

Richland County Sheriff's Department

2019 Internal Affairs Report on Complaints, Defensive Actions, Traffic Collisions, and Assaults on Richland County Deputies

Professional Standards

Internal Affairs Unit



Leon Lott

Sheriff

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MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

MISSION STATEMENT

It is our mission, as trusted public servants, to prevent crime and the fear of crime by providing excellence in law enforcement services, accountability, and connections with our communities.

CORE VALUES

Our mission is supported by our core values: “A passion for service, integrity, accountability, and professionalism”

2019 INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT AT A GLANCE

Richland County Demographic Profile: Our Community

According to the United States Census Bureau (2018), the 2018 Richland County population estimate was 414,576 people. The racial breakdown of the population is as follows: 48.2% black or African American, 45.9% white, and 2.9% Asian. The US Census Bureau reports that 5.2% of the population of Richland County is Hispanic; however, the U.S. Census Bureau does not calculate Hispanic as a mutually exclusive category within the definition of race. Additionally, the United States Census Bureau reports that 2.9% of the Richland County population is American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or two or more races. The 2018 population estimate reports that 21.4% of the Richland County population is under the age of eighteen and 12.7% of the population is over the age of sixty-five. Furthermore, the 2018 population estimate for Richland County reports that 51.7% of the population is female.¹

Richland County Sheriff's Department Demographic Profile: Our Employees

As of November 14, 2019, the Richland County Sheriff's Department employed 602 sworn deputies. Of these deputies, 459 are male and 143 are female. In addition, the Richland County Sheriff's Department employees 136 civilian employees. Eighty-eight civilian employees are female and 48 are male.

Richland County Sheriff's Department Statistics: Our Workload

In CY 2019, 156,895 calls for service were received by the Richland County Sheriff's Department. This represents an increase of 5.47% over the calls for service received in CY 2018.²

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2018, July 1). *State & County QuickFacts: Richland County, South Carolina*. Retrieved January 17, 2020 from

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/richlandcountysouthcarolina.US/PST045219#qf-flag-NA>

²A total of 148,751 calls for service were received by the Richland County Sheriff's Department in CY2018.

INTRODUCTION

All of us have witnessed the detrimental effects controversial police actions have had on relationships between law enforcement agencies and various communities throughout the country. We understand that every interaction a Richland County Sheriff's Department Deputy has with a citizen, whether through an enforcement action or community engagement, is an opportunity to build trust and enhance the reputation of the sheriff's department and increase citizen satisfaction with the services we provide.

The citizens of Richland County expect and deserve the utmost professionalism from Richland County Sheriff's Department. To ensure Department employees are demonstrating exemplary conduct in interactions with the community as well as their coworkers, the Department is committed to an internal affairs process that handles complaints of officer conduct and investigates use of force incidents in a fair, consistent and transparent manner.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT

We are proud to be part of an organization that places a high value on integrity and community trust. The Internal Affairs Unit is charged with ensuring the level of trust and confidence the community has in its sheriff's department is safeguarded and that our agency remains deserving of that trust. We also ensure the rights of our employees are protected and all persons involved in an inquiry are treated with dignity and respect.

RCSD realizes that some misconduct allegations can generate significant community concern. Internal Affairs Investigators are assigned to investigate such allegations thoroughly so that commanders overseeing case reviews can make informed, unbiased decisions regarding complaint dispositions. Internal Affairs presents the information gathered during an investigation to employee commanders in what is called a Command Disciplinary Review Committee. Internal Affairs staff assumes no active role in determining the final adjudication of any alleged violation. That responsibility is reserved for the Command Disciplinary Review Committee and, ultimately, the Sheriff. Internal Affairs also represents the department and the Sheriff when a case disposition is appealed to one of the community oversight boards.

The men and women who are assigned to the Internal Affairs Unit take their responsibilities seriously and are dedicated to the unit's mission. The sergeants that comprise the unit's investigators have superior investigative skills; have the ability to communicate effectively with the public, and their commitment to both the department and the community we serve.

The Internal Affairs staff of two sergeants, led by a lieutenant and a deputy chief, is always willing to assist the public in addressing their concerns.

Please feel free to contact any unit member with any questions or concerns you may have. To learn more please visit www.rcsd.net.

The Internal Affairs Staff:

Deputy Chief Sam Berkheimer

Lieutenant Albert (Mac) McLendon

Master Sergeant Eleanor "Squeak" Savage



FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT

The Internal Affairs Unit performs several critical functions to help the RCSD reach its goals:

➤ **Protection of the Public:**

The public has the right to expect efficient, fair, and impartial law enforcement; therefore, any allegation of misconduct by department personnel must be investigated and properly addressed to ensure the maintenance of these qualities.

➤ **Protection of the Employee:**

Employees must be protected against false allegations of misconduct. Although being the subject of an investigation may be unpleasant or uncomfortable, the best protection for an employee is a complete and thorough investigation conducted in a timely manner that clearly and unequivocally supports the employee's honesty and integrity if that is indeed the case.

➤ **Protection of the Department:**

The department often is evaluated and judged by the actions of its individual members. It is imperative that the entire organization not be subjected to public censure because of the misconduct of one member. When the public is confident that the department honestly and fairly investigates and addresses all allegations against its members, it is less likely that citizens will raise a cry of indignation over alleged incidents of misconduct.

