

# CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT **INTERNAL AFFAIRS 2019 ANNUAL REPORT**





*As a police department, we cannot effectively serve you without your trust. Our Internal Affairs (IA) process plays an integral role in building and maintaining that trust.*

*This 2019 Annual Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) Internal Affairs Report was created in that vein. The men and women of the CMPD are committed to providing the very best service possible and maintaining the high level of confidence this community has in us. Since 2003, we have created this annual report as a way of being transparent and proactive.*

*Our hope is that this report will help you better understand the seriousness with which we approach citizen complaints and help build understanding about the processes we follow when an employee uses force, is involved in a motor vehicle crash, is injured, or is accused of misconduct. This report also will provide an overview of 2019's activities and present similar data from previous years for comparison.*

*I hope you will find the information reassuring and helpful. I look forward to working with all members of our community to make Charlotte-Mecklenburg an even better and safer place to live, work, and visit.*

*Sincerely,*

Handwritten signature of Kerr Putney.

**Kerr Putney**  
**Chief of Police**

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## CMPD INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU MISSION STATEMENT

The Internal Affairs Bureau will preserve the public's trust and confidence in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department by conducting thorough and impartial investigations of alleged employee misconduct and using proactive measures to prevent such misconduct in order to maintain the highest standards of fairness and respect towards citizens and employees.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg area continues to see a great deal of growth as more and more people move into the area to work and live. Mecklenburg County's population is just over one million, and CMPD's jurisdiction population is 930,613 people. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department employs 1,982 sworn officers and 539 civilians. Our employees interact with the public in some manner daily. A snapshot of 2019 revealed that CMPD had 601,359 police interactions with the public, up from 597,315 last year.

In 2019, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Internal Affairs Bureau processed 128\* cases of misconduct allegations, 12 cases less than 2018. These cases consisted of a total of 223 alleged violations of a rule of conduct (some cases involved multiple violations). Twenty-eight of the cases were related to the Use of Force directive, one of over 100 directives and standard operating procedures CMPD personnel are responsible for upholding. In 25% of those cases, it was determined that there was sufficient evidence to show the employee's actions violated policy. Nine of the twenty-eight Use of Force cases were reported by CMPD employees against other employees.

In 2019, our officers had over 10,700 encounters with armed subjects and were successful in de-escalating the majority of the encounters. Officers were involved in six deadly force incidents in 2019, four of which resulted in fatal injuries to the suspect. In five of these six cases the suspect had a firearm when the officers discharged their weapon; in the sixth case the suspect had a knife. From January – October 2019, these incidents were investigated by the CMPD Officer-Involved Shooting (OIS) team, a highly trained and experienced team of

veteran detectives from the Homicide/ADW Unit, and the Internal Affairs Bureau. Starting in November 2019, the NC State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) began investigating OIS cases in place of the CMPD OIS team. In addition, these incidents were reviewed, or are currently under review, by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office.

Nine CMPD employees were criminally charged in 2019. While these types of incidents are a disappointment to the organization, the number of employees charged is less than one half of one percent (0.37%) of CMPD's workforce.

\*The numbers reflected in this report are based on data which is not static and is subject to change following publication. While the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department strives to share accurate, timely information with the community, there are factors beyond our control that influence these changes. One way the Department attempts to minimize these changes, or updates, is by adjudicating 2019 case investigations prior to publishing this report. However, cases that are still pending adjudication or under appeal may affect the final numbers.

## CMPD MISSION STATEMENT

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department will build problem-solving partnerships with our citizens to prevent the next crime and enhance the quality of life throughout our community, always treating people with fairness and respect.

### At CMPD We Value:



Partnerships



Open Communication



Problem-solving



People



Our Employees



Integrity



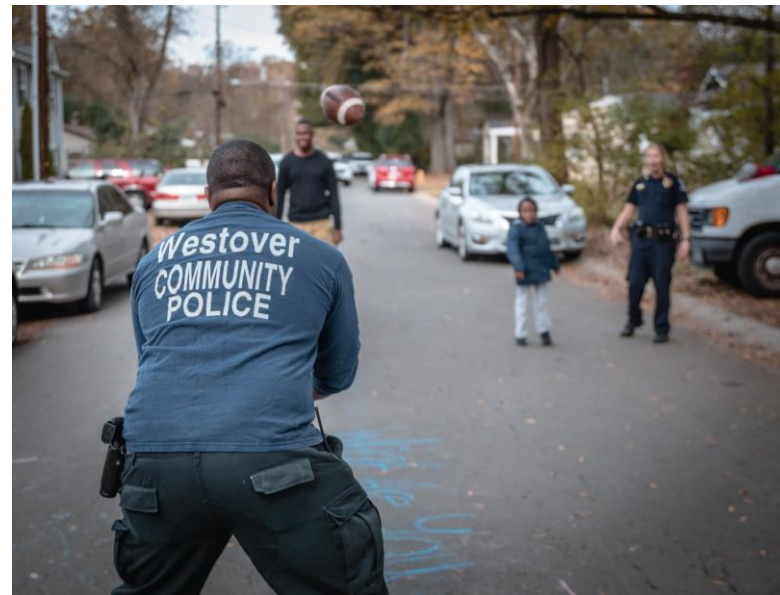
Courtesy



The Constitution  
of North Carolina



The Constitution of  
the United States



## INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

We are proud to be part of an organization that places a high value on integrity and public trust. The Internal Affairs Bureau is charged with ensuring the level of trust and confidence the public has in its police department is safeguarded and that our agency remains deserving of that trust. We also ensure the rights of our employees are protected and all persons involved in an inquiry are treated with dignity and respect.

The Internal Affairs Bureau investigates allegations of significant concern to the community at large. Other allegations of misconduct are investigated by a supervisor in the employee's chain of command. After an investigation is complete, depending on the allegation, the complaint is either reviewed by the employee's chain of command or an Independent Chain of Command Review Board to determine a disposition. Complaint investigations completed by Internal Affairs are most often adjudicated by an Independent Chain of Command Review Board. These Boards are comprised of supervisors and command staff members from throughout the Department, as well as a representative from the Community Relations Committee.

The CMPD realizes that some misconduct allegations can generate significant community concern. Internal Affairs sergeants are assigned to investigate such allegations thoroughly so that commanders overseeing board hearings can make informed, unbiased decisions regarding complaint dispositions. Internal Affairs presents the information gathered during an investigation to employee commanders in what is called an Independent Chain of Command Review. While Internal Affairs remains present throughout these reviews, its staff assumes no active role in determining the final adjudication of any alleged violation. That responsibility is most

often reserved for an Independent Chain of Command Board and, ultimately, the Chief of Police. Internal Affairs also represents the department and the Chief of Police when a case disposition is appealed to one of the community oversight boards, such as the Citizens Review Board or the Civil Service Board.

The Internal Affairs staff of eight sergeants, led by two captains and a major, is always willing to assist the public in addressing their concerns. Please feel free to contact any unit member with any questions or concerns you may have. To learn more please visit [www.cmpd.org](http://www.cmpd.org). To read more about the role of Internal Affairs, click on "[Our Organization/Office of the Chief/Internal Affairs](#)." This area of our website contains detailed information about the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Disciplinary Process, the complaint process, and an FAQ section. For a complete list of the Rules of Conduct and who may investigate a potential violation please go to [www.cmpd.org](http://www.cmpd.org) and click on the "[Departmental Directives](#)" link.



## COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT

Police-community partnerships are critical for improving the quality of life in our community by preventing and addressing crime. These partnerships rely on public trust, which is why the CMPD welcomes community oversight in its disciplinary process. The CMPD works with three different organizations that provide oversight of issues brought to the Internal Affairs Bureau: the Community Relations Committee, the Civil Service Board, and the Citizens Review Board.



## COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department has a responsibility to prevent unethical and improper conduct among our employees, and to give them the very best preparation to make sound, appropriate, and respectable decisions.

The CMPD has more than 100 [Directives and Standard Operating Procedures](#) that establish policies for topics ranging from Response to Resistance to Towing Vehicles; however, to make internal discipline matters clearer, CMPD employees have 43 [Rules of Conduct](#) that must be followed. These rules cover the broader categories of behavior and performance expectations to which we hold all employees accountable.

In 2017, Rule of Conduct 43 – Duty to Report was added to CMPD’s policies. This rule requires employees that witness or have knowledge of another employee engaging in what may be unbecoming conduct to report that immediately to a supervisor. In addition, the policy requires any employee who witnesses or has knowledge of another employee engaging in behavior that violates any State or Federal law to immediately report it to a supervisor. The final part of the policy requires any employee who witnesses or has knowledge of a use of force that is required to be reported to immediately notify a supervisor.

In 2020 Rule of Conduct 10-F—Neglect of Duty was revised to include a “Duty to Intervene” provision to ensure Officers will take appropriate and immediate action in any situation in which they know or should have known their failure to act would result in an excessive response to resistance or egregious behavior which shocks the conscience.

We recognize that despite our best efforts, there will be times when citizens, fellow employees or supervisors perceive an employee’s behavior to be inappropriate. When this occurs, IA staff uses a well-established process for receiving, investigating, and adjudicating complaints.

Complaints concerning employee misconduct are classified in two ways: Internal or External. Internal complaints are generated by CMPD employees. External complaints originate from someone outside of the CMPD. Most police departments require citizens to follow a more formal process than the CMPD, which accepts complaints by telephone, in-person, written correspondence or e-mail. While the Internal Affairs Bureau would like to communicate effectively with complainants and assist complainants through the process, anonymous complaints are also accepted and investigated.





## COMPLAINT ADJUDICATIONS

The CMPD disciplinary process mandates the adjudication of complaint allegations by a supervisory chain of command. Internal Affairs Bureau personnel serve to advise the chain of command on the investigation and disciplinary process, but do not participate in determination of the final disposition. There are four ways a complaint allegation can be adjudicated based on evidence of the alleged behavior and an evaluation of the appropriateness of the employee's behavior: Sustained, Not Sustained, Exonerated, and Unfounded.

If an allegation is sustained by a Chain of Command Review Board, the Board will discuss and impose a corrective action consistent with the department's disciplinary philosophy. Internal Affairs reviews every internal investigation for consistency with the disciplinary policy and philosophy, and works with the Board to resolve any inconsistencies.

Upon disposition of a complaint allegation, Internal Affairs mails a letter to the complainant to advise them their complaint has been thoroughly investigated and resolved. The CMPD makes every effort to investigate and adjudicate all complaint allegations within 45 days from the time a complaint is made. However, there are circumstances, including case complexity and witness availability, which prevent this goal from being achieved in every instance.

## Complaint Adjudication Outcomes



### Sustained

The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to prove the allegation made in the complaint.



### Not Sustained

The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to prove or disprove the allegation made in the complaint.



### Exonerated

The acts that provided the basis for the complaint or allegation occurred, but the investigation revealed that they were justified, lawful and proper.



### Unfounded

The allegation is false. The incident never occurred or the employee was not involved in the incident, or the investigation conclusively proved that the employee's alleged act or actions never took place.

## COMPLAINTS

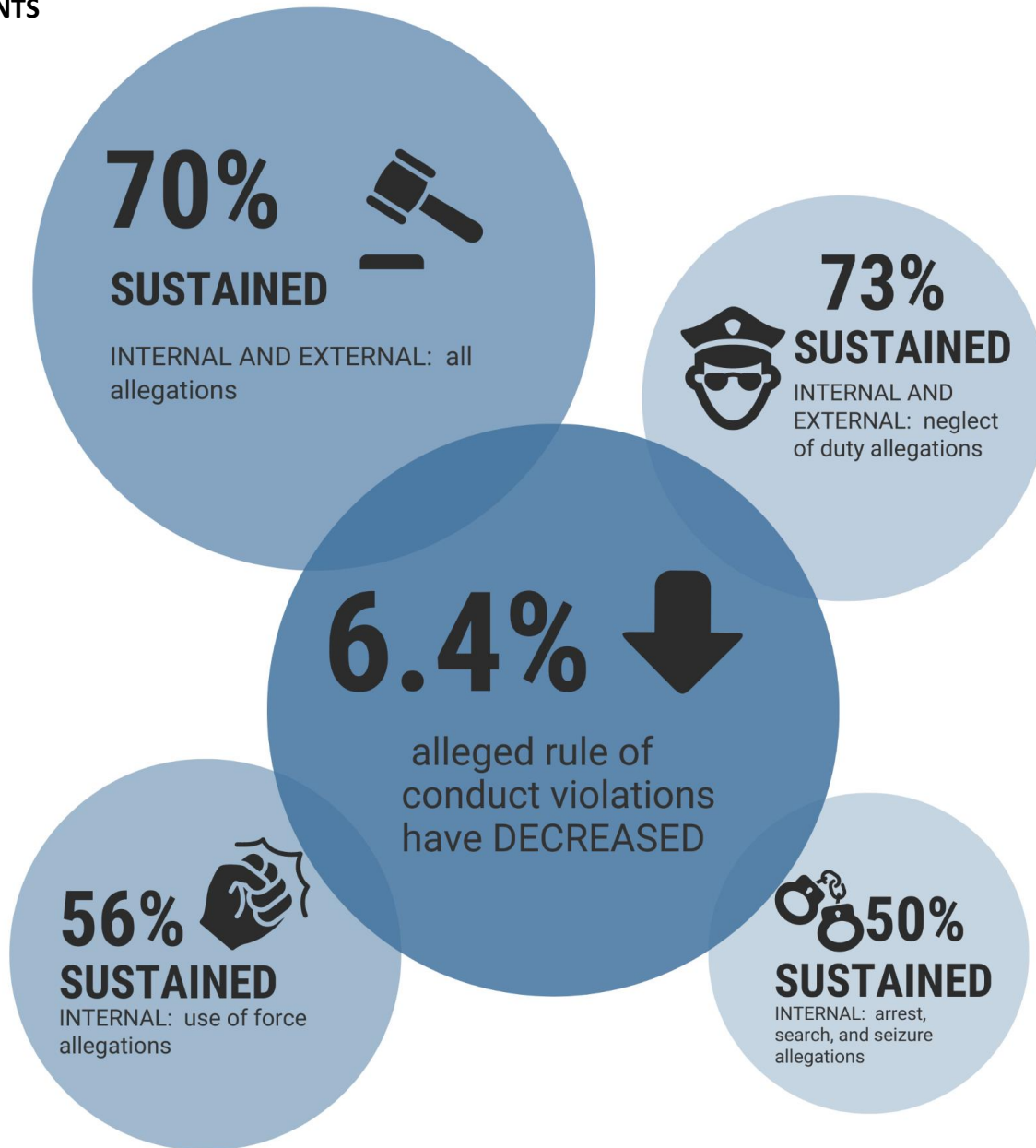
**Overall Complaints in 2019:** The CMPD received 128 complaints in 2019, the majority of which were internal complaints. As can be seen in the table to the right, the number of external complaints increased by 9, while the number of internal complaints decreased by 21. Note: multiple allegations may result from a single event.

