

Memorandum

To: M. Jay Farr, Chief of Police **Date:** March 18, 2020
From: Captain Christopher T. Hennigh
Subject: 2019 Annual Report – Office of Professional Responsibility

This is the annual Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) report for calendar year 2019. This report contains statistics and analysis of the following items;

- Personnel Complaints/Administrative Investigations
- Traffic Collisions
- Use of Force
- Vehicle Pursuit
- Information Requests

Personnel Complaints/ Administrative Investigations

OPR processed ninety (90) personnel complaints/administrative investigations; which included one-hundred forty-six (146) allegations.

- Fifty-four (54 or 60%) internally generated
- Thirty-six (36 or 40%) externally generated

An additional forty-four (44) external complaints were addressed informally by OPR.

By comparison, in 2018 OPR processed fifty-eight (58) personnel complaints/administrative investigations; which include one-hundred three (103) allegations.

- Thirty-five (35 or 60%) internally generated
- Twenty-three (23 or 40%) externally generated

The change in personnel complaints/administrative investigations is primarily related to an increase in Personal Contacts type complaints from fourteen (14) in 2018 to thirty-three (33) in 2019; a 136% increase.

Most common sustained allegations:

- 1) 517.02 – Police Vehicles (45) (*36 related to traffic collisions)
- 2) 536.05 – Transporting and Processing In-Custody Arrests (7)

- 3) 408.01 – Equipment Accountability (6)
517.06 – In-Car Camera Video (6)
- 4) 407.01 – Accuracy of Information (5)
- 5) 414.02 – Conduct Unbecoming (4)
407.00 – Duty Responsibilities (4)

Additionally, there were five (5) allegations of racially-biased policing which were investigated and unfounded.

Internally versus externally generated allegations - findings and dispositions:

Forty (40 or 74%) of internally generated complaints were sustained. One (1 or 3%) of the externally generated complaints was sustained.

Disciplinary actions included the following:

- Shift Level Counseling/Contact Card – 29
- Letters of Corrective Action – 7
- Suspensions (4-100 hours) – 5

Five-year trend



Note: These numbers do not include at-fault accidents.

Traffic Collisions

There were sixty-seven (67) traffic collisions involving Arlington County Police Department personnel. Thirty-six (36 or 54%) were determined to be at-fault crashes by our employees.

Primary causes and reported injuries:

The two primary causes were driver inattention (18 or 27%) and improper backing (12 or 18%) which accounted for 45% of all crashes. Two (2 or 3%) officer and four (4 or 6%) citizen injuries were reported for all crashes.

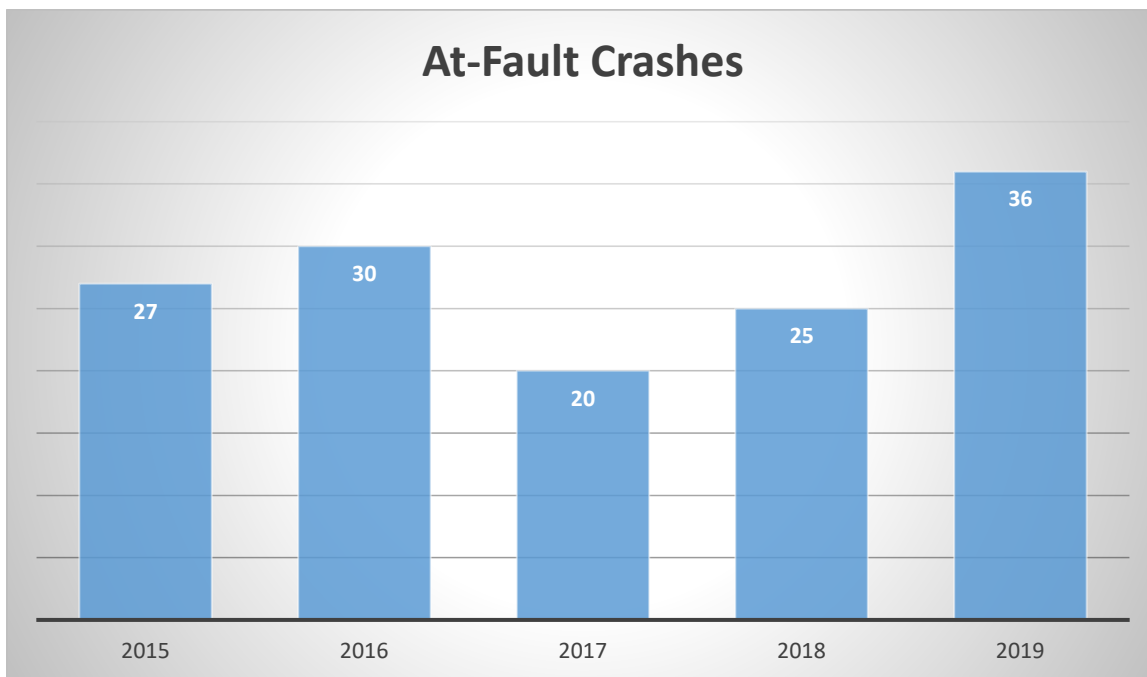
Dispositions for at-fault crashes:

Shift Level Counseling	33
Letter of Corrective Action	1
Suspension (0-16 hours)	2

Breakdown of crashes by time of day:

No Entry	1	1%
0001 - 0600	11	16%
0601 - 1200	17	25%
1201 - 1800	24	36%
1801 - 2400	14	21%
Total	67	

Five-year trend



Use of Force

There were sixty-seven (67) use of force reports processed by OPR. A total of one-hundred fifty (150) officers were involved in these incidents. Citizens/suspects were injured in forty-eight (48 or 72%) of the incidents in which force was used. Hospital care was necessary for twenty-two (22 or 33%) of those injuries. Twenty-six (26 or 39%) officers were injured during use of force incidents in 2019, with hospital care necessary for eight (8 or 12%) of them. Sixty-six (66 or 99%) use of force reports were determined to be within policy.

** Effective July 1, 2019, reporting requirements for 538.04 – Use of Force were changed.*

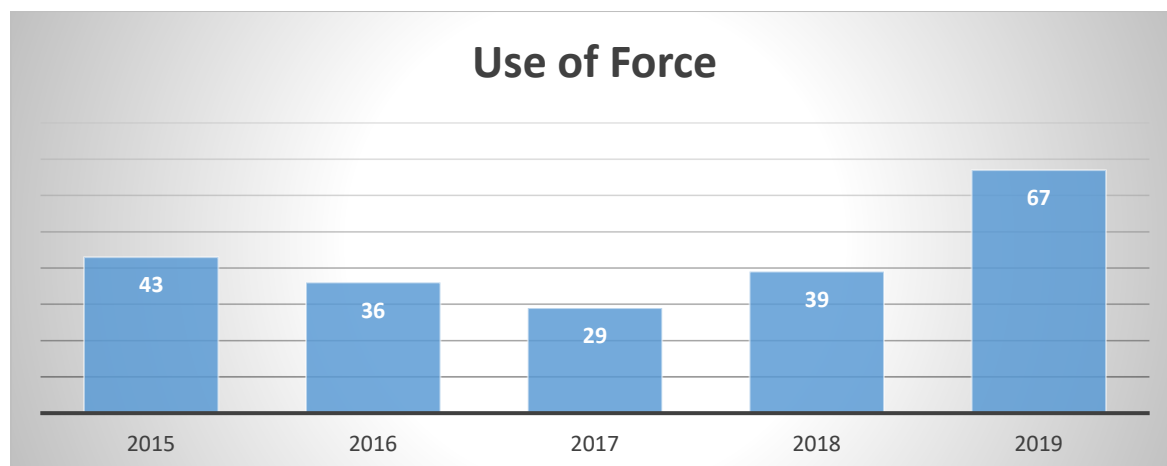
Types of force used:

Control Holds	59
Other	28
Active Countermeasures	19
Taser	12
Hands On	10
ASP	2
Firearm	2
Canine	1

Use of force by Section:

Patrol Section 2	31	46%
Patrol Section 1	25	37%
No Entry	4	6%
Criminal Investigations	3	5%
Community Resources	2	3%
Special Operations	1	1.5%
Tactical Operations	1	1.5%
Total	67	

Five-year trend



Vehicle Pursuits

There were two (2) vehicle pursuits reported; one (1) was determined to be not within policy.

2019-04210144: April 21, 2019, I-395 NB – George Washington Parkway at 1721 hours. The pursuit was 1-2 miles long, lasted approximately 4 minutes and was authorized by a supervisor.

At 1722 hours, Officer Brown located a suspect vehicle related to a robbery that occurred at 1714 hours at 2609 Columbia Pike. The suspect vehicle was in heavy traffic northbound Interstate 395. Lieutenant Washington was at the robbery location and confirmed the suspect used a gun during the commission of the crime.

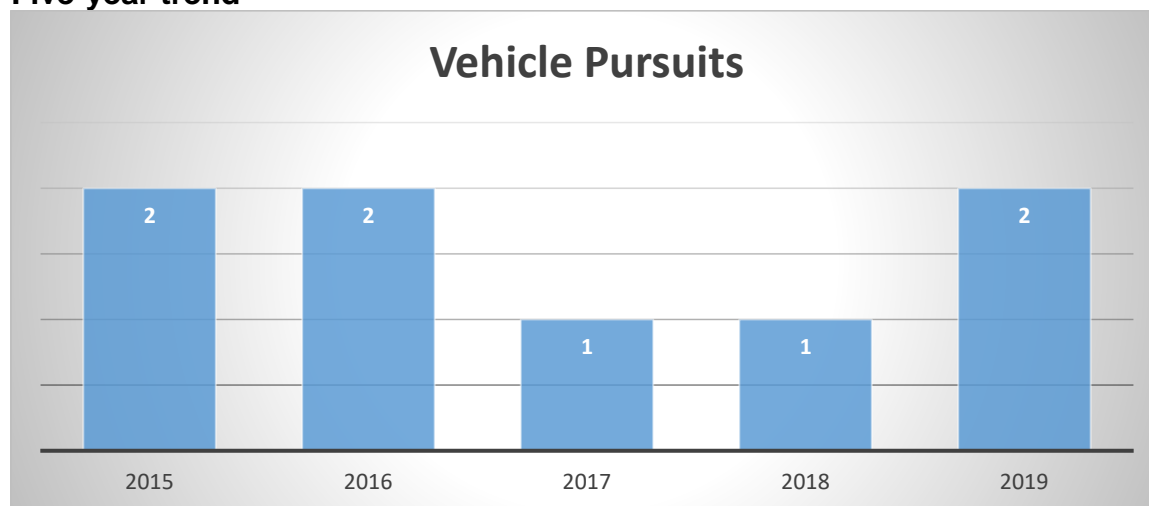
At 17:25:46 hours Officer Brown announced he was in pursuit. The suspect continued north and took the GW Parkway exit leading northbound.