➤ **Removal of Unfit Personnel:**

Personnel who engage in serious acts of misconduct or who have demonstrated that they are unfit to handle law enforcement responsibilities must be removed from the department for the protection of the public, fellow employees, and the department.

➤ **Correction of Procedural Problems:**

The department constantly seeks to improve its efficiency and the quality of its personnel. Occasionally, investigations by Internal Affairs disclose faulty procedures that otherwise may have gone unnoticed.

COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT

Sheriff's Department-community partnerships are critical for improving the quality of life in our community by preventing and addressing crime. These partnerships rely on community's trust, which is why the RCSD welcomes community oversight and strives to be transparent in its disciplinary process. RCSD works with three different organizations that provide oversight of issues brought to the Internal Affairs Unit: the Command Disciplinary Review Committee, and the Citizens Advisory Council.

Citizens Advisory Council

The Richland County Sheriff's Department community-based council, the Citizens Advisory Council, was formed in an effort to increase the department's professional competence and accountability to the citizens of Richland County. Members review and comment on citizen complaints, disciplinary actions taken against deputies and/or employees, and internal policies and procedures, and then provide the Sheriff with an objective viewpoint.

The Citizens' Advisory Council convenes approximately four (4) times a year or as requested by the Sheriff or his designee.

➤ **Duties of the council:**

1. Review citizens' complaints against deputies and/or employees of the Sheriff's Department.
2. Review disciplinary actions against deputies and/or employees of the Sheriff's Department.
3. Review internal policies and procedures of the Sheriff's Department. The Citizens' Advisory Council will then examine each case to determine if they feel the department's actions are justified or unjustified. If the Citizens' Advisory Council determines the department's actions are unjustified, then Internal Affairs will be requested to revisit the case.

The Citizens' Advisory Council is comprised of a diverse cross-section of Richland County residents, to include; ministers, retired military veterans, and community leaders. Members are basis for appointed by the Sheriff and serve at his discretion. Service on the council is on a voluntary basis for an indeterminate period of time.

MAKING A COMPLAINT

Complaints against employees of the Richland County Sheriff's Department can be submitted in a variety of ways:

- **Online:** Visit RCSD's website at www.rcsd.net, and select "Officer Complaints" to complete the "Employee Complaints" form.
- **In person:** Request to speak to the employee's supervisor at any time, or file your written complaint at the Richland County Sheriff's Department headquarters located at 5623 Two Notch Road, Columbia, South Carolina. You can also visit any region office and ask to speak to a supervisor.
- **Email:** Send an email to sberkheimer@rcsd.net.
- **Phone:** Call the Internal Affairs Unit at (803) 576-3000 or (803) 576-3026.

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

The Richland County Sheriff's Department has a responsibility to prevent unethical and improper conduct among our employees, and to give them the very best preparation to make sound, appropriate, and responsible decisions.

RCSD has Standard Operating Policy and Procedures that establish policies for topics ranging from Use of Force to Towing Vehicles; however, to make internal discipline matters clearer, RCSD employees also have Rules of Conduct that must be followed. These rules cover the broader categories of behavior and performance expectations to which we hold all employees accountable. Additionally, the RCSD utilizes the Axon in-car and body worn camera systems to capture the activities of our personnel when interacting with the public in an official capacity.

We recognize that despite our best efforts, there will be times when citizens, fellow employees or supervisors perceive an employee's behavior to be inappropriate. When this occurs, staff uses a well-established process for receiving, investigating, and adjudicating complaints. Complaints regarding employee conduct are classified as either internal or external

The RCSD disciplinary process mandates the adjudication of complaint allegations by a supervisory chain of command. Internal Affairs Unit personnel serve to advise the chain of command on the investigation and disciplinary process, but do not participate in determination of the final disposition. There are four outcomes to which a complaint allegation can be adjudicated based on evidence of the alleged behavior and an evaluation of the appropriateness of the employee's behavior: sustained, not sustained, exonerated, and unfounded.

If an allegation is sustained by the Command Disciplinary Review Committee, the Committee will discuss and impose a corrective action consistent with the department's disciplinary philosophy. Internal Affairs reviews every internal investigation for consistency with the disciplinary policy and philosophy, and works with the committee to resolve any inconsistencies.

Upon disposition of a complaint allegation, Internal Affairs sends a letter to the complainant to advise them that their complaint has been thoroughly investigated and resolved. RCSD makes every effort to investigate and adjudicate all complaint allegations within a reasonable amount of time a complaint is made. However, there are circumstances, including case complexity and witness availability, which prevent this goal from being achieved in every instance.

- *Exonerated:* The acts that provided the basis for the complaint or allegation occurred, but the investigation revealed that they were justified, lawful and proper.