Total Complaint Events					
	2017	2018	2019	3 Yr. Avg. '17-'19	% Change (comparison of 2019 to 3 yr. avg.)
External Complaint Events	27	26	35	29.3	19.3%
Internal Complaint Events	119	114	93	108.3	-14.4%
Total Complaint Events	146	140	128	138.0	-7.2%

In 2019, there were 223 alleged rules of conduct violations, compared to 234 in 2018. This is a 4.7 percent decrease. The below table identifies the rules of conduct that account for the majority of all misconduct allegations. Note: Some allegations in this table may still be pending due to investigations.

Common Alleged Rule of Conduct Violations												
	EXTERNAL				INTERNAL				TOTAL			
	2017	2018	2019	3 Yr. Avg. '17-'19	2017	2018	2019	3 Yr. Avg. '17-'19	2017	2018	2019	3 Yr. Avg. '17-'19
Violation of Rules	9	5	2	5.3	19	19	17	18.3	28	24	19	23.7
Departmental Reports	2	0	4	2.0	2	11	5	6.0	4	11	9	8.0
Driving	0	0	0	0.0	25	19	15	19.7	25	19	15	19.7
Neglect of Duty	3	2	5	3.3	20	27	21	22.7	23	29	26	26.0
Courtesy	5	10	12	9.0	12	11	6	9.7	17	21	18	18.7
Unbecoming Conduct	5	7	7	6.3	11	18	14	14.3	16	25	21	20.7
Use of Force	4	5	19	9.3	4	6	9	6.3	8	11	28	15.7
Conformance to Laws	6	4	4	4.7	6	6	9	7.0	12	10	13	11.7
Arrest, Search, and Seizure	10	2	6	6.0	4	5	8	5.7	14	7	14	11.7
Use of Body Worn Cameras	1	4	2	2.3	9	15	21	13.7	10	19	23	16.0

