



**BALTIMORE COUNTY**

**POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD**

**2024 Annual Report**

Chair Bishop Ralph Dennis

Senior Coordination Manager for Public Safety and Accountability Henry P. Callegary, Esq.

## **MESSAGE FROM POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD CHAIR BISHOP RALPH DENNIS**

**To:**

**The Honorable John Olszewski, Jr., County Executive**

**The Honorable Israel Patoka, County Council President**

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Per Baltimore County Code §3-3-2705(f), we are pleased to submit the 2024 Annual Report of the Police Accountability Board (PAB) for your review and consideration.

It is a privilege to serve as the Chair of the PAB, following the remarkable leadership of the previous Chair, Linda Shields, who transitioned to a new role on July 1, 2024. I have had the honor of serving on this board since its inception in 2022, and now, in my capacity as Chair, I look forward to continuing the progress we've made on behalf of the residents of Baltimore County.

The work of this board has been significant. Since its formation, the PAB has established a strong foundation for future operations, consistently upholding the principles of transparency, accountability, and public trust. Our efforts in 2022 and 2023 laid the groundwork, and we have built upon those foundations throughout 2024.

As Chair, I am committed to fostering a collaborative atmosphere within the PAB, ensuring a cohesive team effort as we address the vital issues surrounding police accountability. In the coming year, I plan to encourage innovative thinking through what I call "coloring outside the lines and connecting dots," meaning we will continue introducing fresh perspectives and actively engaging with law enforcement agencies and the community we serve. Only through unity—understanding that we are one community—can we achieve meaningful improvement in public safety and accountability.

While the PAB operates autonomously in its decisions, opinions, and recommendations, we greatly value the support and collaboration of the County Executive's office. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the County Executive, County Council, and all relevant stakeholders for their ongoing commitment to this board's success.

In 2024, the leadership of the PAB consisted of Ms. Linda Shields, Chair through June 30<sup>th</sup>, myself as Chair, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, and our diligent team, including Senior Coordination Manager for Public Safety and Accountability, Mr. Henry Callegary, Esq., and Executive Secretary Kelly La Valley. Their hard work, coupled with the contributions of all PAB members, has enabled us to produce this comprehensive report that reflects the significant progress we have made.

I would like to especially acknowledge the members of the Administrative Charging Committee and the PAB nominating and drafting committees for their exceptional dedication and added responsibilities

Looking ahead, I am excited about our continued collaboration with the diverse stakeholders across Baltimore County. Together, we will further our commitment to transparency, fairness, and accountability in policing.

Thank you for your attention to this report. I look forward to any questions or discussions that may arise as we move forward with our shared goals.

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Sincerely,

**Bishop Ralph L. Dennis**

Chairman, Police Accountability Board

Baltimore County

## **HISTORY, PURPOSE, AND STATE AND COUNTY REQUIREMENTS**

On April 9, 2021, the Maryland General Assembly achieved final passage of [HB0670](#), the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021. This legislation established an Administrative Charging Committee for statewide and bi-county law enforcement agencies, and required that all Maryland counties and Baltimore City establish Police Accountability Boards and Administrative Charging Committees, among other changes enacted. This legislation took effect on July 1, 2022.

The Baltimore County Council passed Bill No. [24-22](#) on April 4, 2022, creating the Baltimore County Police Accountability Board and Administrative Charging Committee. Per the terms of this legislation, the Police Accountability Board consists of nine members: one from each of Baltimore County's seven Councilmanic districts (recommended by the relevant member of the County Council, nominated by the County Executive, and appointed by the County Council), as well as two at-large members (nominated by the County Executive and appointed by the County Council). The County Executive appoints one member of the Police Accountability Board as Chair for a term of two years. The term of each member of the Police Accountability Board is three years, with the initial members of the Board serving on a staggered basis, so that three terms expired in 2023, three terms expired in 2024, and three terms expire in 2025.

Among its responsibilities, the Police Accountability Board must hold quarterly meetings with leaders of Baltimore County law enforcement agencies to improve matters of policing, appoint members of the public to the Administrative Charging Committee and Trial Boards, receive complaints of police misconduct from members of the public and forward said complaints to the Administrative Charging Committee, review outcomes of disciplinary matters considered by the Administrative Charging Committee, and submit an annual report. The annual report must be submitted to the County Executive and County Council, and must identify trends in the disciplinary process of police officers in Baltimore County, and make recommendations on changes to policy that would improve matters of policing.

