

Internal Affairs Unit Annual Report for 2021

The Internal Affairs Unit of the Knoxville Police Department falls under the direct command and Control of the Chief of Police. The Internal Affairs Unit is comprised of four sworn investigators and one civilian employee. The focus of the unit is to investigate and monitor allegations of misconduct that come from concerned citizens, employees and/or supervisory personnel within the city. While Internal Affairs is primarily focused on misconduct within the police department, it is not uncommon for the unit to conduct investigations within other city departments. The Internal Affairs Unit is committed to maintaining the integrity of the Knoxville Police Department and other offices throughout the city. This is accomplished through fair and impartial investigations that recognize the rights of employees while holding them accountable for their actions.

In addition to conducting investigations, the Internal Affairs Unit also completes pre-employment background investigations on all police department employees. Upon request, this same service is and has been extended to other departments within the city. The unit also administers and oversees the Professional Excellence Program for the Knoxville Police Department.

All complaints received by the Internal Affairs Unit are thoroughly investigated and the findings are classified in one or more of the following areas:

FIRST DEGREE – SUSTAINED

The allegation is supported by sufficient evidence to believe the incident occurred. Recommendation for appropriate disciplinary action is made.

SECOND DEGREE – NOT SUSTAINED

Investigation discloses insufficient evidence either to prove or disprove the allegation.

THIRD DEGREE – EXONERATED

The incident complained of occurred; however, the actions of the employee were lawful and proper.

FOURTH DEGREE – UNFOUNDED

The investigation disclosed that the allegation complained of never occurred and, therefore is false. (This may apply to one or all accusations against the employee.)

FIFTH DEGREE – POLICY FAILURE

Investigation concludes that the allegation is true, but the employee's actions were consistent with departmental policy, the findings are exonerated by policy failure.

SIXTH DEGREE – PARTIALLY SUSTAINED

The incident has two (2) or more allegations and at least one (1) of the allegations is sustained.

SEVENTH DEGREE – INFRACTION NOT BASED UPON ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

A substantiated infraction not mentioned in the initial allegation was disclosed by the investigator.

During 2021, the Internal Affairs Unit received 43 complaints that warranted an investigation. Of those 43 complaints, Internal Affairs conducted 29 administrative investigations and the remaining 14 complaints were referrals that were investigated by the Employee's immediate supervisor.

CASES
(Sworn Personnel)

1st Degree	12
2nd Degree	0
3rd Degree	5
4th Degree	1
5th Degree	0
6th Degree	0
7th Degree	1
Resignation	1
Complainant Withdrew Complaint	1
Pending	7

(Non-Sworn Personnel)

1st Degree	1
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CASE TOTALS

Sworn Personnel	28
Non-Sworn Personnel	1
Total Investigated by IAU	29

REFERRALS
(Sworn Personnel)

1st Degree	4
2nd Degree	1
3rd Degree	5
4th Degree	1
5th Degree	0
6th Degree	1
7th Degree	1
Converted to IAU Case	1

REFERRAL TOTALS

Sworn Personnel	14
Non-Sworn Personnel	0
Total Referred to Supervisors	14