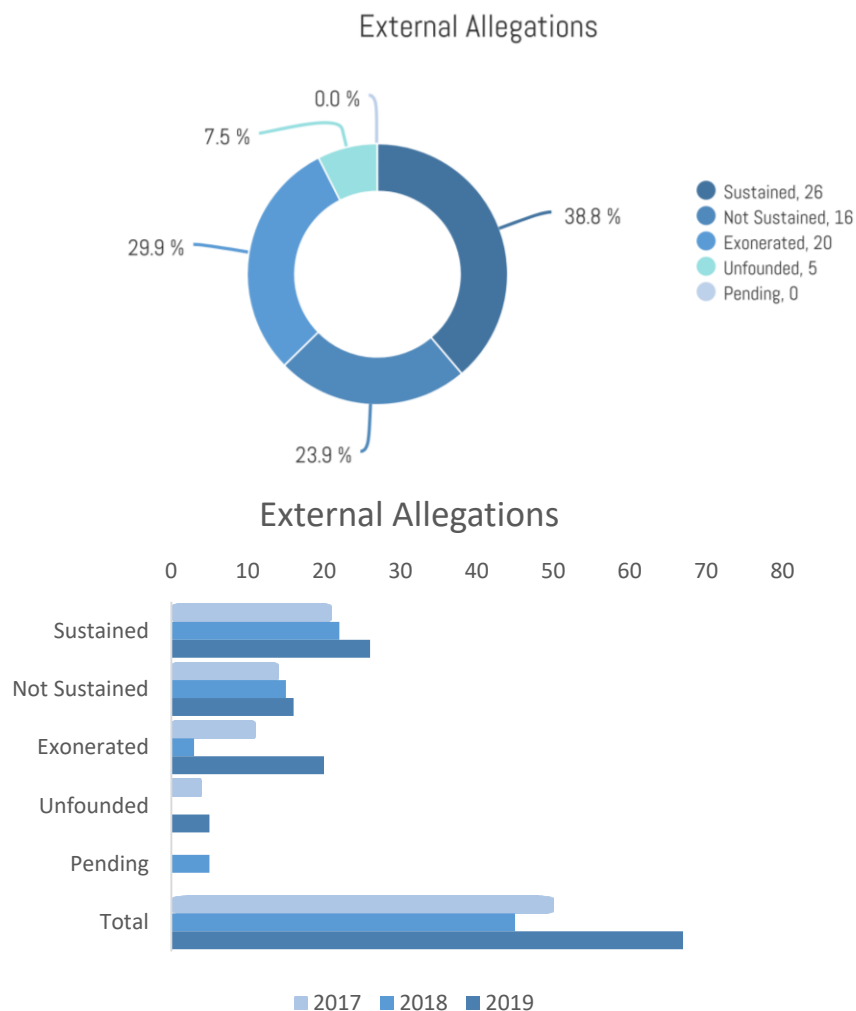
## 2019 COMPLAINT COUNTS



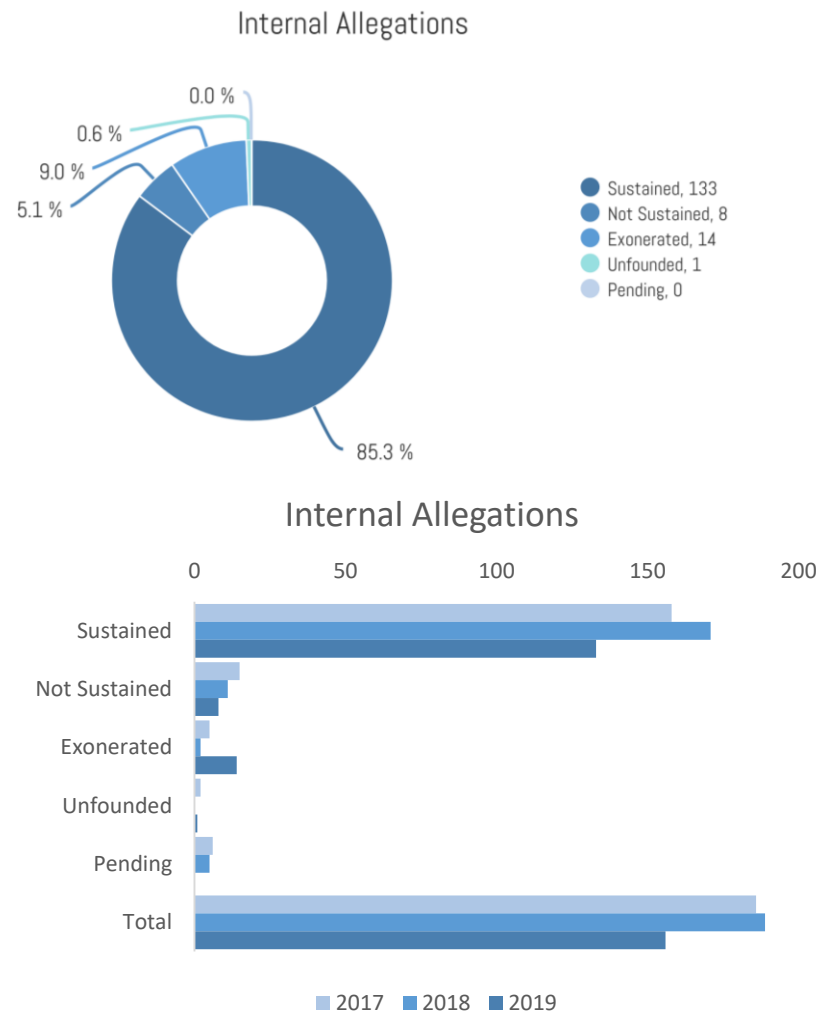


## COMPLAINTS – EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL ALLEGATIONS

**2019 Investigation Decisions.** Following the investigations and adjudications, 39% of External allegations were sustained compared to 49% in 2018. Internal allegations were sustained in 85% of cases in 2019 compared to 91% in 2018. This percentage of sustained internal allegations is consistent with past years.



The number of sustained allegations increased by 4 from the previous year and not sustained allegations in 2018 increased by 1 from the previous year. There were 67 external allegations in 2019, up from 45 in 2018.

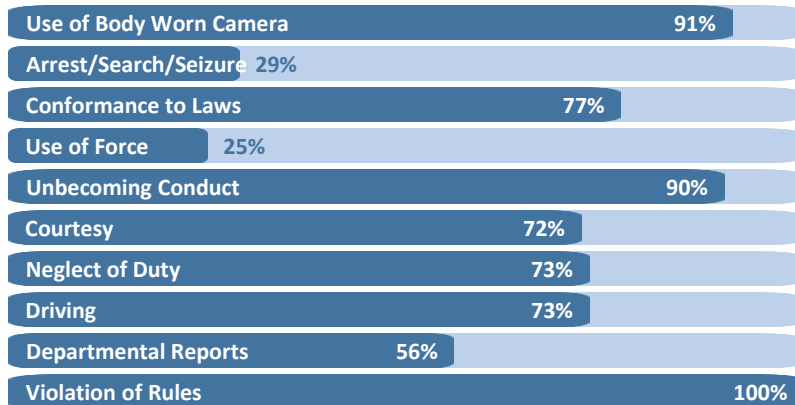


A high rate of sustained internal allegations persists from previous years, most likely due to CMPD employees having a strong sense of what constitutes misconduct in various circumstances.

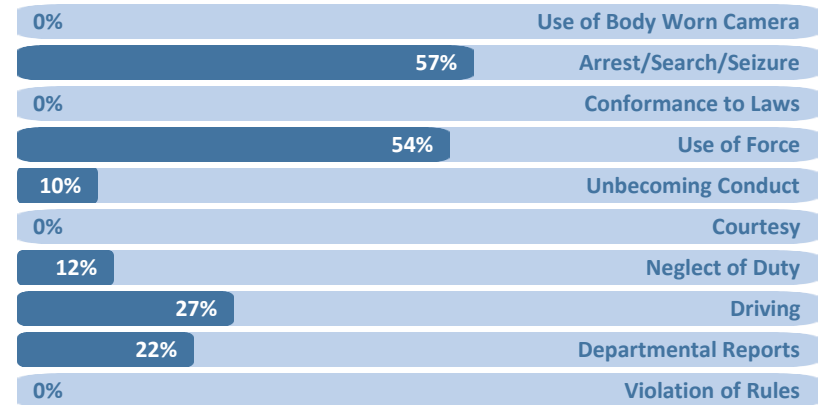
## ALLEGATION OUTCOMES

The charts below show the percentage of frequent allegations in 2019 that were Sustained, Not Sustained, Exonerated, or Unfounded.

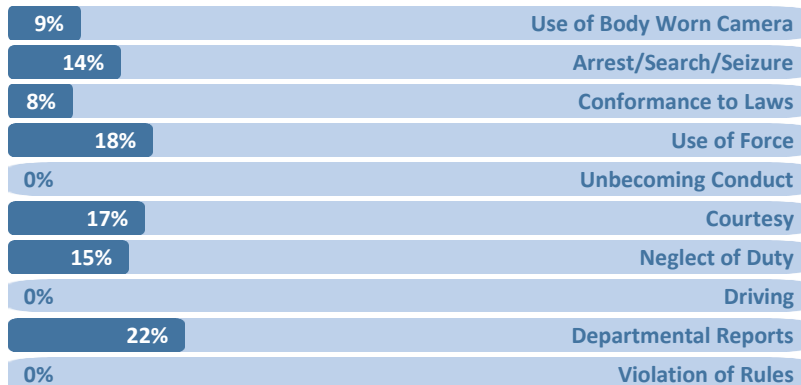
### Allegations Sustained



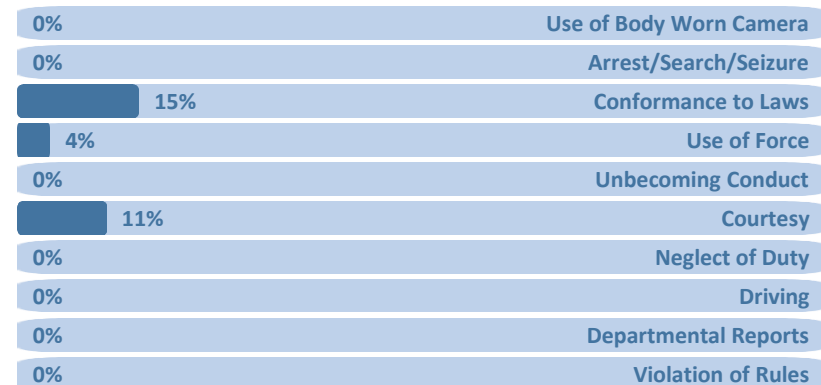
### Allegations Exonerated



### Allegations Not Sustained



### Allegations Unfounded



Note: The statistics in the above chart are for cases that have received a disposition.