The Baltimore County Administrative Charging Committee is made up of five members of the public, including two members appointed by the Police Accountability Board, two members appointed by the County Executive, and either the Chair of the Police Accountability Board or the Chair's designee. The purpose of the Administrative Charging Committee is to review the findings of a law enforcement agency's investigation and any charges recommended pertaining to a complaint of police misconduct involving a member of the public, and make a determination that the police officer is administratively charged, or not administratively charged. In cases where the officer is administratively charged, the Administrative Charging Committee must recommend discipline in accordance with the law enforcement agency's disciplinary matrix. If the officer is not administratively charged, the Administrative Charging Committee determines whether the charges are unfounded or that the officer is exonerated. If an officer is administratively charged, the chief of the law enforcement agency must offer discipline at least at the level recommended by the Administrative Charging Committee, although they may offer a higher level of discipline than recommended.

In the event that a law enforcement officer does not accept the discipline offered by the chief of the law enforcement agency, the officer may request a trial board to review the complaint and investigatory file. A trial board is made up an active or retired Administrative Law Judge (or a retired District Court or Circuit Court Judge), an officer of equal rank to the officer to which the complaint was directed, and a member of the public appointed by the Police Accountability Board.

An additional description of the complaint process is included in this Annual Report, as well as links to the meetings, agendas, and minutes of the Police Accountability Board and Administrative Charging Committee meetings in 2024.

**POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD MEMBERS**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Councilmanic District</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Profession</b>
Peter Fitzpatrick	1 <sup>st</sup>	July 1, 2023-June 30, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)	Registered Nurse
Karen Williams	2 <sup>nd</sup>	July 1, 2024-June 30, 2027	Beautician and Community Association President
Ralph Dennis (Chair)	3 <sup>rd</sup>	July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025	Bishop; Senior Pastor Emeritus
Vacant	4 <sup>th</sup>	-	-
Renee Streib	5 <sup>th</sup>	July 1, 2023-June 30, 2026	Retired
Scott Richman	6 <sup>th</sup>	July 1, 2023-June 30, 2026	Attorney
Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer (ACC Designee)	7 <sup>th</sup>	July 1, 2024-June 30, 2027 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)	Personal Assistant
Nigeria Rolling-Ford	At-Large (District 6 Resident)	July 1, 2024-June 30, 2027 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)	Legal Administrative Assistant
Kara White	At-Large (District 4 Resident)	July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025	Social Worker II-Adult Services

**ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Appointing Authority</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Profession</b>
Elizabeth Dishon-Feuer	Designee of the PAB Chair	June 1, 2023-June 1, 2026	Personal Assistant
Joan Harris (Chair)	County Executive Appointee	June 1, 2023-June 1, 2026	Attorney
Sharon Knecht	County Executive Appointee	June 1, 2023-June 1, 2026	Archivist
Tamesha Peterson	PAB Appointee	September 16, 2024-September 16, 2027	Pupil Personnel Worker
Christopher Tsui (Vice-Chair)	PAB Appointee	June 1, 2023-June 1, 2026	Attorney Advisor

**CIVILIAN TRIAL BOARD ROSTER**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Profession</b>
Sheila Lewis	Retired
Wesley Bohle	Traffic Inspection Supervisor
J. Hollis Albert	Certified Playground Safety Inspector
Gary Tosadori	Attorney
Anthony Kish	Retired
Bernadette White	Retired

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Henry Callegary	Senior Coordination Manager for Public Safety and Accountability
Kelly La Valley	Executive Secretary

## POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD MEETINGS

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Link to Recording</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda</b>	<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
January 12, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
March 18, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
April 16, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
May 10, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
June 24, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
September 16, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
November 18, 2024		<a href="#">Agenda</a>	
December 16, 2024			

## ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Link to Recording</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda</b>	<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
January 5, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
February 2, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
March 1, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
March 8, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
April 5, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
April 12, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
May 3, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
June 7, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
July 12, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
August 2, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
August 16, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
September 13, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
October 18, 2024	<a href="#">Recording</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Minutes</a>
November 15, 2024			
December 13, 2024			