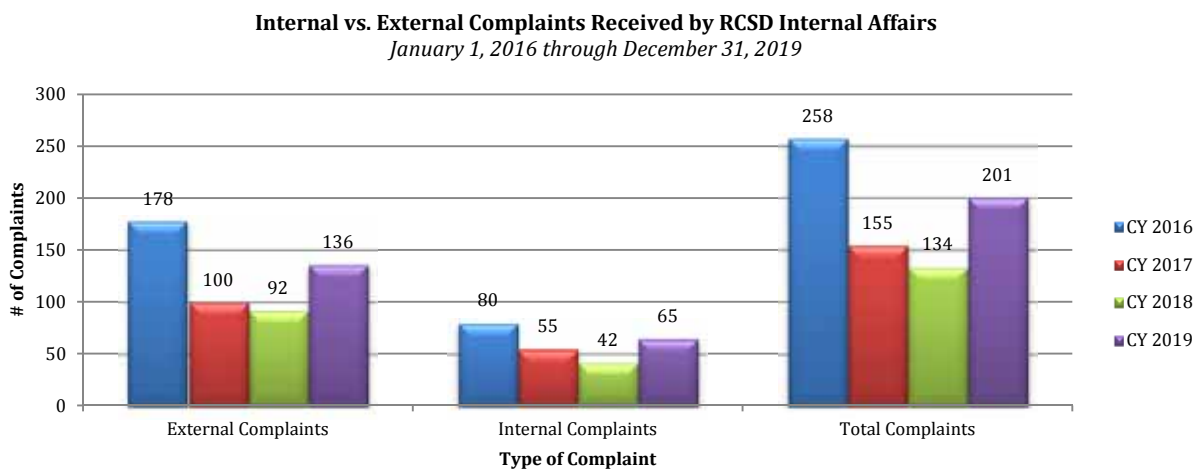
- *Sustained*: The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to prove the allegation made in the complaint.
- *Not Sustained*: The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to prove or disprove the allegation made in the complaint.
- *Unfounded*: The allegation is false. The incident never occurred or the employee was not involved in the incident, or the investigation conclusively proved that the employee's alleged act or actions never took place.

COMPLAINTS AND DISPOSITIONS

January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019

The Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit evaluated 201 complaints during CY2019. Of these complaints, 136 were external complaints while 65 of the complaints evaluated by Internal Affairs were internal complaints. (Figure 1) For comparison, the number of internal and external complaints by year since January 1, 2016 are included in the below chart.

Figure 1: Complaints received by the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit: January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2019. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



Complaints evaluated by the RCSD Internal Affairs Unit cover a variety of policy violations. During CY2019, the majority of the complaints evaluated by the RCSD Internal Affairs Unit stemmed from allegations of a violation of the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Policy

- 105, II (F) (14) (Careless/Improper Work Performance) (37.81%)³
- 105, II (F) (18) (Inattention to or Dereliction of Duty) (9.45%).

A complete table with complaints broken down by policy violation and year (since January 1, 2016) is included on page 13 (Table 1).

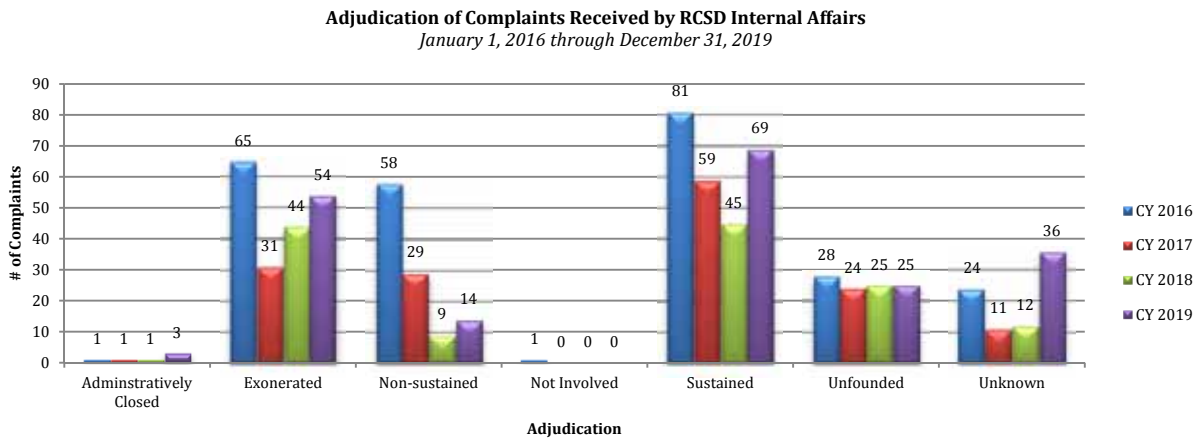
³ Totals throughout this document may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 1: Complaints by allegation type (policy violation). (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)

