

City of Santa Rosa

Independent Police Auditor's Status Chart re Santa Rosa Police Department Complaint Cases

October 2023



Michael Gennaco
Stephen Connolly
Teresa Magula
Brian Corr

2023 SRPD Personnel Investigations: IPA monitoring as of 9-30-23

Allegation	Status	IPA Input	Other
Homeless woman alleged officer had triggered her PTSD during an encounter near her encampment.	Admin. investigation complete; investigator did due diligence but could not find a police contact that matched the woman's allegations.	Concur	
Homeless man complained about various aspects of SRPD conduct when he and his wife were arrested.	Admin. investigation complete; BWC showed the officers had been professional and followed protocol in post-arrest procedures	Concur with findings.	
SRPD opened a case after an officer negligently discharged a weapon downward that was being confiscated during a call for service (no injuries).	Complete; officer was found to have violated policy and conduct was formally addressed.		
Department initiated an investigation over concerns about the handling of a call for service, with a focus on officer decision-making and use of force.	Admin. investigation complete; violations of policy were identified. Final outcome pending.	Consulted with P.D. regarding resolution of sustained allegations; concur with outcome.	
Department identified concerns with officer's handling of a handcuffed detention.	Admin. investigation complete; violations of policy were identified. Final outcome pending.		
SRPD officer negligently discharged a less lethal weapon at the conclusion of a call for service. (No injuries.)	Complete; officer was found to have violated policy and conduct was formally addressed.		

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SRPD officer inadvertently damaged a gas pump after getting fuel for patrol vehicle.	Complete; officer was found to have violated policy and conduct was formally addressed.		
SRPD initiated the case after officer's data entry error caused the wrong person to be briefly taken into custody.	Officer asserted due diligence during administrative interview; records did not definitively establish negligence on the officer's part.	Concur with outcome.	SRPD has identified a related technological issue.
Complainant expressed various grievances over SRPD's response to her security concerns.	BWC showed officers had engaged professionally with complainant, who was extremely contentious.	Concur with outcome.	
Complainant challenged the legitimacy of a traffic stop (which had only resulted in a warning).	BWC showed officer had been appropriate and within his authority in conducting the stop.	Concur with outcome.	
Complainant alleged that traffic stop and citations were retaliatory, and that SRPD officers had harassed him during the encounter.	Complete, officers exonerated.	Concur with outcome.	
Complainant alleged that officers were wasting taxpayer money by leaving city limits while on duty.	Complete, officers exonerated. Records showed officers were in fact responding to a call on city owned property that was located in an adjoining jurisdiction.	Concur with outcome.	
Victim of stolen property alleged that follow-up by officers was insufficient and that his attempts to further the criminal investigation had been handled rudely and dismissively.	Review determined that handling had fallen short of expectations. Conduct was addressed by supervisor.	Concur with outcome.	
Officer was involved in a traffic collision; Department initiated a formal review.	Complete. Allegation was sustained and remedial measures were implemented.	Concur with outcome.	
Complainant alleged that officer response to an attempted break in lacked appropriate documentation and regard for victim safety.	Department determined that a report had been discretionary under the circumstances (and that no policy violations had occurred). An officer eventually did provide one at the complainant's request.	Concur with outcome. IPA asked for follow-up on additional aspects of officer response,	

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		which was done.	
SRPD officer inadvertently damaged a gas pump after getting fuel for patrol vehicle.	Complete; officer was found to have violated policy and conduct was formally addressed.		
Arrestee challenged several aspects of responding officers' behavior (including violation of Miranda rights and speeding during transport.)	Sergeant review complete; pending IPA review.		
Complainant accused a civilian volunteer of making a racially hostile comment in the context of a dispute over parking citations.	Department determined that the allegations were not sustained, based on lack of proof.	Concur. No body-worn camera for volunteer, and complainant's evidence was not conclusive.	
An unhousted individual questioned the legitimacy of an enforcement action against himself and another person, whose belongings were disposed of.	Pending.		
Third party witness questioned the necessity of officer actions during an arrest at a public park, which had included drawn weapons.	Complete; complaint was deemed unfounded based on body-worn camera recordings and dispatch information as to the alleged crime.	Concur. IPA also asked for further review of a subsequent use of force that was associated with the same incident (and unknown to complainant); SRPD conducted the requested follow-up.	
Complainant claimed that a responding SRPD officer had been	The officer's body-worn camera recording established that he	Concur with outcome.	