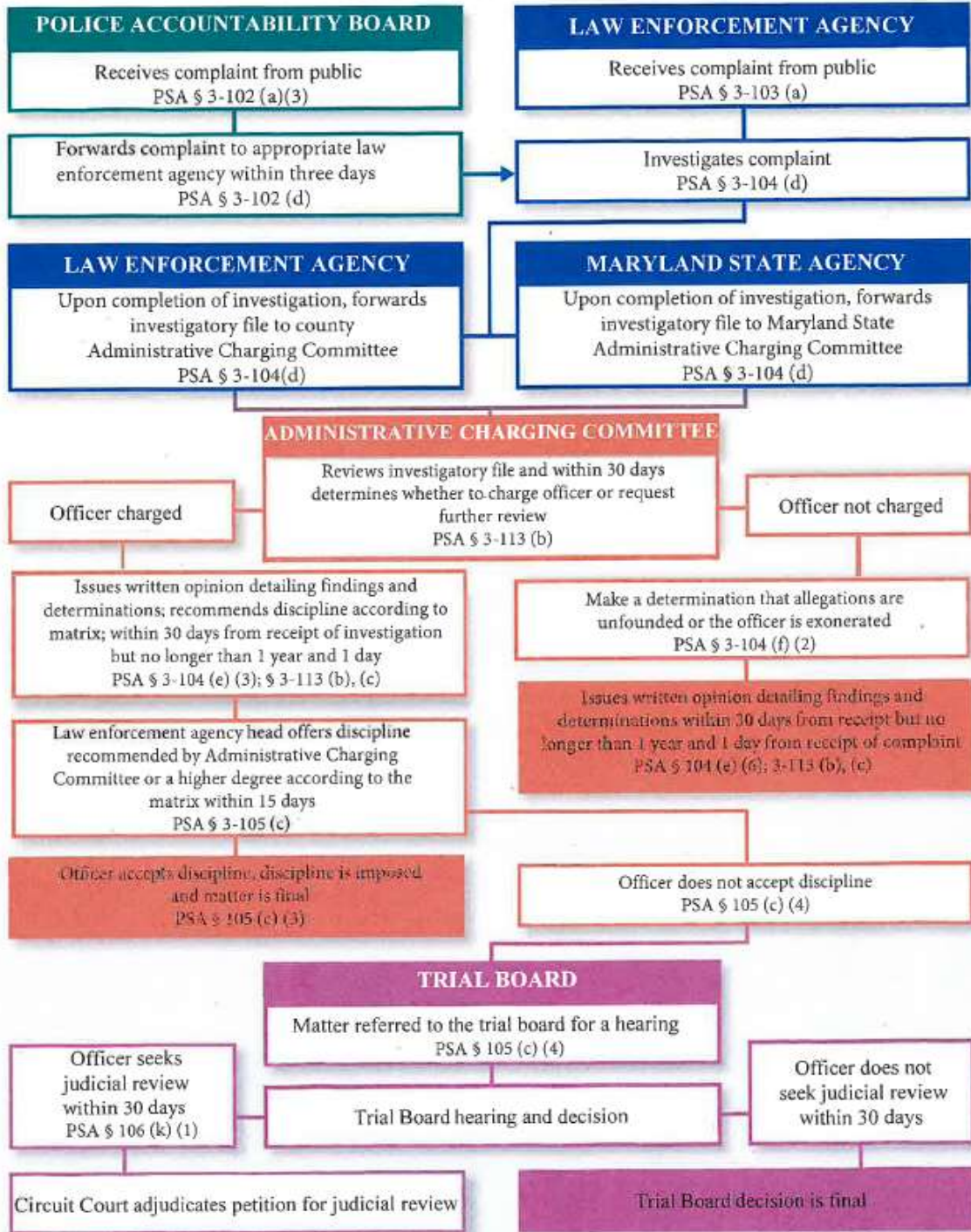
Additional information, as well as links to meeting recordings, agendas, and minutes, can be found on the Baltimore County Police Accountability Board website (<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/boards-commissions/executive/PAB>)