Policy Violation	External Complaints				Internal Complaints				Total
	CY 2016	CY 2017	CY 2018	CY 2019	CY 2016	CY 2017	CY 2018	CY 2019	
105 II (C) - Obedience to Laws, Ordinances, Rules	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	5
105 II (F) - Information Policy	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
105 II (F) - Rules of Conduct	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
105 II (F) (1) - Insubordination, act that discredits/jeopardized the effective functioning of the service.	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	5
105 II (F) (11) - Disclosing confidential information to unauthorized persons.	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
105 II (F) (12) - Conduct detrimental to operations of the department.	12	6	6	7	18	12	7	6	74
105 II (F) (13) - Unauthorized leaving assigned area	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	6
105 II (F) (14) - Careless/improper work performance.	81	45	62	72	4	9	2	4	279
105 II (F) (17) - Failure to supervise.	0	0	0	0	9	1	2	0	12
105 II (F) (18) - Inattention to or dereliction of duty.	8	6	1	1	15	6	5	18	60
105 II (F) (2) - Abusive/Threatening language to citizens or co-workers, racial/ethnic jokes, slurs or profanity.	5	1	3	0	1	6	2	4	22
105 II (F) (3) - Rudeness	32	19	11	11	2	1	0	1	77
105 II (F) (7) - Any form of dishonesty.	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	2	7
105 II (F) (9) - Falsification of department records.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
105 II (H) - Failure to perform duty	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	7	11
105 II (K) - Subject control / Defensive Action	5	1	2	4	1	2	0	1	16
105 II (M) - Use of alcohol	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
105 II (O) - Use of tobacco	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	6
105 II (P) - Care of Equipment, Uniform and Property	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	7
105 II (S) - Special Duty Assignment violation	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
107 Harassment / Discrimination	4	4	0	4	1	3	0	3	19
1600 - Use of Body Worn Camera	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
402 II (6)((4) Internet Social Media Policy	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
403 Equipment Issue, Use and Maintenance	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
403 II (I) - Failure to inspect videotape prior to beginning shift.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
603-C Use of Taser	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
702 II (A) (1) (c) (4) (b) (8) - Engage in high speed pursuit for minor traffic violation.	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
703 I - Dept. vehicles will be operated in a safe manner at all times.	6	9	2	4	0	0	2	0	23
703 Operation of Vehicles	1	1	2	5	2	0	1	2	14
714 I (D) - Property/Evidence improperly disposed of.	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	5
901 II (A) (2) (g) - Failure to thoroughly investigate an incident	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	4
Defensive Action	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
False Arrest	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Harassment	4	1	0	0	4	2	0	2	13
Profiling	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pursuit Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Search Warrants	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
(blank)	12	5	3	15	9	3	3	1	51
Total	178	100	92	136	80	55	42	65	748

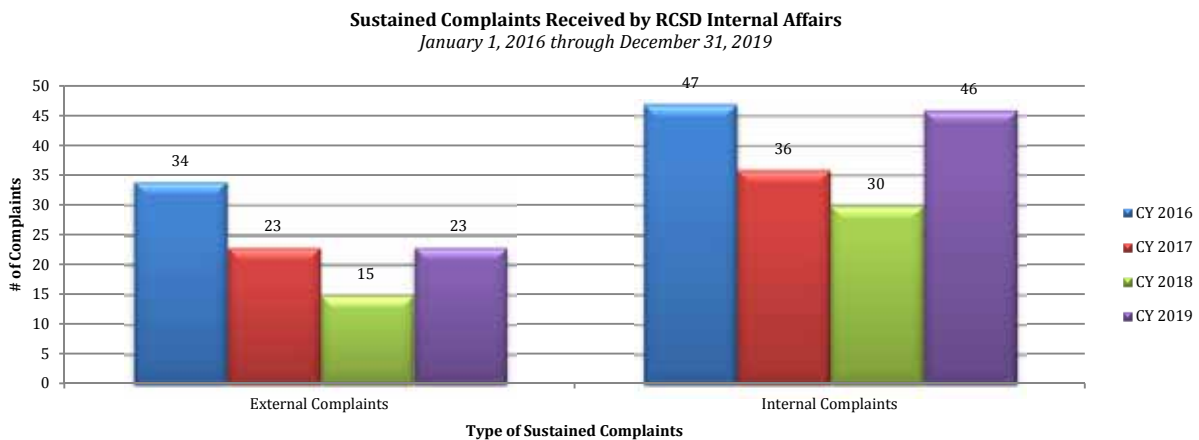
Complaints received by Internal Affairs are adjudicated in one of the following ways: administratively closed, exonerated, non-sustained, not involved, sustained, or unfounded. In CY2019, three complaints were administratively closed, 54 complaints were exonerated, 14 complaints were non-sustained, zero (0) complaints were not involved, 69 complaints were sustained, 25 complaints were unfounded, and 36 complaints do not currently have an adjudication.

Figure 2: Adjudication of complaints received by the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



Of the 201 complaints received by the RCSD Internal Affairs Unit in CY2019, 69 were **sustained** at the conclusion of the Internal Affairs investigation. Of these sustained complaints, 23 were external complaints and 46 were internal complaints. (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Sustained complaints received by the RCSD Internal Affairs Unit. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



Various actions are taken when a complaint against an employee is sustained through an Internal Affairs investigation. Actions can range from no action taken to termination. In CY2019, sustained complaints resulted in 22 written reprimands, 14 training initiatives, 6

verbal reprimands, and 0 employees being placed on probation. In addition, 7 employees were terminated following sustained Internal Affairs investigations. (Table 2)

Table 2: Action taken on sustained complaints received by the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit. *(Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)**

Action	CY 2016	CY 2017	CY 2018	CY 2019	Total
EBD	2	0	0	0	2
Loss of Vehicle 30 Days	2	0	0	0	2
No Action Taken	2	0	2	1	5
Probation	8	8	0	0	16
See Action Taken Notes	8	7	10	9	34
Suspension	6	5	0	2	13
Termination	8	7	5	7	27
Training Initiative	20	10	12	14	56
Verbal Reprimand	5	13	9	6	33
Written Reprimand	16	5	5	22	48
Unknown or Other	4	4	2	8	18
Total	81	59	45	69	254

Of the complaints received by Internal Affairs in CY2019, 59.70% were brought against deputies assigned to Regions 1 through 8 at the time of the complaint. The highest numbers of complaints were against Region 4 deputies (13.43%), Region 3 deputies (11.44%), and School Resource Officers (8.96%). A complete table with the number of complaints by division and year is included in Table 3.