## DISCIPLINARY ACTION

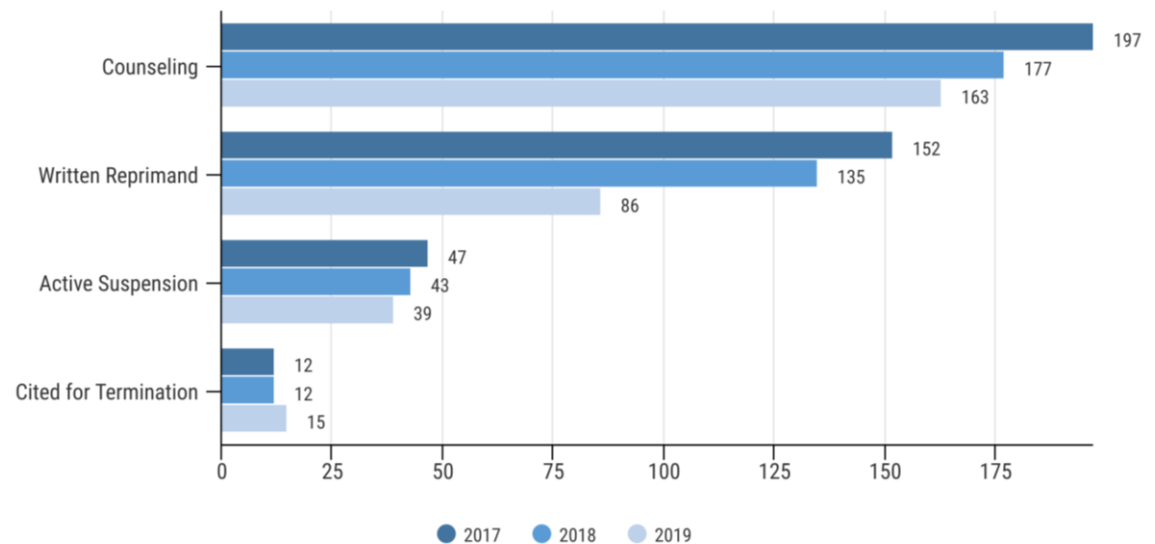
To the extent allowed by law and policy an employee's past record will be taken into consideration in determining the consequences of a failure to meet the department's expectations. An employee that continually makes errors can expect the consequences of this behavior to become progressively more punitive. (Taken from Directive 100-004, Discipline Philosophy). Disciplinary action can range from counseling to a recommendation for employee termination. In many cases, employees also receive additional training in the subject areas where violations occur.

The Chain of Command or Independent Chain of Command board makes the decision on the appropriate disciplinary action based on the CMPD's disciplinary philosophy. This philosophy takes into account employee motivation, degree of harm, employee experience, whether the violation was intentional or unintentional and the employee's past record. To view a more detailed explanation of our department's disciplinary philosophy, visit [www.cmpd.org](http://www.cmpd.org), E-Policing Resources, then select [Departmental Directives](#), then [100-004 Disciplinary Philosophy](#).

The below graph illustrates the disciplinary action taken for sustained allegations in 2017 through 2019. There is no disciplinary action if an employee resigns while under investigation. There are more actions taken than allegations, as some allegations result in multiple disciplinary actions, such as reprimands and suspensions together. The percentage of disciplinary actions taken in 2019 saw a reduction in written reprimands and increases in all other disciplinary actions compared to percentages in recent years.

## DISCIPLINARY ACTION PER ALLEGATION

Low to moderately severe disciplinary actions (e.g., counseling, reprimands, and suspensions) were used most often in 2019, as has been the case in recent years.



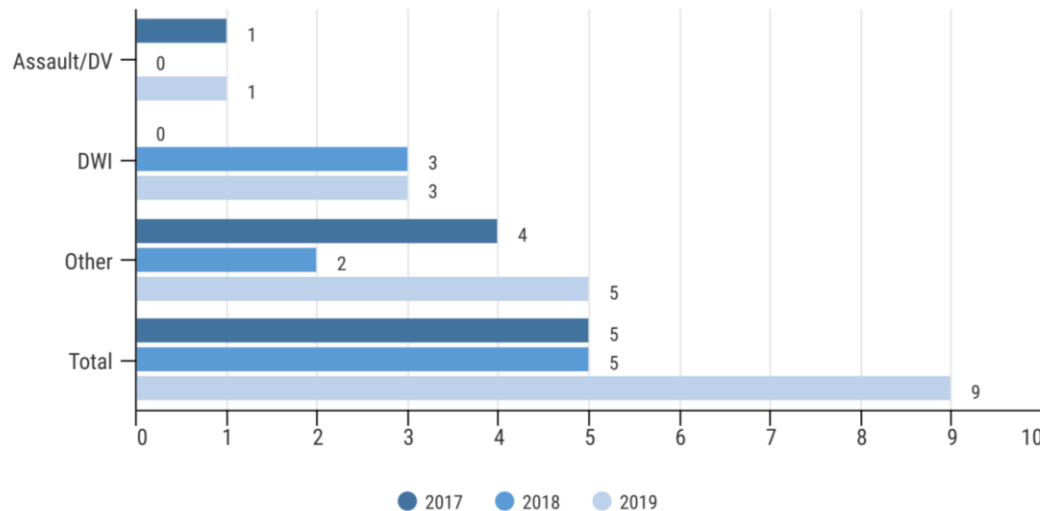


## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING EMPLOYEES

When a CMPD employee is charged with a crime in Mecklenburg County, the department conducts a separate criminal investigation from the Internal Affairs investigation. Criminal investigations are conducted by detectives in the Criminal Investigations Bureau and are presented to the Mecklenburg County District Attorney for a decision on prosecution. If the alleged crime occurs outside of Mecklenburg County, then the agency with jurisdiction in that area conducts the criminal investigation in accordance with local procedures. Decisions on the final disposition of the criminal and administrative cases are made independently of one another. Employees charged with a crime, including certain traffic offenses, are required to report the charges to the Chief of Police.

The graph below compares the types and frequency of employee criminal charges across the last three years.

### EMPLOYEES CRIMINALLY CHARGED



2018



2019

THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES CRIMINALLY CHARGED WITH **DWI** HAS REMAINED **EQUAL**

## USE OF FORCE

Police officers are trained to seek voluntary compliance through lawful direction. However, they are sometimes met with circumstances in which a subject's actions compel them to use force in order to gain compliance. CMPD policy requires officers to report use of force incidents under a broad range of circumstances. Supervisors investigate and document each incident. The table displays the number of times officers used force as compared with total arrests and total police interactions.


	2017	2018	2019	3 Yr. Avg. '17-'19	2018-2019 Change
Total Use of Force Events*	369	395	453	406	58
Total Police Interactions	622,195	597,315	601,359	606,956	4,044
Total Arrests	18,937	16,828	17,630	17,798	802


To the greatest degree permitted under law, the CMPD releases current and relevant information to the public throughout the investigative process during a deadly force investigation. Any case involving a discharge of firearm that results in serious injury or death can be appealed to the Citizens Review Board.


In 2019, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department continued to update the Open Data Source webpage that provides the public with detailed information about officer involved shooting incidents. We provide information about officer involved shootings in an effort to create greater transparency of the actions of our employees. It is important to us that members of the community are informed whenever an officer discharges his/her firearm at a person and whether the shooting follows department policies and procedures. We believe that your trust and confidence in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department will increase as you understand what our officers encounter and how we hold them accountable for their actions. The CMPD is continuously reviewing and improving our practices to reduce the likelihood of deadly force incidents.

Effective November 6, 2019, CMPD adopted a new Directive, replacing the Use of Force Directive, to address concerns from some residents about police use of force, while acknowledging that officers face an inherently dangerous job. The Response to Resistance Directive recognizes and respects the integrity and paramount value of human life, the CMPD believes that human life is sacrosanct and the goal of any encounter with the public is girded by the unwavering commitment to the preservation of life. Consistent with this belief is the CMPD's full commitment to a culture of guardianship that embraces a warrior spirit in protecting the community.