MARYLAND  
POLICE AND  
CORRECTIONAL  
TRAINING  
COMMISSIONS

# POLICE MISCONDUCT COMPLAINT PROCESS

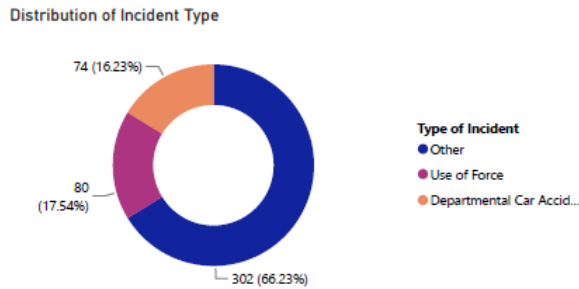
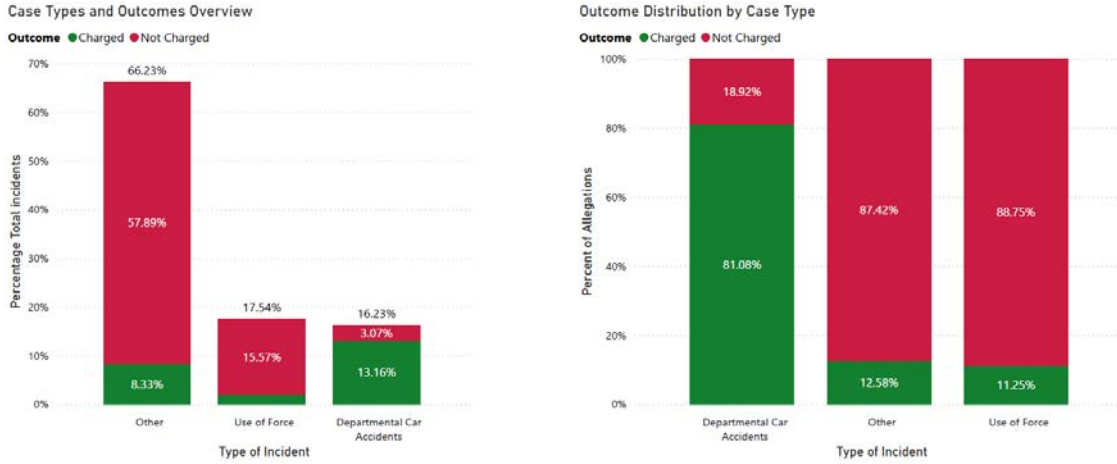


*Disposition by the Administrative Charging Committee shall be completed within 1 year and 1 day after filing of a complaint by a citizen PSA 3-113 (c)*

## REVIEW OF DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

The following charts display the outcomes of disciplinary matters involving Baltimore County Police Department members reviewed by the Administrative Charging Committee in 2024 as of October 31, 2024. No matters involving the Baltimore County Sheriff’s Office were reviewed in 2024.

### Outcomes by Case Type



The above-charts show the distribution of case types, and outcomes. For the purposes of these charts, and those following, incidents are broken-down into the following three categories:

**Use of Force:** Any incident in which an officer was accused of violating the Baltimore County Police Department’s use of force policy. Included in the “Charged” category are cases where officers were charged with a policy violation as part of a broader complaint that included an allegation that the use of force policy was violated. For instance, an officer may be alleged to have violated the use of force policy, as well as being rude and discourteous. If the officer was not charged for violating the use of force policy, but was charged for rude and discourteous conduct, that appears under the above “Use of Force” category.

**Departmental Car Accidents:** This category includes allegations stemming from incidents where a member of the Baltimore County Police Department was involved in a car crash, and deemed to be at-fault for the crash by the Baltimore County Police Department Departmental Accident Review Committee (DARC).

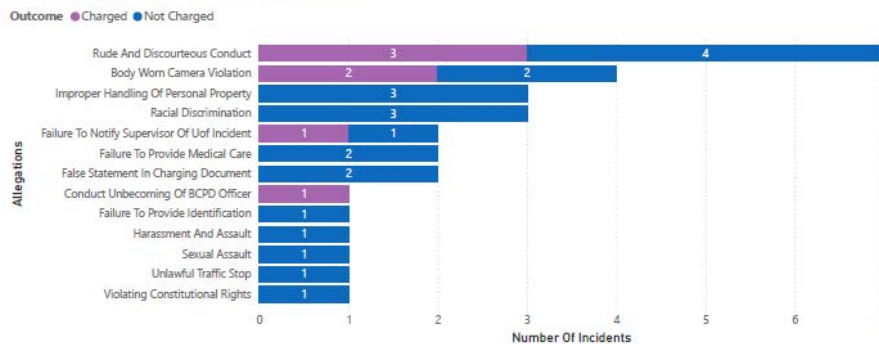
**Other:** This category includes all allegations of misconduct. A complete break-down of all “Other” allegations and outcomes is included in this report.