Table 3: Complaints by division of deputy's assignment at the time of the complaint.
(Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)

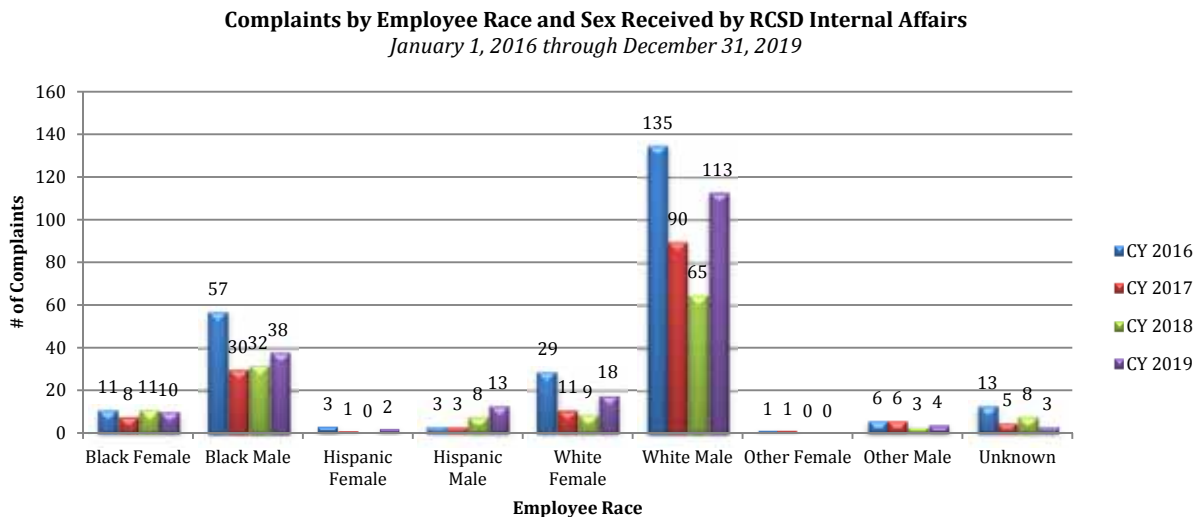
Division	CY 2016	CY 2017	CY 2018	CY 2019	Total
Administration	3	1	0	1	5
CAT Team	5	8	6	6	25
Civil Process	8	5	6	5	24
Code Enforcement	5	0	0	2	7
Community Services	1	0	3	0	4
Desk	8	7	14	14	43
Evidence	5	0	0	0	5
Fugitive Task Force	2	0	0	0	2
Gang Task Force	1	0	4	0	5
Investigations	22	8	5	3	38
K-9	9	4	1	6	20
Lab	3	1	0	2	6
Narcotics	1	5	0	1	7
PIO	0	1	0	1	2
Posse	0	0	1	0	1
Professional Standards	1	2	3	0	6
Region 1	18	9	8	14	49
Region 2	31	12	12	16	71
Region 3	20	9	9	23	61
Region 4	22	15	5	27	69
Region 5	6	6	2	7	21
Region 6	19	10	13	16	58
Region 7	12	14	7	8	41
Region 8	2	9	7	9	27
School Resource	20	12	10	18	60
Special Projects	0	0	0	1	1
Special Response Team (SRT)	1	7	0	0	8
Special Teams	1	0	0	0	1
Traffic	9	2	5	4	20
Training	6	2	6	10	24
Victims Assistance	2	0	1	3	6
Warrants	0	0	0	1	1
Youth Services	2	1	0	0	3
Other/Unknown	13	5	8	3	29
Total	258	155	136	201	750

During CY2019, 14.92% of the complaints made against RCSD personnel were made against female employees while 83.58% of the complaints were made against male employees. As of December 31, 2019 RCSD Personnel Staff report that 31.30% of the employees at the Richland County Sheriff's Department are female and 68.70% are male. A breakdown of the number and percent of complaints by race and sex of the employee and the race and sex of employees of the RCSD is found in Table 4 and Figure 4.

Table 4: Complaints received by the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit by race and sex of employee between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs and RCSD Personnel Staff)

Race and Sex of Employee	# of Complaints	% of Complaints
Black Female	10	4.98%
Black Male	38	18.91%
Hispanic Female	2	1.00%
Hispanic Male	13	6.47%
White Female	18	8.96%
White Male	113	56.22%
Other Female	0	0.00%
Other Male	4	1.99%
Unknown	3	1.49%
Total	201	100.00%

Figure 4: Complaints received by the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit by race and sex of employee. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



DEFENSIVE ACTION REPORTS

January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019

Between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019, the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit received 412 defensive action reports. A Richland County deputy aimed his or her Taser at a subject 89 times and fired his or her Taser at a suspect 39 in CY2019. (Figure 5) In addition, there were 251 instances where the deputy's firearm was aimed at the suspect and 3 instances where a firearm was fired at an individual in CY2019.⁴ (Figure 6) *Note: More than one defensive action type may be associated with one incident, thus the number of incidents where any defensive action was used may not equal the number of defensive action reports nor will it necessarily equal the number of subjects and/or employees involved in those incidents. In some of the incidents where a deputy pointed his or her weapon it was to conduct a search warrant.*

Figure 5: Defensive actions involving a Taser. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)