The policy concerning the use of deadly force is reviewed with officers annually. Additionally, officers are required to train and qualify with their firearm annually, both during the daylight hours and during the hours of darkness. Officers must also qualify yearly with the Department-issued shotgun. Officers assigned to SWAT participate in firearms training each month.

**1%**   
POLICE  
INTERACTIONS  
HAVE  
INCREASED

**5%**   
ARRESTS HAVE  
INCREASED

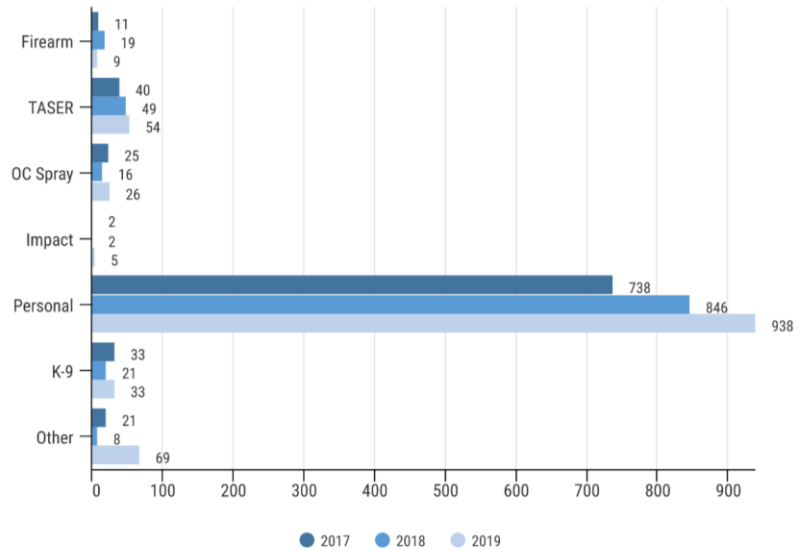
**15%**   
USE OF FORCE  
EVENTS HAVE  
INCREASED

## USE OF FORCE

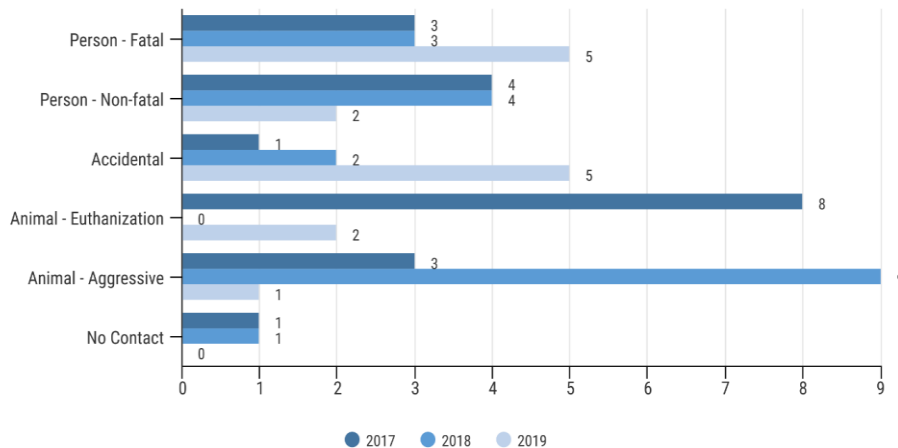
The chart to the right displays use of different weapons by officers during use of force situations against aggressive individuals and animals from 2017 to 2019. Note that any single use of force event may have included the use of multiple weapons by one or more officers, which is why the number of weapons used is greater than the number of events.

Personal weapons (e.g., hands, physical strength) continue to be the most often used 'weapon' by officers in use of force situations. This occurs because most encounters begin when officers are in physical contact or close proximity with a suspect at the time the suspect decides to act with aggression or resistance.

## WEAPONS USED BY OFFICERS



## NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WHO DISCHARGED FIREARM



**20%**

of all shooting incidents in 2019 involved euthanizing injured animals or shooting aggressive animals

The number of employees who discharged firearms in the performance of their duties for the past three years.



## USE OF FORCE

**Use of Non-Deadly Levels of Control:** Officers are authorized to use non-deadly force under both North Carolina General Statute and Departmental Directives in circumstances limited to situations where the officer believes it is necessary to protect himself or another person, or to affect a lawful arrest. To better understand Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department use of force policies, visit [www.cmpd.org](http://www.cmpd.org) and under E-Policing Resources, select [All Departmental Directives](#) and select 600-019 Response to Resistance.

When appropriate, officers may use several non-deadly control options. Officers receive response to resistance training in accordance with federal and state statutes. The North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission require officers to have use of force training on a yearly basis to maintain their police certification. In addition, officers receive use of force training and techniques to de-escalate volatile situations throughout the year at the CMPD Training Academy. The use of force training given to CMPD officers exceeds the state's minimum requirements.

**Use of Deadly Levels of Control:** The circumstances in which an officer may use deadly force are limited by North Carolina General Statute and further restricted by Departmental Directives.

An officer's use of deadly force is rigorously investigated and thoroughly reviewed both criminally and administratively. Deadly force, most commonly the discharge of a firearm, is investigated administratively by Internal Affairs. If the shooting resulted in injury or death to a person, the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) conducts a criminal investigation. Since October 2008, North Carolina law has required the SBI to investigate fatal shootings by police if the family of the deceased requests such an investigation within 180 days of the death. The law applies to shootings by any law enforcement agency in the state. In 2019 the Mecklenburg County District Attorney and CMPD began the policy that the SBI would investigate all officer involved shootings.

The facts revealed by the criminal investigation are presented to the Mecklenburg County District Attorney, who determines if the officer's action should result in criminal prosecution. Simultaneously, the Internal Affairs Bureau conducts a parallel investigation to determine if the involved officer(s) complied with department policies. An Independent Chain of Command Shooting Review Board is presented the administrative case, (which also includes the criminal investigation) and determines if any CMPD policies were violated. It also assesses whether the shooting was justified, not justified or negligent.

## DISCHARGE OF FIREARM SUMMARIES

In 2019, there were six incidents where an officer discharged a firearm at a person. Following is a summary of each case with additional information available from the Open Data Source webpage which is located at: <http://charlottenc.gov/CMPD/Pages/Resources/CMPD-OpenData.aspx>.

### Discharge of Firearm, Incident 1

A CMPD K9 officer located a man who was on foot, fitting the description of a suspect wanted in two armed robberies that occurred earlier in the day. The officer attempted to make contact with the subject in the parking lot of 1520 West Boulevard. The officer exited his vehicle and immediately began to give loud, repeated, verbal commands to the subject. The subject immediately began to walk quickly toward the officer, rapidly closing the distance. The officer opened the rear door of his marked police vehicle and his K-9 exited the vehicle. The officer gave commands to his K-9 to engage the subject. The subject began to sprint toward the officer. The officer continued to give loud, repeated, verbal commands to the subject; however, the subject ignored the commands and continued to rapidly advance toward the officer. The officer fired his service weapon, striking the subject. Crime Scene Technicians processed the scene and recovered a knife at the scene of the incident.

### Discharge of Firearm, Incident 2

On Monday, March 25, 2019, at approximately 9 a.m., officers were called to reports of an armed man in a business. Officers engaged the man in the parking lot and repeatedly ordered him to drop his gun. During the encounter, one of the officers perceived a lethal threat and fired a service weapon, striking the man.