## Outcomes Overall and by Category

The following charts reflect the outcomes of all opinions issued by the Administrative Charging Committee, broken down by category. The “Use of Force Allegation Only” chart refers specifically to outcomes of alleged use of force violations, i.e. whether an office was charged with violating the use of force policy. The “Outcomes of all Matters Involving an Allegation of Use of Force” chart includes the outcomes of every allegation included within a complaint of a use of force violation. The final graph breaks down the specific additional allegations associated with use of force complaints. As of November 31, 2024, 2 officers have been charged for a violation of the use of force policy, and 7 officers have been charged with a different policy violation when accused of violating the use of force policy, as detailed in the final graph.

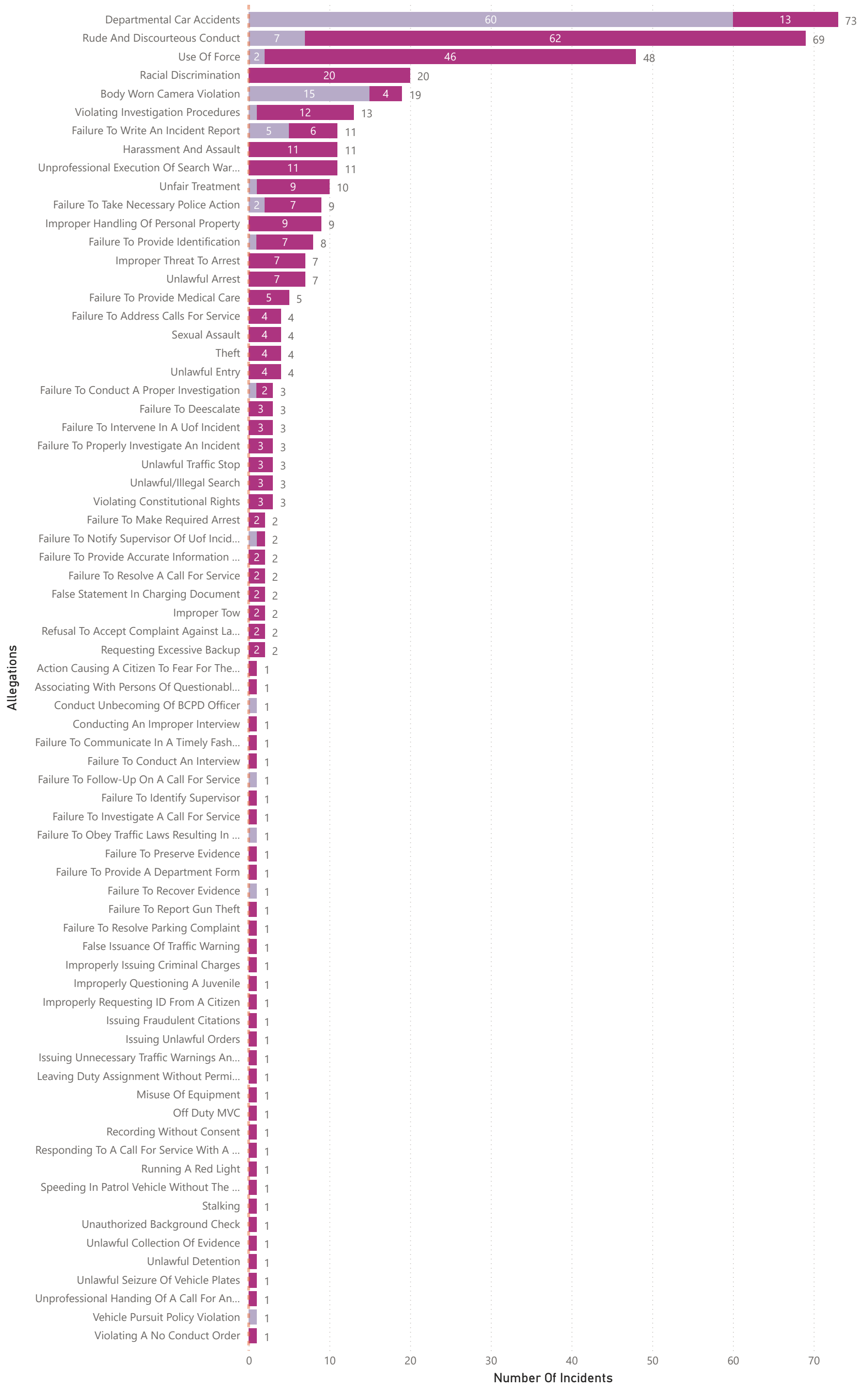


### Additional Allegations Associated with Use of Force



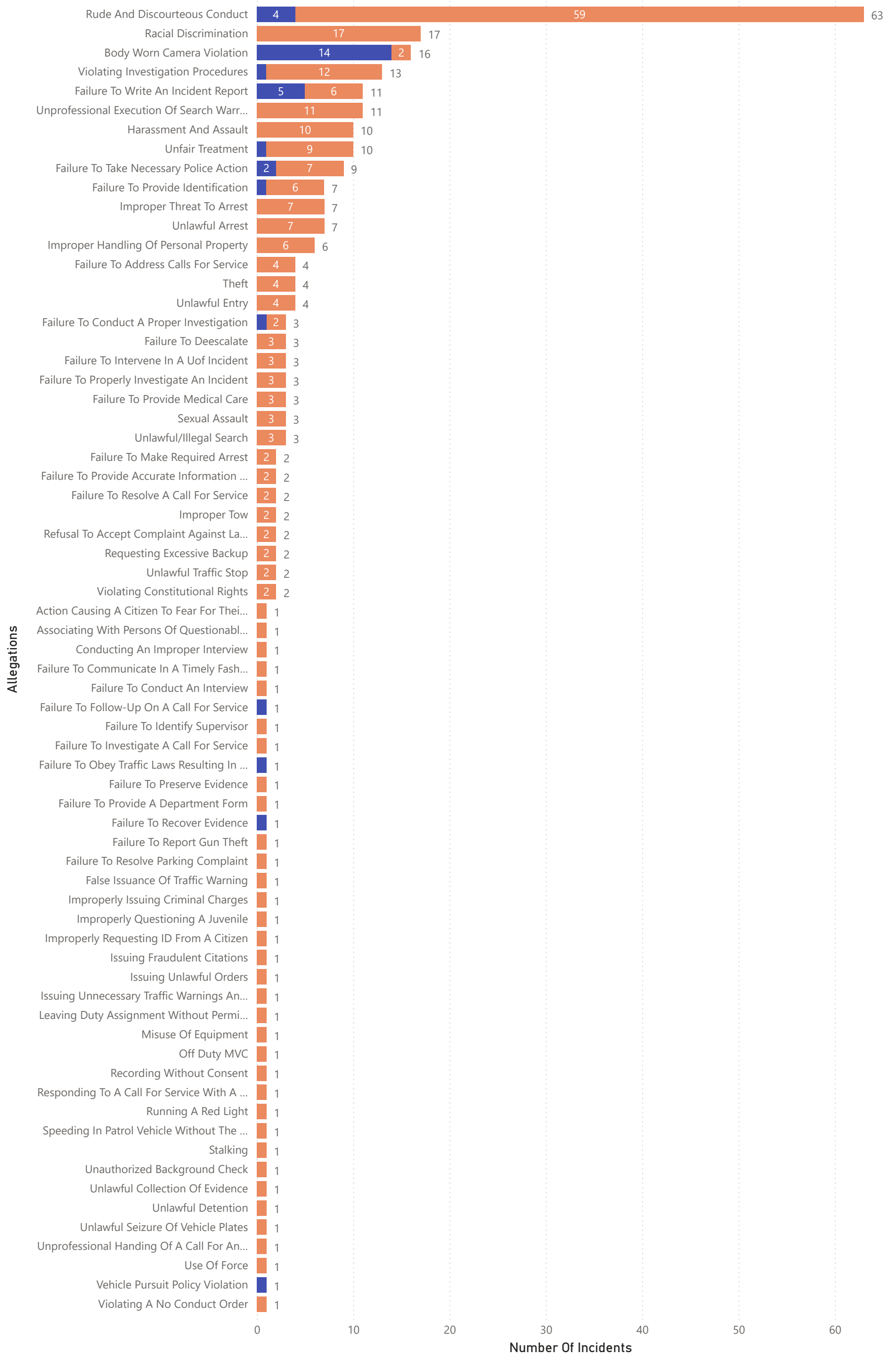
# Opinions Containing At Least One Allegation Of:

Outcome ● Charged ● Not Charged



## 'Other' Additional Allegations

Outcome ● Charged ● Not Charged



### TRIAL BOARD INFORMATION

No.	Date	Charges	Outcome	Discipline
1	5/7/2024	Rude and discourteous conduct	Guilty	Formal written counseling <sup>1</sup>
2	11/6/2024	1) Failure to take necessary police action by failing to issue a traffic citation for leaving the scene of an accident; 2) failure to recover/document evidence; 3) violating investigation procedures; and 4) failing to write a required report	1) Not guilty, 2) Guilty, 3) Guilty, 4) Not guilty	One day loss of leave and written reprimand
3	11/18/2024	Departmental Accident (Property Damage)	Guilty	Formal written counseling

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<sup>1</sup> Decision vacated due to legal technicality and converted to oral written counseling per agreement.

## TRENDS IN DISCIPLINE

The Baltimore County Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) began hearing cases involving allegations of misconduct by Baltimore County Police Department Officers and Sheriff's Office Deputies in July, 2023. That year, the ACC issued a total of 17 opinions. Of those, one officer was administratively charged for a body-worn camera policy violation. The ACC issued just three opinions involving complaint for use-of-force policy violations, and no officers were charged for use-of-force policy violations. In 2024, the ACC issued a total of \_\_\_\_\_ opinions. \_\_\_\_\_ officers were charged for policy violations. The ACC issued \_\_\_\_\_ involving complaint for use-of-force policy violations, and \_\_\_\_\_ officers were charged for use-of-force policy violations.

The much greater volume of opinions issued in 2024 is due primarily to the time it takes to investigate complaints against police officers by members of the public. Because only matters occurring on or after July 1, 2023 have been sent to the ACC for adjudication, and because of the length of time required to investigate complaints of misconduct, many of the opinions issued by the ACC stem from complaints filed in 2023. Therefore, it would be misleading to directly compare 2023 and 2024 due to the disparity in volume of cases and their complexity, and draw trends based on those comparisons. The PAB will be better able to address and analyze trends in policing in the 2025 Annual Report, when two full years of data can be compared and contrasted.

## **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Recommendation #1: Tolling “1 year and 1 day” deadline in criminal investigations**

**ISSUE:** Md. Code, Pub. Safety, §3-113(c) states that “(t)he process of review by the investigating unit through disposition by the administrative charging committee shall be completed within 1 year and 1 day after the filing of a complaint by a citizen.” This timeframe ensures that files are reviewed in a timely manner by the Administrative Charging Committee. However, in the event that the underlying complaint triggers a criminal investigation, this timeline can be very problematic. Namely, a criminal investigation and prosecution are unlikely to be completed within a year and a day of the receipt of a complaint, creating a scenario where the Administrative Charging Committee is required to make a decision in a case where an ongoing criminal investigation is also taking place prior to the conclusion of the criminal matter. This may lead to situations where the investigatory file presented to the Administrative Charging Committee lacks adequate information (such as statements by law enforcement officers) when a criminal investigation is ongoing. In turn, such a situation increases the likelihood of an officer not being administratively charged appropriately by the Administrative Charging Committee due to a lack of evidence. As the Administrative Charging Committee is the only means for disciplining an officer in a matter involving the public, this scenario creates the very real possibility in which the Administrative Charging Committee fails to recommend discipline for an officer facing criminal prosecution.

**SOLUTION:** The Maryland General Assembly should pass legislation akin to House Bill 188 (2024) and Senate Bill 608 (2024) that tolled the 1 year and 1 day deadline in cases where the officer was subject to a criminal investigation. Under those bills, the 1 year and 1 day deadline commenced from the date of (1) the investigating law enforcement agency’s determination that the matter is not related to criminal activity, (2) the final disposition of all criminal charges, or (3) the Administrative Charging Committee or law enforcement agency’s receipt of notice that the appropriate prosecutorial authority declined to file criminal charges.