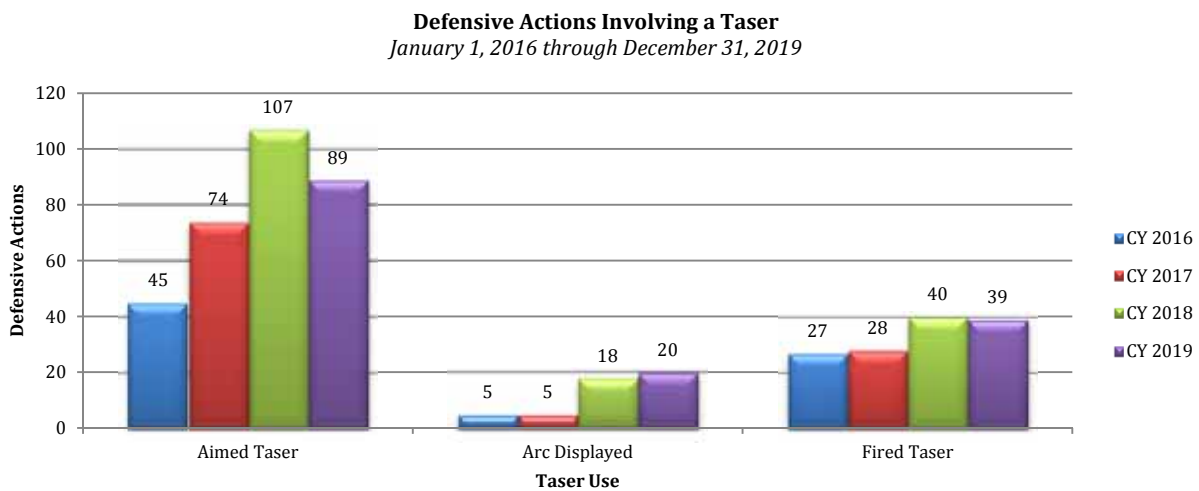


Figure 6: Defensive actions involving a firearm. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



⁴Beginning in CY2019, only incidents involving a deputy's firing of a handgun at an individual are included. Accidental discharges, shooting injured animals to relieve them of pain and suffering, etc. are not included.

In CY2019, males accounted for 81.97% of the suspects and 88.47% of the employees involved in defensive action reports received by the RCSD Internal Affairs Unit. A complete breakdown of suspects and employees involved in defensive action reports can be found in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5: Race and sex of suspects involved in defensive action reports. *(Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)*

Incident Date	Asian		Black		Hispanic		White		Other		Unkn wn	Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male		
CY 2016	0	0	24	144	0	3	6	32	0	0	48	257
CY 2017	0	0	36	235	0	3	11	39	0	0	24	348
CY 2018	0	1	51	309	0	2	12	56	0	1	55	487
CY 2019	1	0	38	332	1	5	11	54	0	0	35	477
Total	1	1	149	1020	1	13	40	181	0	1	167	1574

Table 6: Race and sex of employees involved in defensive action reports. *(Source: RCSD Internal Affairs Unit)*

Incident Date	Asian		Black		Hispanic		White		Other		Unkn wn	Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male		
CY 2016	0	1	0	25	0	6	23	200	0	11	7	273
CY 2017	0	1	7	44	1	22	28	304	1	9	1	418
CY 2018	0	3	16	65	0	11	33	395	1	15	12	551
CY 2019	0	0	10	81	5	25	46	388	0	20	6	581
Total	0	5	33	215	6	64	131	1291	2	55	26	1828

VEHICLE PURSUITS

January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019

Richland County deputies were involved in 160 vehicle pursuits in CY2019. There were 168 suspects and 174 deputies involved in these vehicle pursuits. Of the suspects involved in these vehicle pursuits, 61.90% were black males (Figure 7). Additionally, 69.54% of the deputies involved in these vehicle pursuits were white males (Figure 8).

**NOTE: more than one suspect and/or deputy may be associated with a single pursuit. For this reason, the number of suspects involved (168) and the number of deputies involved (174) may not equal the number of actual pursuits that occurred in a given year (160 pursuits in CY2019).*

Figure 7: Race and sex of suspects involved in vehicle pursuits. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)

