



Bremerton Police Department

2017 Professional Standards Report

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BPD Website:
<http://www.ci.bremerton.wa.us/335/Police-Department>



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COMPLAINTS

The Department recorded 41 complaints in 2017 as compared with 41 complaints in 2016 and 40 complaints in 2015.

General Categories of 2017 Complaints ¹	
Dissatisfied with handling of call, investigation or report	14
Demeanor / courtesy / rudeness	7
Use of Force	5
Traffic Violations / Vehicle Use by Officer	1
Failure to Arrest	2
Search and Seizure	4
Didn't agree with Traffic Ticket	3
Unlawful Arrest	3
Harassment / Racial Discrimination	2
TOTAL	41

Dispositions	Explanation of Dispositions	# of Complaints in each disposition category
Exonerated	The alleged act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.	14
Unfounded	The allegation was false or not factual or that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve Department personnel.	11
Not sustained	There is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the employee.	11
Sustained	The act occurred and it constituted misconduct. ²	5
Unresolved	Complainant did not respond to sergeant's attempts to contact.	0
		41

¹ Many complaints could fit two or more categories (e.g. "I didn't like getting a ticket and the officer was rude.") Judgments are made as to the best category fit for such complaints.

² Complaint logged in this category if any portion sustained.

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Complaint #	Details	Disposition
C17-1	Complainant upset officer did not arrest the other party in a protection order. Officer had conferred with prosecutor who advised not to make the arrest.	Exonerated
C17-2	Multiple varied complaints. Police ringing door bell. Police in the woods invading privacy. Police installing surveillance cameras. Complainant has mental health issues.	Unfounded
C17-3	Upset officer did not respond back a second time to re-check a noise complaint. Complainant was hearing a sound similar to a fan motor. Officer did not hear anything the first time and did not return to the residence because of a higher priority felony case she was working on.	Exonerated
C17-4	Dissatisfied with burglary investigation. Officer did not attempt to lift fingerprints.	Sustained
C17-5	Complainant thought his arrest was unlawful and upset that he spent 49 days in jail and missed his father's funeral.	Exonerated
C17-6	Officer felt sergeant should not have used ruse to gain entry to a house to arrest a woman.	Exonerated
C17-7	Complainant read news article about an officer that was fired. Felt same officer lied in a 2010 traffic stop that resulted in her license being suspended.	Not sustained
C17-8	Trespasser complained that she was tackled during her arrest and her arm twisted back while being handcuffed.	Exonerated
C17-9	Slow response to a citizen discovering his stolen vehicle. Officer passed it off to next shift instead of handling it himself.	Not sustained
C17-10	Arrest on a protection order that had been cleared from the system a few minutes earlier.	Sustained
C17-11	Failure to take collision report.	Exonerated
C17-12	Lack of contact and slow response on a vehicle prowling attempt.	Exonerated
C17-13	Handling of a landlord-tenant dispute. Landlord wanted officer to evict tenant without proper court order.	Exonerated
C17-14	Upset he was given a bicycle helmet citation. Believes police should focus on more important crime.	Exonerated
C17-15	Complainant arrested for stealing money from parking pay boxes. Complained officer twisted her arm as she tried to pull away.	Exonerated
C17-16	Upset she received a traffic infraction.	Unfounded
C17-17	Officer dispatched to the wrong house for an alarm. Officer found an open door and searched house. Homeowner not notified.	Sustained
C17-18	Complainant came to front desk to contest a traffic infraction. Officer at front desk explained he was at the wrong police department as the ticket was issued by KCSO. Complainant felt officer was sarcastic.	Sustained
C17-19	Complainant said the officer refused to follow-up on a burglary call. Complainant didn't like that the officer referred to the situation as a "civil matter."	Not sustained
C17-20	Officials at Kitsap Lake Elementary saw warrants officer near school property. Became alarmed. Thought they should have been notified.	Not sustained
C17-21	Officer made complainant's wife get back in vehicle and gave her a verbal warning for improper drop off at PSNS gate.	Exonerated
C17-22	Upset for treatment 25 to 30 years ago at the hands of police. Also upset about a felony conviction he received for assaulting an officer in 2014.	Unfounded
C17-23	Upset that officers did not arrest her son's girlfriend for DUI. The stop was witnessed by the son and another witnesses. Officer said he did not have PC to arrest for DUI.	Exonerated