### Discharge of Firearm, Incident 3

On Friday, August 2, 2019, at 12:12 a.m., CMPD officers responded to a home located on Ernest Russell Court regarding a female caller advising 911 that her father was armed with a gun. As the 911 operator was speaking to the female, the operator heard gunshots in the background. University Division Officers arrived at the home, and while they were outside, they heard gunshots coming from inside the residence. An adult female exited the home after being shot in the leg. The victim informed the officers her brother-in-law shot her. She also stated her sister was still inside the home with the suspect, and she believed the suspect was going to kill her. A short time later, a CMPD officer observed the suspect inside the home armed with a handgun and perceived an imminent, lethal threat. The officer discharged a firearm, striking the suspect. MEDIC transported the suspect to Atrium Health's Carolinas Medical Center where he was later pronounced deceased.

### Discharge of Firearm, Incident 4

The State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) is conducting a shooting investigation involving a CMPD officer where a FBI Task Force Officer sustained non-fatal gunshot wounds during a warrant execution.

### Discharge of Firearm, Incident 5

The State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) is conducting a shooting investigation involving two CMPD officers. The officers were working off-duty in uniform and responded to an altercation involving an armed subject in the area of South College Street and East Trade Street. Two subjects were injured during the incident. One subject was pronounced deceased, and the second subject was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

### Discharge of Firearm, Incident 6

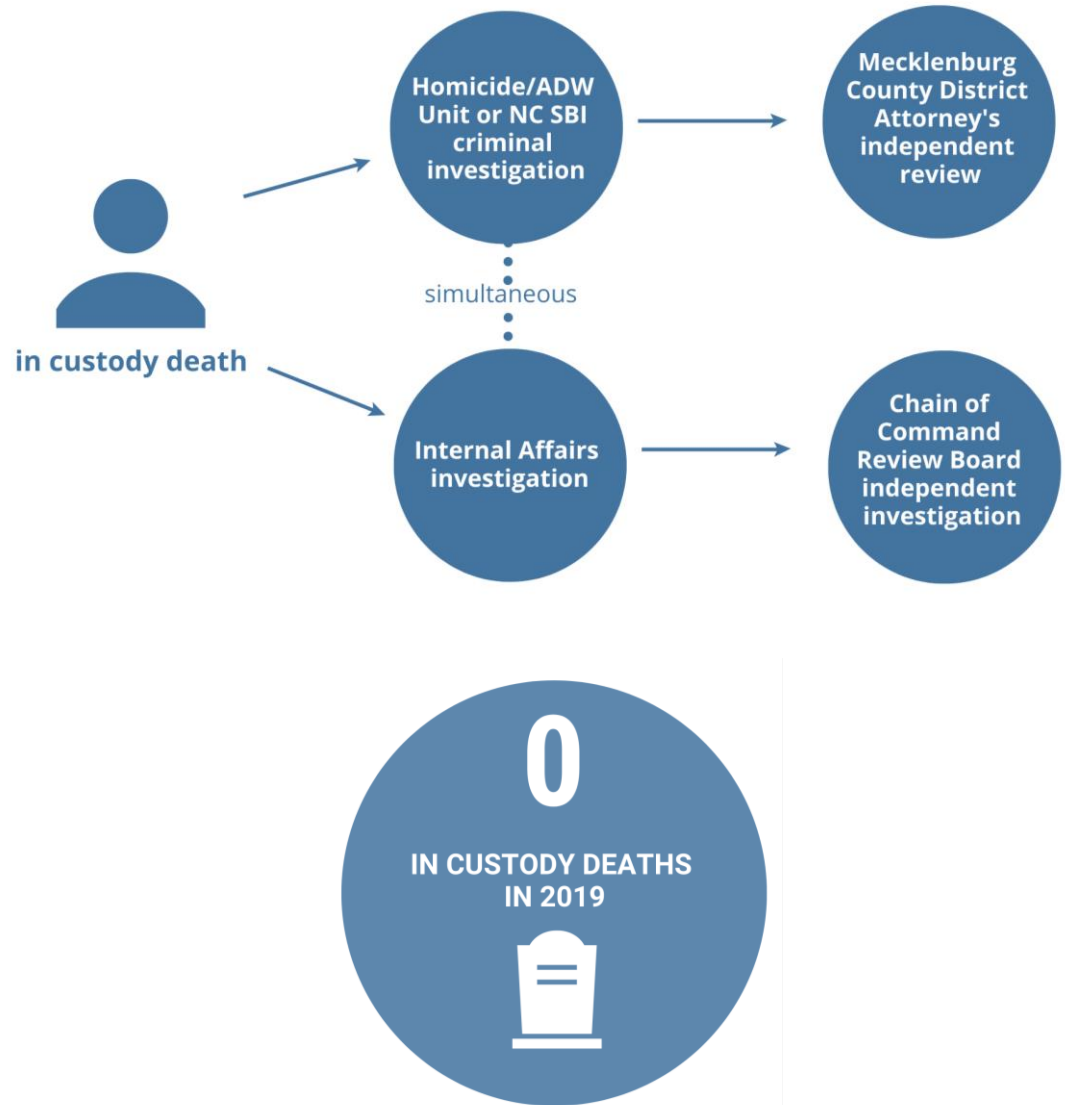
Multiple suspects approached an off-duty CMPD Officer and her husband in the parking lot of 7920 Waterford Tide Loop and attempted to rob them at gunpoint. The off-duty officer subsequently produced her department issued service weapon and fired at the armed suspects. The suspects returned fire before fleeing the location. A 17- year-old male suspect was injured during the exchange of gunfire and was transported to the hospital where he was treated for non-life-threatening injuries. Information gathered also revealed the same suspects committed a burglary and armed robbery of a resident in the same apartment complex just minutes prior to their encounter with the off-duty officer.

## IN-CUSTODY DEATH

If a person dies while in the custody of CMPD, detectives from the Homicide/ADW Unit or the SBI respond to the scene to conduct a criminal investigation. The investigation is presented to the Mecklenburg County District Attorney, who conducts an independent review and decides whether to press criminal charges. An Internal Affairs investigation is simultaneously conducted to ensure policy compliance. At the conclusion of the internal investigation, an Independent Chain of Command Review Board reviews the case to determine if officers acted in compliance with our policies and procedures.

The CMPD trains its employees to monitor all persons taken into custody and to summon medical treatment whenever a subject appears or states they are in distress. To aid in that endeavor, the CMPD has developed several policies related to prisoner care and transportation. For a complete list of those guidelines, please refer to [www.cmpd.org](http://www.cmpd.org). From the homepage, click E-Policing Resources, [Departmental Directives](#), then 500-002 Confinement of Arrestees and Booking Procedures, 500-003 Management of Subjects in Extreme Distress, 500-007 Use of Interview Rooms and 500-008 Prisoner Transport. These guidelines are periodically reviewed and updated to best guide employees in their handling of persons in custody.

In 2019, the CMPD had no in-custody death incidents.