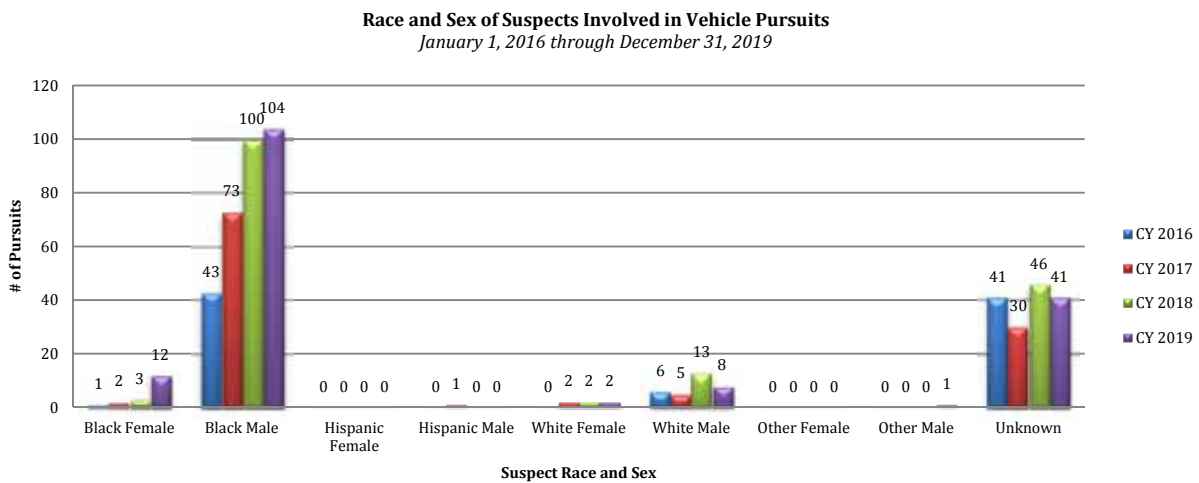
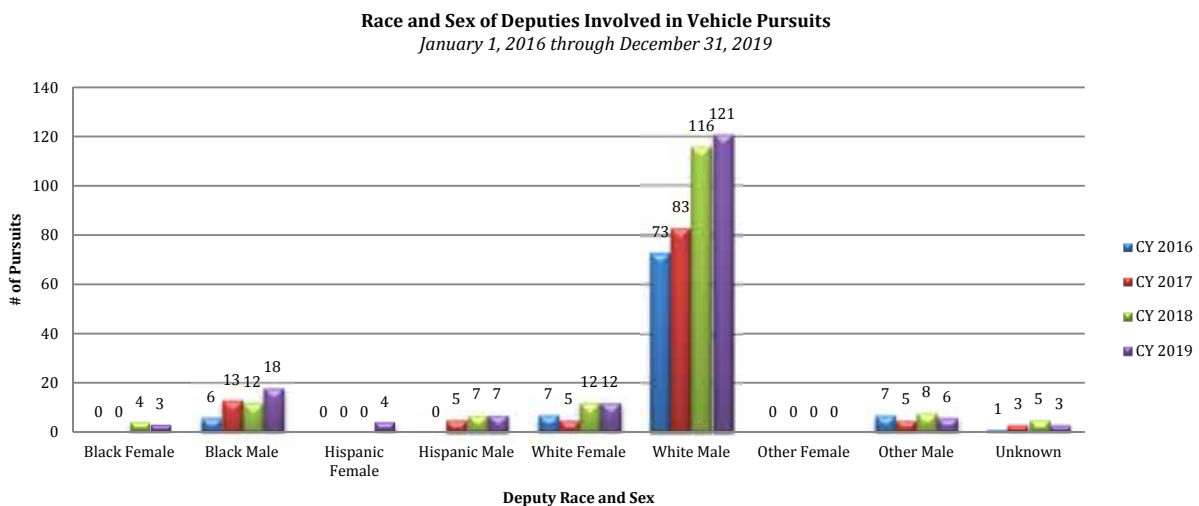
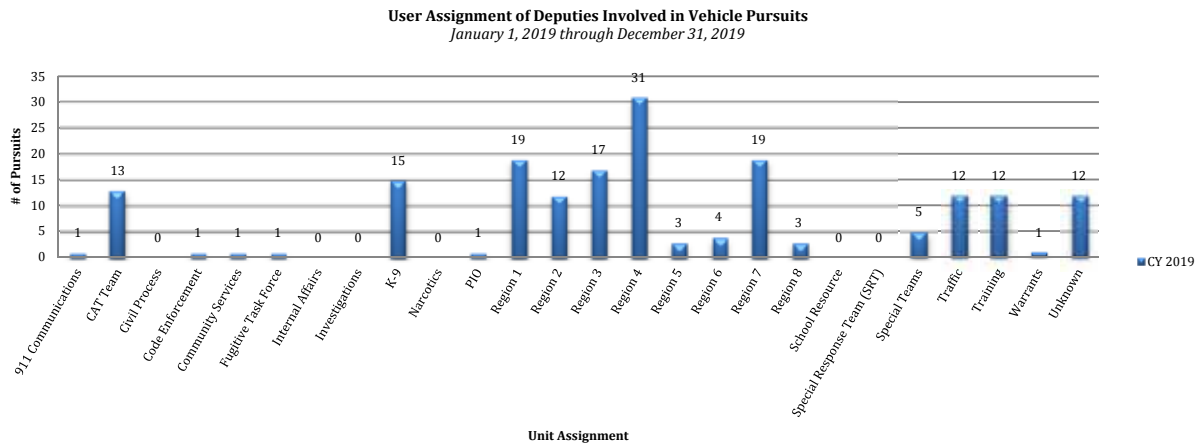


Figure 8: Race and sex of deputies involved in vehicle pursuits. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



Deputies from various divisions within the Sheriff's Department are involved in vehicle pursuits. Between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019, Region 4 deputies were involved in the most pursuits (31) when compared to other units within the department. Deputies assigned to the Community Action Team, K-9, Region 1, Region 2, Region 3, Region 4, Region 7 the Traffic Safety Unit and the Field Training Unit were involved in 10 or more vehicle pursuits (per division) during this time.