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C17-24	Sex offender who was contacted because he made a sexual joke about another man's girlfriend was offended when an officer said "it figures" regarding a RSO (registered sex offender) verification.	Unfounded
C17-25	Complainant upset officers entered her apartment to check on her welfare at the request of her mother. Sufficient exigent circumstances to warrant entry to check on complainant's safety. Boyfriend arrested inside for POV.	Exonerated
C17-26	Det. Sergeant's demeanor while explaining the complainant's case is a civil, not criminal matter.	Sustained
C17-27	Man with mental health issues complaining about various, vague incidents from 17 years ago, mostly involving an officer who no longer works here. Complainant was asked to provide additional information. Has not re-contacted BPD.	Not sustained
C17-28	Complainant thought the officer was rude.	Not sustained
C17-29	Felt police officer cut him off while driving in a round-about.	Not sustained
C17-30	Complaint from mother of a suspect who identifies as transgender, objecting to a pat down search during an arrest. Felt a female officer should have done the pat-down. When sergeant went to follow up with mother, the mother said she did not know what the sergeant was talking about and never made a complaint.	Unfounded
C17-31	Complainant felt her arrest on a warrant was petty and unjust and that the officer was demanding when he questioned her about her identity.	Unfounded
C17-32	Complainant felt the officer was harassing him and said his "civil liberties" were violated.	Exonerated
C17-33	An arrested suspect felt officer pulled him to his feet too harshly. Independent witnesses said this did not happen.	Unfounded
C17-34	Marijuana shop owner upset officer parked in front of store while investigating a collision. Owner said officer was rude when asked to move. Independent witness said officer was polite and store owner was disrespectful.	Not sustained
C17-35	Complainant believed she overheard officer say she would be arrested if she did not let her daughter go to a school dance. Officer denied saying this.	Unfounded
C17-36	DUI suspect claimed a female officer touched him inappropriately while being searched after arrest.	Not sustained
C17-37	Complainant believed the officer was incorrect as to whether or not she was provided with a case number. The Sgt. is aware of the complainant and knows her to be a chronic and repeat complainant who has mental health issues.	Unfounded
C17-38	Upset about the way officers handled a neighbor dispute. Complainant believes neighbor threw paint on his house. Complainant was not satisfied that a report was being sent to prosecutor; wanted more enforcement.	Unfounded
C17-39	Incorrect collision report. Complainant believes the report was filled out incorrectly because she is black.	Not sustained
C17-40	Complainant alleges excessive use of force from an arrest in 2015. Also claimed an officer lied in a written statement.	Not sustained
C17-41	Complainant was dissatisfied with officer's decision to forward a report to the prosecutor rather than make an arrest.	Unfounded

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2017 INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

Control Number	Description	Disposition	Action Taken
01-17	Officer mishandled evidence and was untruthful about it to a supervisor.	Sustained	Resigned before discipline was imposed
02-17	Officer assaulted prisoner at hospital who spit on her. Investigated by outside agency.	Sustained	Terminated
03-17	Accusation that officer was using Rx drugs not prescribed to him. Investigated by outside agency.	Unfounded	No Action
04-17	Supervisor accused of improperly assigning overtime to himself.	Unfounded	Policy review / Counseling
05-17	Anonymous accusation that a lieutenant pointed a gun at his girlfriend in the 1980s. Investigated by outside agency.	Pending	Pending

2017 CIVIL CLAIMS ³

Claim #	Inc. Date	Cause	Effect	Demand Amt.	Amount Paid	Status
20170041	5/31/14	Police response to electrical smoke	Egregious unlawful slander/damage to reputation	\$0	\$0	Closed - payment denied
20170050	5/19/17	Police broke in front door of apartment	Broken door & frame	\$609	\$0	Closed - payment denied
20170052	8/13/16	DUI arrest	Violation of Miranda & ADA, and improper impound	\$1,000,000	\$0	Closed - payment denied
20170076	9/7/17	Impounded vehicle	Improper impound of vehicle	\$1,700.55	\$1700.55	Closed with payment
20170087	11/2/17	Auto collision	Damaged front end of vehicle	\$3293.27	\$3293.27	Closed with payment
20170099	9/17/16	Workplace environment	Age & disability discrimination	\$3,000,000	\$0	Open
20170103	11/18/16	Workplace environment	Disability discrimination & retaliation	\$2,500,000	\$0	Open

³ This data supplied by Risk Management. These claims were received in 2017, but may not have occurred in 2017.

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BIAS-BASED POLICING

The Bremerton Police Department prohibits race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, economic status, age, cultural group, disability or affiliation with any other similar identifiable group from being used as the basis for providing differing levels of law enforcement service or the enforcement of the law.