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wrong in "taking the side" of a car dealership when responding to a dispute over service for his vehicle.	had been professional and consistent with agency expectations in encouraging the man to leave the premises at the request of the manager.		
After several weeks had passed, a mother complained about the treatment of her six-year-old son during the period between her husband's arrest after a car stop and the son's release to a family member.	Body-worn camera recordings captured the entire half hour duration before a relative came to get the boy. It showed the officers making a good faith effort to reassure him and tend to his needs. Allegations exonerated.	Concur with outcome; requested follow-up review of one portion of the encounter, which was conducted.	
Third party alleged that SRPD sweep of an encampment, including disposal of property for approximately 15 people, had been improper.	Pending.		Complainant notified IPA of concerns.
Motorist challenged the legitimacy and accuracy of a traffic citation he received.	Investigation complete; IPA review pending.		
Third party submitted a detailed complaint alleging procedural flaws and improprieties in SRPD's handling of a homeless encampment sweep that affected approximately 10 people.	Complete. Allegations exonerated based on body-worn camera recordings and explanations of officer actions and decision-making.	Concur.	
Complainant alleged that two officers had grabbed her without justification and improperly confronted her during an encounter in public.	Pending.		Complainant also reached out to IPA

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Complainant emailed the Department to allege that an officer had been abrasive and threatening to her while she working at a convenience store.	Complete. SRPD successfully identified the officer and exonerated him after review of body-worn camera recording.	Concur with outcome after meeting with SRPD re the overall context of the encounter (which related to liquor sales at the store).	
Complainant was upset about the lack of apparent police response to multiple calls regarding illegal fireworks in his neighborhood.	Investigation complete; SRPD response was reasonable during a high-volume night of similar calls.	Concur.	
Complainant contacted SRPD with concerns in the aftermath of a minor collision with a Department patrol car.	Investigation complete, final outcome pending.	IPA participated in the administrative interview of the subject officer.	
A hearing-impaired individual felt he was treated insensitively at a Department-sponsored social event.	Complete. An interview with the complainant established the nature of his broader concerns, which did not allege specific misconduct.	Concur; Department provided explanation about its efforts at accommodation.	
Complainant alleged that two separate encounters with SRPD officers that occurred within hours (and several months ago) had been mishandled and improperly led to her arrest.	Complete. Officers were exonerated on the basis of body-worn camera recordings.	IPA requested additional investigation, which SRPD conducted. Concur with outcome.	Complainant also contacted IPA regarding her concerns.

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Complainant alleged that an SRPD officer had treated him unfairly and disrespectfully in the context of multiple calls for service at his home (where he had recurring disputes with a roommate).	Investigation complete, final review pending		
Third party alleged that officers had wrongfully harassed and detained a homeless individual.	Complete. Officers were exonerated based on body-worn camera recordings and other available evidence as to the incident.	Concur; complainant was not aware of the background of (and legal justification for) the stop.	
Complainant alleged dangerous driving behavior by an SRPD officer at a specific date and time.	Pending.		
Complainant accused responding SRPD officers of bias, excessive force, and false arrest when they took her into custody after a physical fight with a juvenile that occurred under disputed circumstances.	Investigation complete. Review of body-worn camera recordings showed officers gathering evidence objectively and making appropriate determinations about the incident.	Concur. IPA asked for secondary review of officers' "fault" determination . It was conducted.	
Complainant alleged inappropriate use of the carpool lane by an SRPD officer during morning commute hours.	Pending		
Complainant alleged that the Department was responsible for leaving repeated and unwarranted notices on her RV.	Pending		
Internal matter from SRPD management regarding a supervisor's ensuring of proper shift coverage.	Addressed through a documented counseling.		

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Internal matter generated by SRPD: supervisor was alleged to have improperly limited the police involvement in a call for service regarding a deceased person.	Investigation complete; final outcome pending.		
Complainant identified several concerns regarding a police encounter involving herself and an unhoused companion, which resulted in the lengthy detentions of both.	Pending.		
Complainant made numerous allegations of misconduct against SRPD officers (and other legal officials), dating back several years.	Pending	Complainant has corresponded with IPA; was referred to PD.	
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Attorney filed a complaint on behalf of his client, alleging that multiple "hate crimes" being perpetrated against her by neighborhood youth are not being addressed appropriately by SRPD.	Pending.		