At 17:24:41 hours, the suspect vehicle moved from the right lane of the roadway to the grass to the right, then to the bike path. The suspect vehicle turned toward the roadway and drove perpendicular to the northbound lanes of GW Pkwy. The suspect reentered the roadway, heading southbound in the northbound lanes of GW Parkway utilizing the left lane of travel.

At 17:25:30 hours, the suspect vehicle moved from the left lane to the right then from the roadway to the grassy area next to the bike path. The ICCV captured the suspect vehicle as it rolled into the Potomac River.

At 17:25:48 hours, Officer Brown entered the Potomac River after the arrestee. Sergeant Proud and Officer Duncan ran to assist. All three officers entered the water to retrieve the arrestee.

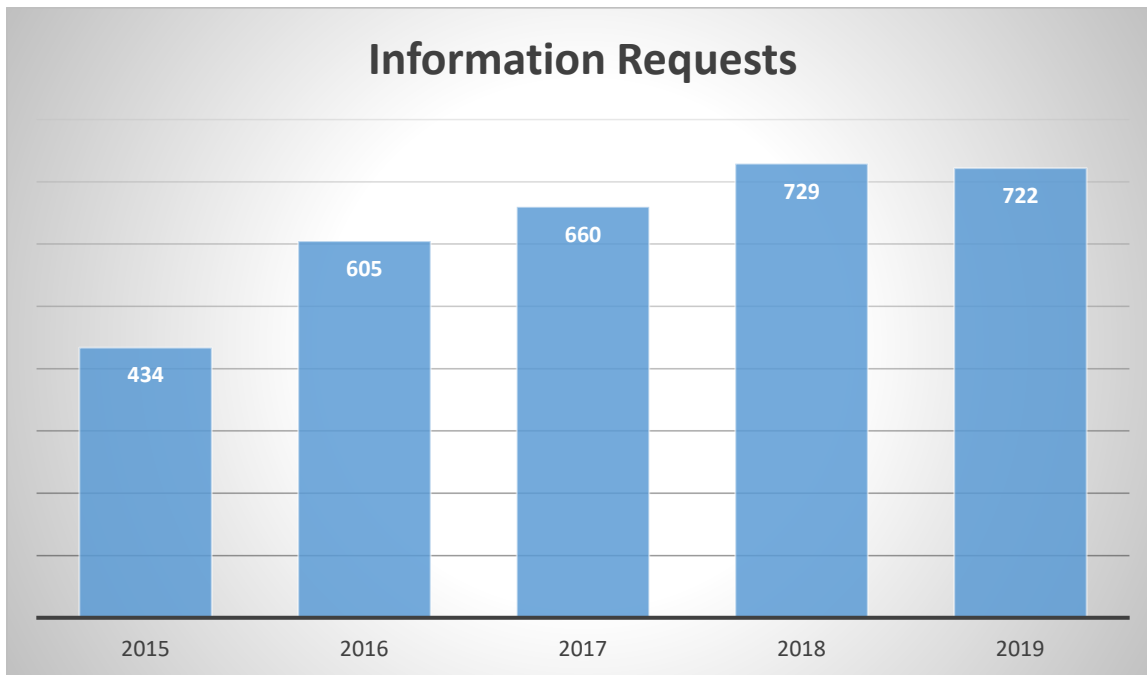
Five-year trend



Information Requests

There was a total of 722 information requests processed by the Office of Professional Responsibility. They are broken down by the following types;

- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): 537
- Witness Subpoena: 100
- Subpoena Duces Tecum: 51
- U Visa: 21
- Preservation Request: 8
- Court Orders: 5



Civil actions:

There were seven (7) civil actions filed against Arlington County Police personnel.

Note:

Specific information related to complaint data is exempt from mandatory disclosure pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3706 (B)(9) and therefore, will not be released since it is related to administrative investigations.

Incidents involving the use of deadly force are reported the Virginia State Police for inclusion in the Uniform Crime Report, https://www.vsp.virginia.gov/Crime_in_Virginia.shtm.