

2022 Office of Professional Accountability

Case Summaries of Complaints (January – April)

PC22-001 Received January 2022

A citizen reported an officer driving dangerously when they made a U-Turn. The citizen said they had to apply their vehicle brakes when the officer made the U-Turn. This investigation found that the officer had made a U-Turn without signaling and without using their patrol vehicle's emergency lights and siren.

Complaint: Officer Response to Calls Sustained

PC22-004 Received January 2022

A citizen reported their family member had been stopped in reference to a shoplifting incident. The citizen said the description of the shoplifting suspect was white and their family member is black. The citizen said they believed this contact "reeked of racism". This investigation found the family member had been stopped approximately 7 minutes after the call for service was aired, and approximately 2 blocks from the incident location. This contact was at night and the family member was riding a bicycle from the area and wearing similar clothing as the suspect description. The officer had contact with the family member for approximately 2 minutes and appropriately realized they were not the suspect in the shoplifting. The contact was ended at that time.

Complaint: Bias Based Policing Exonerated

PC22-005 Received February 2022

A citizen reported an officer was refusing to conduct a welfare check, regarding the citizen's children, and the officer was also rude. This investigation found the officer had conducted a welfare check and they were not rude during their interaction with the citizen.

Complaint: Standard of Conduct Exonerated
Neglect of Duty Exonerated

PC22-006 Received February 2022

A citizen reported an officer had failed to properly investigate a vehicle accident that their family member had been involved in. Additionally, the citizen alleged the officer had told their family member that they would issue a citation if their family member was wanting a report to be taken. This investigation found that the officer

had responded to the accident and failed to activate their Body Worn Camera. The officer said they were told the accident occurred when the family member struck the curb, which caused the tire to be punctured. The officer told the family member that this was not a required report, and if they wanted a report then they would also be issued a citation. The officer explained that they have always issued a citation when they are able show a driver's actions contributed to the accident (Inattentive Driving). The family member said they had struck the curb while avoiding another vehicle that had entered their lane of travel. The officer said they had not been told about the other vehicle being involved.

Complaint:	Traffic Crash Report Requirement	Exonerated
	Standards of Conduct	Sustained
	Standards of Conduct	Sustained
	Body Worn Camera	Sustained

PC22-009 Received February 2022

A citizen alleged officers were unprofessional and had harassed them during an incident. This investigation found that the officers had conducted their investigation within policy and that their interactions with this citizen were professional.

Complaint:	Domestic Investigation	Exonerated
	Identification	Unfounded

PC22-010 Received March 2022

A citizen reported their family member had been the victim of excessive use of force by a Lawrence Police officer. This investigation found that the officer had not used excessive force during this incident. Body Worn Camera video refutes the claims made by the citizen.

Complaint:	Excessive Use of Force	Exonerated
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PC22-013 Received April 2022

A citizen submitted a complaint form regarding two officers. The citizen was dissatisfied with how these officers handled a disturbance and their failure to take a report. The citizen, who was a witness, believed the officers "did not want" to help and left after breaking up the disturbance. Upon review of this incident, it was determined these officers had observed a disturbance in a crowd involving two subjects. It was alleged that one of the subjects had stolen an item. This item was returned to the owner and the officers returned to their assignment. Prior to the officers leaving, other officers had been dispatched to their location to complete a report. A report was taken a short time later.

It should be noted that these officers were given a specific assignment when this incident occurred. Additionally, these officers were given specific instructions from their supervisors regarding any offenses reported to them that was not directly involved with their assignment. These officers followed their orders and a report was appropriately taken for this incident. The complainant was unaware of this at the time of the incident. The complainant was made aware of this and they said they understood.

Complaint: Required Reporting

Exonerated