Figure 9: Unit assignment of employees involved in vehicle pursuits. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)

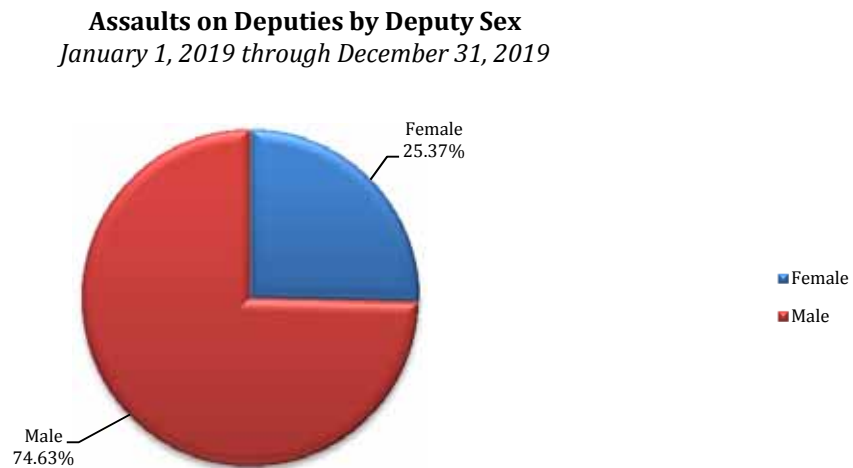


ASSAULTS ON DEPUTIES

January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019

Between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019, sixty seven assaults on Richland County deputies were reported. Of the deputies assaulted, 74.62% (50) were males and 25.37% (17) were females. Assaults against deputies include the suspect using his or her body as a weapon against the deputy by hitting, pushing, choking, charging, or biting the deputy, as well as assaults that included the suspect using bodily fluids or a vehicle against the deputy, verbal threats, and taking a fighting stance. In several instances, more than one type of assault occurred against the deputy (i.e. fist/hand strike and bodily fluid).

Figure 10: Assaults on deputies by deputy sex. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs and Records Management System)



EMPLOYEE-INVOLVED TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019

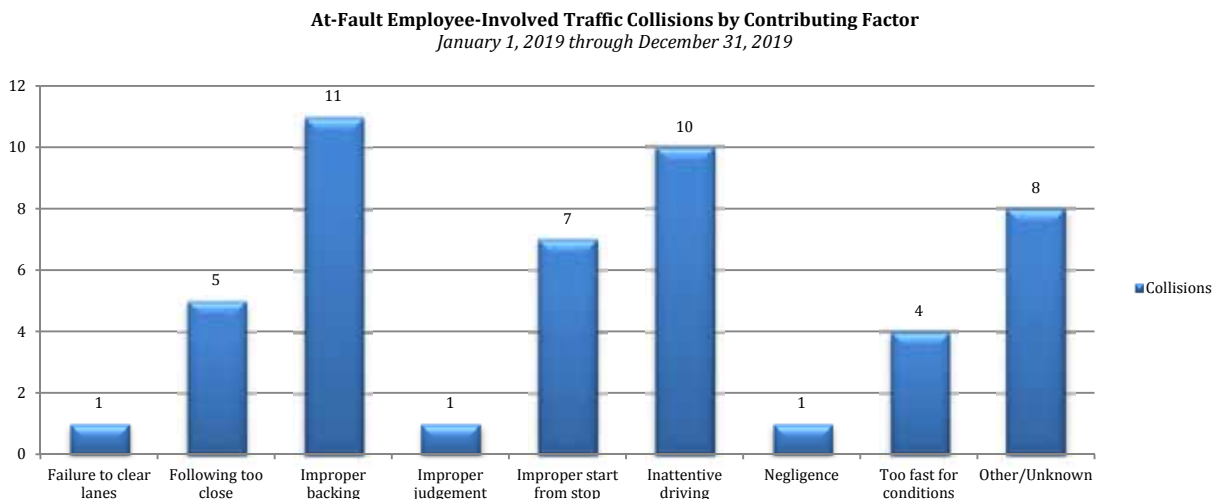
In CY2019, 144 employee-involved traffic collisions were reported to Internal Affairs. Of these collisions, 58.33% (84) were not at-fault, 33.33% (48) were at-fault, and the fault status of 8.33% (12) is unknown. *Traffic collisions with an unknown fault status are pending review by the accident review board.*

Figure 11: Employee-involved traffic collisions by fault. (Source: RCSD Special Projects Division & RCSD Internal Affairs)



The contributing factor in 43.75% (21) of the at-fault collisions was improper backing or inattentive driving, improper start from stop accounted for 14.58% (7), and 10.42% (5) were due to following too close.

Figure 12: At-fault employee-involved traffic collisions by contributing factor. (Source: RCSD Special Projects Division & RCSD Internal Affairs)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Please recognize this 2019 annual report is based on data that is not static, and is subject to change following publication. While the Richland County Sheriff's Department strives to share accurate, timely information with the community, there are factors which influence these changes. One way the Department attempts to minimize these changes, or updates, is by adjudicating 2019 case investigations prior to publishing this annual report. This is important because the annual report is based on the calendar year, and a complaint from an event in December may take several months to adjudicate, depending on the severity of the allegation and length of the investigation. With that caveat, please use this report to help understand the yearly trends related to our internal investigations and our commitment to thoroughly investigating all citizen complaints.

In an effort to continue providing the citizens of Richland County with agency transparency and accountability, the Richland County Sheriff's Department continued the use of body-worn cameras in CY2019. The Richland County Sheriff's Department Internal Affairs Unit will continue to evaluate citizen and internal complaints as they are presented.

*Internal Affairs Unit
Deputy Chief Samuel Berkheimer*



- *Document edited to reflect current personnel.*