

COUNCIL MEETING

5/6/24

Received Before Meeting

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PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL: REPORT AND UPDATE FROM INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR

May 6, 2024

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- IPA for the City of Palo Alto
- Semi-Annual Audit Reports re PAPD internal review systems
- Last Council appearance in October of 2023



Latest Semi-Annual Report: Cases from second half of 2023

- *One external complaint from 2023*
- *Two finalized cases from older incidents*
- *9 “Pointed Firearm” incidents*
- *Two “HR” internal complaints*



Pointed Firearm Incidents

- Highest total (9) of the three audit cycles for this protocol
 - Better “capture” in reporting and tracking
- All instances were evaluated and found to be consistent with training and policy
- Supervisory memos of varying thoroughness



2023 Complaint Case

- Unfounded “malicious driving” case
 - Evidence established no misconduct by transporting officer
 - Supplemental issues identified and addressed



HR Investigations

- *Two cases: (promotion process, discrimination)*
- *Outside third-party investigation conducted for each*
- *No findings of policy violations*



Internal Investigation re Arrest: Reporting and Procedure

- *Review of forced blood draw*
- *Clarification of ambiguity in law: PAPD training bulletin*
- *Other issues*



External Complaint Investigation: Arrest of Gustavo Alvarez

- Civil, criminal and administrative proceedings
- Misconduct by involved officers
- Shortcomings in PAPD issue-spotting and response
- 13 Recommendations across different aspects of officer performance, review protocols, and investigation standards

Alvarez Case: Key Recommendations

- Develop additional guardrails to detect unreported force
- Treating a claim as a complaint with a price tag attached
- Develop feedback loops for court findings relating to Constitutional violations
- Proceed with administrative investigations irrespective of pending litigation or criminal investigation
- Ensure supervisors feel empowered to review body worn camera footage as part of supervisory responsibility

Questions/Discussion



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