



Office of the
**INDEPENDENT
POLICE AUDITOR**

BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

MONTHLY REPORT

August 2020

Issue date: September 14, 2020

This report is filed pursuant to the BART Citizen Oversight Model, Chapter 1-05 (B), which requires the Office of the Independent Police Auditor (OIPA) to submit reports to the BART Police Citizen Review Board (BPCRB). This report provides information for the period **August 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020.**¹

(The Quantitative Report includes all complaints received and administrative investigations initiated by both OIPA and the BART Police Department (BPD) Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB)).

QUANTITATIVE REPORT

	Cases Filed ²	Open Cases ³	Investigations Resolved*	OIPA Investigations Concluded ⁴	Cases Appealed to OIPA ⁵	Cases Appealed by BPCRB ⁶
August 2019	9	62		1	0	0
September 2019	13	53		1	0	0
October 2019	6	53	6	1	0	0
November 2019	10	59	2	1	0	0
December 2019	6	58	6	1	0	0
January 2020	8	53	13	2	0	0
February 2020	15	56	10	0	0	0
March 2020	9	54	11	1	0	0
April 2020	6	44	18	1	1	0
May 2020	4	40	6	1	0	0
June 2020	7	44	4	0	0	0
July 2020	1	41	3	1	0	0
August 2020	9	43	5	1	0	0

TYPES OF CASES FILED

Citizen Complaints (Formal)	5
Informal Complaints ⁷	4
Administrative Investigations	0
Inquiries ⁸	0
TOTAL	9

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED PER DEPARTMENT⁹

OIPA	1
BART Police Department	4
TOTAL	5

¹OIPA added a new data column to the October 2019 Monthly Report which will be populated going forward.

COMPLAINTS/INVESTIGATIONS INITIATED DURING REPORTING PERIOD

During August 2020, **1 Citizen Complaint** was received by OIPA:

Complaint # (OIPA Case #) (IA Case #)	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken	Days Elapsed Since Complaint Filed
1 (OIPA #20-20) (IA2020-057)	Officers #1-2: • Conduct Unbecoming an Officer	OIPA initiated an investigation.	18

During August 2020, **4 Citizen Complaint (Formal)** were received by BPD:

Complaint # (IA Case #)	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken	Days Elapsed Since Complaint Filed
1 (IA2020-050)	Officers #1-2: • Arrest or Detention	BPD initiated an investigation.	28
2 (IA2020-051)	Officer #1: • Bias-Based Policing	BPD initiated an investigation.	24
3 (IA2020-053)	Officers #1-2: • Conduct Unbecoming an Officer	BPD initiated an investigation.	21
4 (IA2020-056)	Officer #1: • Conduct Unbecoming an Officer	BPD initiated an investigation.	19

During August 2020, **3 Informal Complaints** were received by BPD:

Complaint # (IA Case #)	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken	Days Elapsed Since Investigation Initiated
1 (IA2020-049)	Officers #1-2: • Conduct Unbecoming an Officer	BPD initiated a Supervisor Referral. ¹⁰	32
2 (IA2020-054)	Officer #1: • Performance of Duty	BPD initiated a Supervisor Referral.	21
3 (IA2020-055)	Officers #1-2: • Policy/Procedure	BPD initiated a Supervisor Referral.	21

COMPLAINTS/INVESTIGATIONS INITIATED DURING A PRIOR REPORTING PERIOD

During July 2020, **1 Informal Complaint** was received by BPD but not previously reported:

Complaint # (IA Case #)	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken	Days Elapsed Since Complaint Filed
1 (IA2020-052)	Officer #1: • Courtesy	BPD initiated an investigation.	48

COMPLAINTS/INVESTIGATIONS CONCLUDED DURING REPORTING PERIOD

During August 2020, **2 Citizen Complaints (Formal)** were concluded by BPD:

Complaint # (IA Case #)	Nature of Complaint	Disposition	Days Elapsed Since Complaint Filed	Days Taken to Complete Investigation
1 (IA2019-098)	Officer improperly detained complainant, used excessive force during the contact, did not adjust the tightness of handcuffs as requested, and did not properly report the contact. Another officer used excessive force when applying handcuffs and a supervisor did not properly address the use of force.	Officer #1: • Force (Count 1) – Unfounded • Force (Count 2) – Exonerated • Arrest or Detention – Sustained • Policy/Procedure (AXON Camera) – Sustained • Performance of Duty (Handcuffs) – Sustained Officer #2: • Performance of Duty – Sustained Officer #3: • Force – Unfounded	377	349
2 (IA2020-004)	Officers harassed complainant because of his race.	Officers #1-5: • Bias Based Policing – Administratively Closed ¹¹	98	57

During August 2020, **3 Informal Complaints** were addressed by BPD:

Complaint # (IA Case #)	Nature of Complaint	Disposition	Days Elapsed Since Complaint Filed	Days Taken to Complete Investigation
1 (IA2020-045)	Employee was hostile toward complainant during phone call.	Employee #1: • Conduct Unbecoming – Supervisor Referral	96	79
2 (IA2020-054)	Officer did not properly collect information related to a reported crime.	Officer #1: Performance of Duty – Supervisor Referral	96	79
3 (IA2020-055)	Officer exceeded freeway speed limits in a department vehicle.	Officer #1: Policy/Procedure – Supervisor Referral	19	5

DISCIPLINE ISSUED DURING REPORTING PERIOD

During August 2020, BPD took the following actions in cases where one or more allegations of misconduct were sustained:

Case #	Nature of Sustained Allegation(s) †	Classification of Sustained Allegation(s)	Action Taken
1	Officer used excessive force during an arrest and improperly elevated the criminal charges against the complainant.	Officer #1: • Force • Policy/Procedure	Officer #1: • Letter of Discussion
2	Officers did not properly document a law enforcement contact.	Officers #1-2: • Policy/Procedure	Officer #1: Letter of Discussion
3	Officers did not properly document a law enforcement contact.	Officers #1-2: Policy/Procedure	Officer #1: Letter of Discussion

†Some details regarding the nature of sustained allegations may be withheld to avoid unintentionally breaching mandatory confidentiality requirements. In some instances, the relative infrequency of the alleged misconduct may tend to allow for identification of the officer in violation of the applicable CA Penal Code section (832.7).

