:			Race:
Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:
Home Phone:	Business Phone:		
Business Address:			
Witness:	Date of Birth:	Sex:	Race:
Address:			
Home Phone:			
Business Address:			
Complaint:			
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Personnel Complaints Defined

Per Department policy:

Personnel complaints consist of any **allegation** of misconduct or improper job performance against any Department employee that, if true, would constitute a violation of Department policy or federal, state, or local law.

- Complaints that originate from a member of the public are known as External Complaints. (PC's)
- Complaints that originate from another Department employee or from another government agency are <u>Internal Complaints</u>. (PA's)





External Complaints

External Complaints – from the public (PC's)

- > There is no time limit.
 - >Complaints are accepted years after the alleged misconduct
- ➤ Complaints that are against <u>sworn personnel</u> and filed within <u>six months</u> of the incident in question are forwarded to the CPRC





Internal Complaints

Internal Complaints come from within the Department (PA's).

- > Potential misconduct discovered by a supervisor or higher
- > Employee claims of a hostile work environment
- > Automatic on all OIS/OID cases, arrests of officers, etc.
 - > Cases involving an OID are forwarded to the CPRC.





Documentation and Routing

THE INVESTIGATION:

- > Internal Affairs (IA) receives a complaint as previously described
- The IA Lieutenant assigns the complaint to the subject employee's division or IA considering the complexity/sensitive nature of the investigation
- > The completed investigation goes through the Chain of Command for approval and then to employee's Division Commander for Memo of Finding





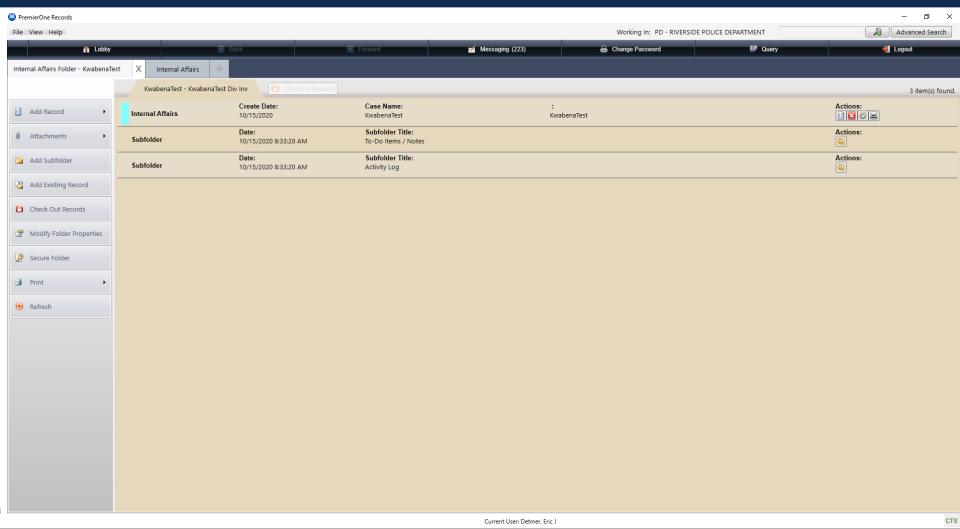
Documentation and Routing

- All Investigations are paperless in our Motorola, Premier One, Records Management System (RMS)
- All memos, forms, recordings, and videos are in one location
- All Body-Worn Camera/In-Car Video Camera Recordings are retained in WatchGuard under the case number
- Instant review by all upper-level Command Staff





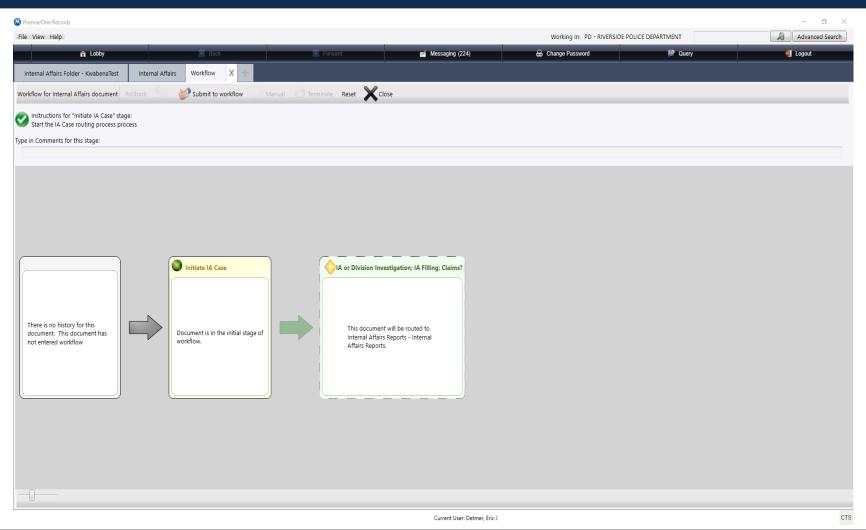
Records Management System (RMS)