**Recommendation #2: Ensure complaints withdrawn by a complainant are investigated by the law enforcement agency**

**ISSUE:** Md. Code, Pub. Safety, §3-102 and §3-103 provide the framework by which a member of the public can file a complaint of police misconduct against an officer with the Police Accountability Board or with the law enforcement agency that employs the police officer who is the subject of the complaint. The law enforcement agency is responsible for investigating the complaint. COMAR 12.04.09.06B. Upon completion of an investigation, the results of the investigation must be forwarded to the Administrative Charging Committee for review and disposition. PS§3-104(d). However, the Code and corresponding regulations do not explicitly address what happens when a complainant withdraws their complaint against a police officer during the investigatory process and prior to the Administrative Charging Committee reviewing the results of the investigation. The Maryland Office of the Attorney General has opined that “(w)e do not think that a complainant’s desire to withdraw a complaint alters the clear investigation requirement that (COMAR 12.04.09.06B) imposes.” However, absent clarifying language in the Code, there remains a lack of clarity for both law enforcement agencies and Administrative Charging Committees in cases where a complainant withdraws their complaint.

**SOLUTION:** The Maryland General Assembly should amend Md. Code, Pub. Safety, §3-102 to clearly state that a law enforcement agency shall investigate all complaints that are not eligible for mediation, including when the complainant withdraws their complaint. This will ensure all complaints made by members of the public against police officers are investigated by the law enforcement agency, and the results of the investigation are sent to the Administrative Charging Committee for review and disposition.

**Recommendation #3: Remove departmental accident cases from the jurisdiction of the Administrative Charging Committee**

**ISSUE:** Md. Code, Pub. Safety, §3-104(d) states that “On completion of an investigation of a complaint of police misconduct involving a member of the public and a police officer, regardless of whether the complaint originated from *within the law enforcement agency or from an external source*, the law enforcement agency shall forward to the appropriate administrative charging committee the investigatory files for the matter” (emphasis added). This language requires the law enforcement agency to investigate a matter involving police misconduct absent the filing of a formal complaint by a member of the public. In the majority of cases, this language allows law enforcement agencies to investigate instances where they believe misconduct (whether in the form of a policy violation, a violation of the law, or a violation of a member of the public’s constitutional rights) occurred, but no formal complaint was filed. However, this language has created inconsistencies between jurisdictions in cases of departmental accidents. In Baltimore County, all departmental accidents involving a member of the public where the officer was found at fault by the Departmental Accident Review Committee (DARC) are investigated by the Internal Affairs Section, and the results of the investigation are sent to the Administrative Charging Committee for review. This leads to a high volume of cases that do not involve a complaint from a member of the public, and largely fall outside of the expertise and training of the Administrative Charging Committee. Additionally, several jurisdictions in Maryland do not send departmental accident cases to their Administrative Charging Committees, creating inconsistencies that are ripe for legal challenges.

**SOLUTION:** The Maryland General Assembly should amend Md. Code, Pub. Safety, §3-104(d) to clarify that departmental accident cases do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Administrative Charging Committee.

**Recommendation #4: Require the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) to Adopt an Annual Schedule for Training**

**ISSUE:** Members of the Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) and trial boards are required by the Maryland Police Accountability Act (MPAA) to attend in-person training with the MPTSC prior to serving. This training ensures that members of the ACC and trial boards are equipped with the necessary skills and information to perform their respective roles in the police accountability and disciplinary process. Presently, the MPTSC does not have an annual schedule of trainings for ACC and trial board members, nor is training adequately publicized on their website. Training announcements are sent periodically to administrative staff members in Maryland's jurisdictions periodically, although trainings are canceled when there is a lack of demand. There are often periods of several months or more when no trainings are scheduled. This creates significant difficulties in ensuring new ACC and trial board members receive training, which in-turn threatens the ability of the ACC and trial boards to meet their statutorily required duties. For instance, if multiple ACC member step-down, and the next training is not available for several months, the ACC may not have a quorum and will be unable to issue opinions, thus violating the MPAA and running the risk of the 1 year and 1 day deadline to issue opinions lapsing.

**SOLUTION:** The MPTSC should adopt an annual schedule of ACC and trial board trainings. This schedule should be published on the MPTSC website, and circulated to local jurisdictions via email. These trainings should occur at least every-other month to ensure that ACCs and trial boards have adequate membership to achieve a quorum and conduct their statutorily required business. Trainings should not be canceled, except in the event that no individuals sign-up for a training. These changes will create a reliable training schedule which will ensure that ACCs and trial boards are able to fulfill their mandated duties under the MPAA.