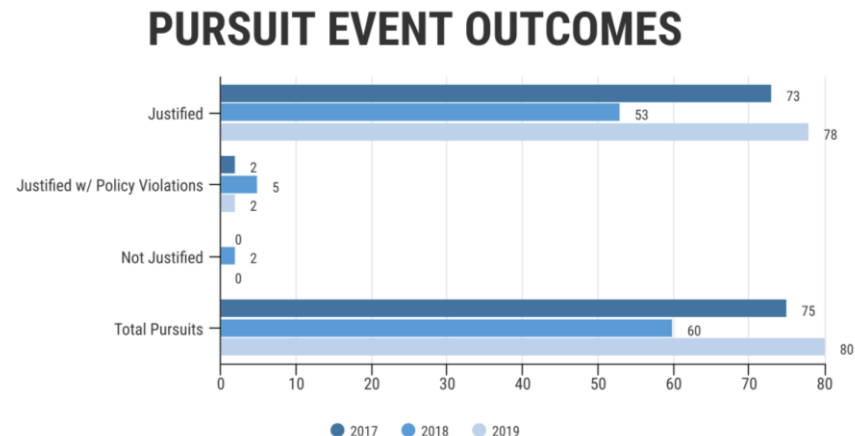
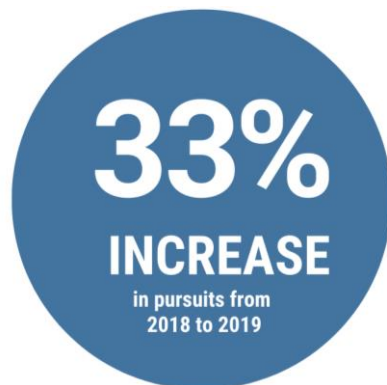
## POLICE VEHICLE PURSUITS

From time to time, police officers encounter individuals in motor vehicles who refuse to stop when the blue lights and siren are activated. When police continue to keep pace with a vehicle in their attempts to stop its driver, a police pursuit occurs. Vehicle pursuits pose a significant risk to the general public, those in the pursued vehicle and the pursuing officers. For this reason, the CMPD significantly restricts, thoroughly investigates and closely reviews each of these incidents. Officers must have permission from a supervisor to continue a pursuit. The supervisor then closely manages all aspects of the pursuit to include evaluating the risk it creates. Pursuits are restricted to those situations where a suspect has recently committed or will reasonably be expected to commit an offense that puts a life in danger. Pursuits may also be authorized when officers are immediately able to locate a suspect vehicle following a felony breaking and entering of a residence.

Once a pursuit incident has ended, regardless of the means of termination, a patrol supervisor is responsible for completing an internal investigation. The investigation includes, at a minimum, a map of the pursuit route, statements from all employees involved and all audio, visual or documentary information. The investigation is reviewed by the involved employees' Chain of Command and ultimately by Internal Affairs to ensure compliance with CMPD policy.

To view the complete departmental directive governing pursuits, go to [www.cmpd.org](http://www.cmpd.org), E-Policing Resources, and then to [Departmental Directives](#), then to Directive 600-022 Emergency Response and Pursuit Vehicle Operations.

Pursuits vary greatly in length, vehicle speed and number of units involved. While some pursuits go for several miles at high speeds, most last only seconds and cover short distances. The below chart shows the number of pursuits and how they were adjudicated from 2017 to 2019.



## POLICE VEHICLE PURSUITS

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department periodically reviews and updates our pursuit policy, equipment and training in order to ensure the highest level of safety during these high-risk situations. The below table indicates, as in previous years, the majority of all pursuits were for violent felony offenses.

### OFFENSES INITIATING A PURSUIT

	2017	2018	2019	3 Yr. Avg. '17-'19
Assault on Female	0	0	2	0.7
Homicide	2	1	3	2.0
Burglary	0	0	2	0.7
Assault on Government Officer or Employee	5	0	1	2.0
Assault w/ Deadly Weapon	13	14	15	14.0
Larceny from Vehicle	0	0	0	0.0
Rape/Sex Offense	0	0	0	0.0
Breaking & Entering	2	2	3	2.3
Hit and Run	0	0	1	0.3
Larceny of Vehicle	0	2	0	0.7
Kidnapping	1	3	0	1.3
Robbery – Armed	49	36	49	44.7
Robbery – Common Law	3	0	0	1.0
Traffic Offense (Not DWI)	0	0	0	0.0
Unauthorized Use/Failure to Return Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	0.0
Warrant/Order for Arrest	0	1	4	1.7
Weapons Law Violation	0	1	0	0.3
Total Pursuits	75	60	80	71.7



## EMPLOYEE MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS

To provide police services throughout urban and suburban Mecklenburg County, department employees drive an enormous number of miles in CMPD vehicles. The geographic jurisdiction for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department includes the City of Charlotte and the unincorporated areas of Mecklenburg County, covering 411 square miles. Employees drive vehicles in all types of weather, traffic and emergency conditions.

In total, the department has approximately 2,400 employees operating 1,598 vehicles, with many vehicles being operated 24-hours a day. Department vehicles were driven a total of 20,614,642 miles in 2017; 20,139,064 miles in 2018; and 22,048,942 miles in 2019.

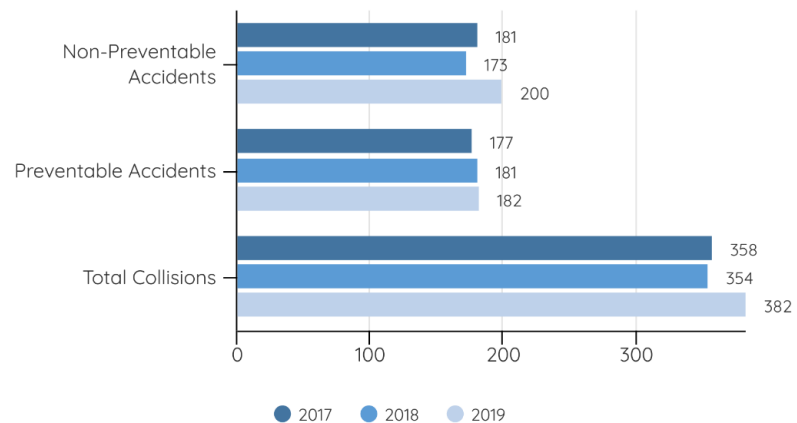
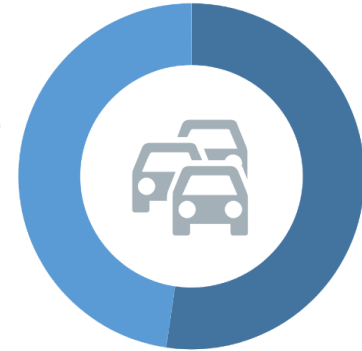
A supervisor investigates all collisions involving a CMPD vehicle and the employee's chain of command determines if it was preventable or not preventable. When an employee is involved in a preventable collision, they are assigned specialized training at the CMPD driver training facility to address the driving error that caused the collision.

The number of collisions associated with employee driving is displayed in the graph to the right and shows the total number of preventable and non-preventable collisions from 2017 through 2019.

## Collisions by Disposition

**48%**  
preventable accidents

**52%**  
non-preventable accidents



**7.9%** ↑  
total collisions from 2018  
to 2019 have increased

**9.5%** ↑  
total miles driven from  
2018 to 2019 have  
increased



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