

SERIOUS POLICE OFFICER INVOLVED INCIDENTS & OFFICER DISCIPLINE REPORT

2021 REPORT TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND January 1 – December 31, 2021

In accordance with Public Safety Article §3-207(b) (1), the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (PTSC) developed a system by which law enforcement agencies report to the Commission, as required by law, the number of serious officer-involved incidents each year, the number of officers disciplined each year, and the type of discipline administered to those officers.

The PTSC approved the following definition of “serious officer-involved incident” at its January 3, 2018 meeting:

Incidents in which:

- (1) Criminal charges were filed against an officer; or*
- (2) Complaints of criminal misconduct have been investigated and sustained against an officer; or*
- (3) Complaints of excessive force have been investigated and sustained against an officer where the force resulted in serious injury or death of a person; or*
- (4) An officer/person contact directly results in the serious injury or death of a person.*

SERIOUS OFFICER INVOLVED INCIDENTS

The Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC) staff developed a reporting process for agencies to report this information. Agency heads were emailed a template and the completed template was submitted to MPCTC staff using a dedicated email address. The information to be reported did not change from the previous year. Agencies were required to report the number of events for the following during calendar year 2021:

- (1) Direct officer contact that resulted in serious injury or death of the officer or person;*
- (2) Complaints of excessive force which were investigated and sustained against an officer where the force resulted in serious injury or death of a person;*
- (3) Complaints of criminal misconduct that have been investigated and sustained against an officer;*
- (4) Criminal charges were filed against an officer¹*

¹ An officer may be charged multiple times causing the reported numbers to appear disproportionate.

OFFICERS DISCIPLINED

Information reported for officer discipline administered during 2021 included:

- (1) *Written Reprimand*
- (2) *Loss of Leave*
- (3) *Loss of Pay*
- (4) *Suspension Without Pay from Duty*
- (5) *Demotion*
- (6) *Dismissal from Employment*
- (7) *Monetary Fine*
- (8) *Other Type of Discipline*

2021 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTING

There were 157 agencies employing approximately 16,000 Commission certified police officers in 2021. However, not all of the agencies were identified as being required to comply with Public Safety Article §3-207(b) (1) as some of the agencies have employees who are certified as law enforcement officers by the Police Training and Standards Commission but are not defined as law enforcement agencies under Public Safety Article §3-101(e). Therefore, a total of 137 agencies that were required to report officer discipline and serious officer incidents were identified for the 2021 reporting year. Agency heads received an email at the beginning of 2022 advising them of the process for submitting the required reports and follow-up emails and phone calls were made periodically to agencies that had not submitted by March 11, 2022.

Four agencies did not submit the Serious Officer Involved Incidents report while four agencies did not submit the Officer Discipline Administered report. The non-reporting agencies were the same for both reports. Agencies not reporting included: Bowie State University Police Department, Luke Police Department, Maryland State Forest and Park Service, and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Police Department. The cumulative totals for the reporting agencies are as follows:

2021 Serious Officer-Involved Incidents	
Direct officer contact that resulted in serious injury or death of the officer or person.	34
Complaints of excessive force which were investigated and sustained against an officer where the force resulted in serious injury or death of a person.	2
Complaints of criminal misconduct that have been investigated and sustained against an officer.	50
Criminal charges were filed against an officer. ²	72

² Reported information is not sufficiently definitive to establish the number of officers who received criminal charges. This data is reflective of the number of total criminal charges placed and not adjudicated.

2021 Officer Discipline Administered ³	
Written Reprimand	693
Loss of Leave	270
Loss of Pay	14
Suspension without Pay	149
Demotion	25
Dismissal from Employment	70
Monetary Fine	176
Suspension with Pay	78
Other Types of Discipline ⁴	246

³ *In some instances, an officer received more than one form of discipline. In addition, incidents of discipline were reported once they were sustained and prior to any appeal process.*

⁴ *Examples of “Other Types of Discipline” include: counseling, remedial training, suspension from secondary employment, suspension from take home car program, and suspension from promotional process.*