The most frequent way that police agencies have attempted to learn whether bias based policing is systematically occurring is through analysis of discretionary traffic stops.

The Bremerton Police Department has the ability to track infractions issued by race through the electronic capture of SECTOR data. The Department also tracks citizen complaints of bias-based policing.

Citizen complaints of biased based policing in 2017: 1

In that incident, the complainant believes an officer filled out a collision report incorrectly because “she is black.” This complaint was investigated and determined to be “not sustained.” The officer involved was a new officer in training and corrections were made to the report.

Race	Criminal Traffic Infractions (e.g. DUI, Driving While License Suspended, Reckless Driving)		Traffic Infractions (e.g. Speeding, Failure to Yield, cell phone violations, seatbelt violations)		Bremerton Demographics
	# by race	% by race	# by race	% by race	
White	112	64.7	2206	73.5	74.0%
Black	38	21.9	347	11.5	6.7%
Hisp	7	4.0	168	5.6	6.8%
Asian - PI	7	4.0	136	4.5	9.6%
Amer Ind	2	1.1	15	0.5	2.0%
Unk	7	4.0	127	4.2	
Totals	173		2999		

Notes / Trends

- Infraction statistics from SECTOR and hand written tickets
- Demographic data from 2010 US census
- Infractions include both traffic and non-traffic infractions

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EMPLOYEE COLLISIONS

Per internal policy, all collisions involving police department employees are thoroughly investigated regardless of the degree of damage.

The majority of these driving incidents involved low speeds and minimal damage (i.e. minor scrapes and dents) and would not be classified as reportable collisions under Washington law.

Each collision is reviewed by an internal panel of Department members who evaluate all available data and then classify the collision as 'preventable' or 'non-preventable.'

Action taken depends on many factors, including the employee's previous driving history, the amount of damage and the degree of inattention involved.

Collisions by Category		
# of officer involved collisions		15
# of collisions that were ruled 'Preventable'		13
# of collisions that were ruled 'Non-preventable'		2
# of collisions that involved injury		0
# of collisions that involved pursuits		0
# of backing collisions		2

DATE	BRIEF	PREV.	NON-PREV.	DISPOSITION
1/9/2017	Driver changed lanes into the officer's lane. The officer swerved to avoid a collision and hit a raised center divider causing damage to rim and tire.		X	No further action
1/19/2017	After making a left turn onto a street, the officer struck a curb/divider.	X		No further action
1/26/2017	Officer backing a patrol car hit a fire hydrant. Minor damage.	X		No further action
2/18/2017	Officer moved over in his lane to make room for an oncoming vehicle and when he did, struck the patrol car's mirror up against a parked truck's mirror.	X		Additional training
3/23/2017	Officer struck a curb/divider.	X		No further action
5/18/2017	Despite the officer honking his horn, his patrol car was struck by another vehicle while traveling through an apartment complex parking. The other vehicle struck the patrol car's push bars.		X	No further action
6/9/2017	While attempting to park his patrol car, an officer struck a motorcycle knocking it to the ground.	X		No further action
8/9/2017	During a slow speed lane change, an officer struck another vehicle.	X		No further action
9/25/2017	While attempting to turn around in a parking lot, an officer's vehicle struck a parking sign.	X		No further action
10/9/2017	While off duty at the officer's residence, he accidentally backed his personal car into the patrol car.	X		Additional training
10/12/2017	While backing, the officer's patrol car struck another vehicle.	X		No further action
10/15/2017	A vehicle served to avoid a collision and ended up striking a detective's unmarked vehicle instead.	X		No further action

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11/2/2017	While attempting to enter the roadway from a parking lot, the civilian employee was struck by a vehicle who had the right of way.	X		No further action
11/7/2017	While backing her vehicle, a civilian employee struck another vehicle at slow speed.	X		No further action
11/26/2017	While turning in a tight alleyway, the officer struck a retaining wall with the passenger door and quarter panel.	X		No further action

PURSUIT / ELUDING

There is a difference between eluding a police vehicle and an actual police pursuit of a suspect vehicle. Like many previous years, the number of actual pursuits are much fewer than the number of individual who attempt to elude police. In 2017, 35 individuals attempted to elude police and only 1 of those were actually pursued by officers.⁴

Definitions from policy:

VEHICLE PURSUIT: *A vehicle pursuit is an event involving one or more law enforcement officers attempting to apprehend a suspect who is attempting to avoid apprehension while operating a motor vehicle by using high speed driving or other evasive tactics such as driving off a highway or turning suddenly.*