Records Management System (RMS)







Documentation and Routing

THE MEMORANDUM OF FINDING (MOF):

- The approved investigation is assigned to the subject employee's Division Commander
- The assigned Division Commander determines the appropriate corrective action based on the facts of the investigation and prepares an MOF
- The MOF is then sent through the Chain of Command for approval
- Employee is served
- If corrective action is punitive, all appeal privileges are given





Goals of the Investigation

- Find the truth
- Clear the innocent of alleged misconduct
- Establish the fault of wrongdoers
- Facilitate prompt and just disciplinary action
 - As investigators, we do not recommend or impose discipline. Our role is to be independent fact finders and we are expected to be thorough and impartial. Generally, the subject employee's Division Commander determines the level of discipline.
- Uncover defective procedures and/or training issues.

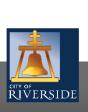






Investigative Steps

- All sources of information are reviewed
 - Reports (to include past reports unrelated to incident)
 - CAD records
 - Dispatch audio
 - Photos
 - Text messages
 - BWC video
 - In-car camera recordings
 - Other surveillance video footage
 - GPS records on patrol units
 - Other investigative materials available







Investigative Steps

- Statements are obtained
 - Complainant
 - Civilian witnesses
 - Witness officers
 - "Subject" officers
 - Interviewed within the parameters of the Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act (POBR, POBOR, POBRA)
- Comprehensive summary of facts

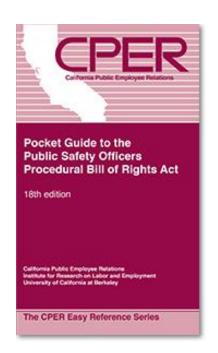






Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act

- Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act (POBR, POBOR, POBRA)
 - Government Code 3300-3313
 - Admonition of Rights Packet
 - Right to representation during interrogation
- Compelled statements
 - Miranda and Lybarger warnings
 - Required if it appears the officer may be charged with a criminal offense
 - Or, if the officer refuses to answer questions on the grounds that they may be self-incriminating







Disposition of Complaints

Division Commander classifies each allegation with a finding, determines the appropriate corrective action, and prepares a Memorandum of Finding.







Traditional Findings

Sustained

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

Not Sustained

When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the employee.

<u>Unfounded</u>

When the investigation discloses that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve Department personnel.





Traditional Findings

Exonerated

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

Misconduct Noted

The department member violated a policy or procedure not originally alleged in the complaint.





Non-Traditional Findings

Incomplete

A matter in which the complaining party either refuses to cooperate or becomes unavailable after diligent follow-up investigation. Depending on the seriousness of the complaint and the availability of sufficient information, incomplete matters may be further investigated.

<u>Previous Administrative Review</u>

A matter in which the actions of the employee(s) have been determined to be within policy in a previous Supervisor Administrative Review or other Administrative Investigation.

Other Judicial Review

This finding is intended to address complaints in which the matter has been handled, or would most appropriately be handled, by a judicial authority having jurisdiction over the matter.





Non-Traditional Findings

Inquiry

A matter in which the complaining party is merely requesting clarification of a policy or procedure, or the alleged misconduct or improper job performance, even if true, would not constitute a violation of law or Department policy or procedure.

Frivolous

Complaints that are totally and completely without merit, or which are made for the sole purpose of harassing a police employee.





After the Memo of Finding

- Community Police Review Commission (CPRC)
 - CPRC meets monthly to review external complaints (PC's) and determine independent findings
- If discipline is recommended, the employee is served with a "Notice of Intent" to discipline
 - Pre-disciplinary due process rights attach in cases where "property rights" are impacted (suspension, demotion, termination)
 - The employee can submit a rebuttal and/or request a Skelly hearing or accept the proposed discipline
- Skelly or Lubey hearings
 - Opportunity for the employee to be heard and challenge the facts or conclusions of the investigation
 - Discipline can then be upheld, overturned, or modified
- Notice of discipline (will reference outcome of Skelly hearing and any remaining grievance rights)
- Appeal and arbitration (arbitrator's decision is final)





Questions

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