ADDITIONAL NOTES

In accordance with the BART Citizen Oversight Model (Model), OIPA investigates certain complaints, conducts complainant-initiated appeals, and also monitors and/or reviews complaint investigations conducted by BPD. Though potentially work-intensive, some complaint investigation reviews are completed informally, with any concerns being addressed through a conference with BPD's Internal Affairs investigators. Noting the various kinds of work that OIPA undertakes with regard to complaints and investigations, the following chart includes some of the pending cases in which OIPA is involved as of the end of this reporting period.

Investigations Being Conducted	12
Complainant-Initiated Appeals	1
BPD-Initiated Appeals	0
Investigations Being Monitored	52
Investigations Reviewed During Current Month	10†

† This number does not include all OIPA reviews, as OIPA commonly looks at a variety of cases in the Internal Affairs database to obtain updates on both pending and completed investigations.

The Model provides that OIPA shall have authority to require follow-up investigation into any citizen complaint or allegation that is handled by BPD. The OIPA Monthly Report will reflect information regarding monitored cases with detail not to exceed that which is allowable under state law. The investigations reviewed by OIPA during the period did not generate any notable recommendations for revisions or additional investigation.¹²

¹ In addition to reporting on complaints received by the BART Police Department, the Citizen Oversight Model requires reporting on all complaints received by the "Citizen Board, Office of the District Secretary, and other District departments." As complaints received by the BART Police Citizen Review Board are customarily directed to OIPA for further action, such complaints are included in the Quantitative Report above; OIPA is also made aware of additional complaints about the BART Police Department by the Office of the District Secretary or other District departments.

² This number includes all Citizen Complaints filed against members of the BART Police Department, as well as Administrative Investigations generated internally by BART Police Department members (as opposed to being filed by a citizen). This number also includes OIPA previously completed cases that have been re-opened during the current reporting period.

³ This number indicates all investigations that are open as of the end of the reporting period. It includes Citizen Complaints (regardless of whether the investigation is being conducted by OIPA, the BART Police Department, or both) and Administrative Investigations.

⁴ This number includes all cases completed by OIPA during the reporting period for which OIPA's findings are required by the BART Citizen Oversight Model to be submitted to the BART Police Citizen Review Board. It therefore includes independent investigations, as well as reviews of completed BART Police Department investigations initiated via appeal from a complainant. Unless otherwise noted, it does not include reviews of BART Police Department investigations initiated at the discretion of OIPA, which happen commonly and do not always generate a formal report; it also does not include reviews conducted by OIPA of complaint investigations where the complaint was filed with OIPA but did not fall under OIPA's investigative jurisdiction.

⁵ This number refers to appeals filed with OIPA by complainants who have been issued the findings of the BART Police Department's internal investigation into their complaint regarding on-duty incidents. OIPA has a responsibility to review such appeals pursuant to the BART Citizen Oversight Model, Chapter 1-04 (E).

⁶ This number refers to all appeals initiated by the BART Police Citizen Review Board after receiving and reviewing the findings issued by OIPA in a given case. The routes of all such appeals are described in detail in the BART Citizen Oversight Model, Chapter 1-04 (B) (iv-v).

⁷ The BART Police Department defines an Informal Complaint as, "A comment on the actions of a Department employee, where the reporting party expressly states that he or she does not feel that the matter should be formally investigated with the understanding that an Informal Complaint does not hold the potential to result in disciplinary action against the employee." (BART Police Department Policy Manual, Policy 1020.1.1(d)).

⁸ BPD policy provides that if a person alleges or raises an issue that does not constitute a violation of Department policy, procedure, rules, regulations, or the law, the Department will classify the issue as an inquiry.

⁹ It is important to note that OIPA does not separate citizen complaints it receives into "Formal" and "Informal" classifications. This chart reflects all citizen complaints received by OIPA and all Formal Complaints received by the BART Police Department.

¹⁰ A Supervisor Referral refers to an instance involving an Inquiry or an Informal Complaint. An assigned supervisor addresses the issue informally with the involved employee and documents the content of the conversation with a memorandum to IAB.

¹¹ Administrative Closure is defined as follows in the BPD Policy Manual: Allegations that are received and documented; however, the Chief of Police or his/her designee determines, based on a preliminary investigation, that further investigation is not warranted. Under these circumstances, the complaint will be Administratively Closed and documented in a summary memorandum to the case file. Employees will be documented as witnesses only, not as subjects to the complaint. Internal Affairs will send a letter to the complainant notifying them that the case was closed following a preliminary investigation.

¹² OIPA may submit recommendations to IAB regarding minor clerical or record-keeping adjustments which are intended to maintain the integrity of the data collection and record-keeping processes at BPD. These are not considered by OIPA to be substantive recommendations requiring reporting herein.