ATTEMPTING TO ELUDE: *Refers to the actions of a vehicle operator who after being given a visual or audible signal to bring the vehicle to a stop fails or refuses to immediately stop the vehicle and drives in a reckless manner while attempting to elude a uniformed officer operating a pursuing police vehicle that is equipped with emergency lights and siren (RCW 46.61.024).*

Our policy allows officers to engage in vehicular pursuits of fleeing suspects when:

- (a) The initiating officer reasonably believes and can articulate that the violator has committed, or attempted to commit, a felony crime of violence, or,
- (b) The officer observed such a degree of hazardous driving by the offender, prior to police involvement, that the offender will likely cause death or serious bodily harm to another person if not stopped.

Pursuit and other driving training is regularly conducted both in the classroom and at the driving range to reinforce the policy.

⁴ That particular pursuit ended with the use of a spike strip deployment and the PIT (Pursuit intervention technique)

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USE OF FORCE

Use of Force: Type of Force				
Primary Type – the first tool or tactic an officer used.		Secondary Type – used when the 1 st tool or tactic proved ineffective		
Physical controls	78	Physical controls	1	
Taser: Air deployment	4	Taser: Air deployment	1	
Taser: Contact deployment	1	Taser: Contact deployment	1	
OC / Chemical	0	OC / Chemical	0	
Impact	0	Impact	0	
Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint	0	Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint	0	
Firearm ⁵	1	Firearm	0	
Personal Weapons	0	Personal Weapons	2	
Impact Munition	0	Impact Munition	0	
Other	0	Other (leverage tools)	1	
Leg Restraints	0	Leg Restraints	1	
TOTAL		84	TOTAL	
			8	

Use of Force Aggravating Factors	
Intoxicated / Drugs	25
Domestic Violence	5
Mental Health	27

Use of Force by Race	
White	69
Black	12
Asian	3
Native American	0
Hispanic	0
Multiple / Unknown / Other	0

Use of Force by Gender of Subject	
Male	75
Female	9

	Use of Force Injuries			
	# of Injuries (visible or complained of)	Treatment ⁶		
		Minor – No treatment required	On-scene by Aid	Hospital
Officer	8	3	0	2
Suspect	24	6	11	7

Notes / Trends

- Total incidents where officers used force: 84
- Total Incidents: 50,419
- % of Incidents in which force was used: 0.16% ⁷

Note: Injury statistics do not include those cases where the only “injury” was probe penetration from the use of the Taser.

Policy requires reported injuries be evaluated by paramedics, or at the hospital, and is not indicative of injury severity.

⁵ December 2017, officer involved shooting where two officers were shot and returned fire on the suspect

⁶ Suspects are frequently transported to the hospital for evaluation out of an abundance of caution, not necessarily due to an injury

⁷ A decrease from the previous three years

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CANINE

Corporal Duke Roessel & “Dusty” (Narcotics K-9)

Applications: 75
K-9 Demonstrations: 6
Meth seized: 58.6 grams
Heroin seized: 22.8 grams
Cocaine seized: 1.0 grams
Cash seized: \$8,301

Officer Bryan Hall & “Ando” (Generalist K-9)

Total applications: 63
Track search: 44
Building search: 6
Evidence Search: 6
Other: 7
Captures: 15
Evidence finds: 20
Agency assists: 26

Officer Chris Faidley & “Esco” (Generalist K-9)

Total applications: 45
Track search: 36
Building search: 3
Evidence Search: 4
Other: 2
Captures: 12
Evidence finds: 2
Agency assists: 10

Canine Year in Review

Officer Hall and Ando were certified again through WSPCA as a Master K-9 team. Officer Hall and Ando conducted 20 demonstrations throughout the year to include every day at the KC Fair. Officer Hall’s notable finds were a 1 mile track through the snow while assisting KCSO and recently locating a Robbery suspect for KCSO on SR 303. K-9 Ando also located evidence during the track.

Officer Faidley and Esco were certified this year and will accredit in March through WSPCA. Officer Faidley and Esco conducted 5 demonstrations to include every day at the KC



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Fair. Officer Faidley's notable finds this year include a DV Robbery suspect in the downtown area, a confirmation find on a gun ditched after a foot pursuit with officers, locating two suspects who fled in different directions from a stolen vehicle and a suspect who fled into the city's watershed after running from officer's during an interrupted Burglary.