# CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT





Transparency and Accountability are the very tenets that represent the legitimacy of a police department. We as guardians in the community have a responsibility to ensure that we serve with integrity, respect and fairness. We are committed to those principles and recognize their importance in earning your trust. Our annual Internal Affairs report is published to provide transparent insight concerning how the department manages crime, quality of life issues and your expectations.

One of the primary principles of my administration is community collaboration. I firmly believe that very little of what law enforcement does should be done in secrecy. Policing is a service for all citizens and our community should be provided the opportunity to see how that work is undertaken. Our commitment to transparency allows us to ensure that our practices, policies and policing philosophy aligns with the expectations of our community.

My hope is that the report provides you with a deeper understanding of how committed the men and women of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department are to serving you.

Respectfully,

**Chief Johnny Jennings** 

# **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 951,287 people. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department employs 1,749 sworn officers and 571 civilians. Our employees interact with the public daily. A snapshot of 2020 revealed that CMPD had 514,898 police interactions with the public, down from 601,359 last year.

In 2020, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Internal Affairs Bureau processed 114\* cases of misconduct allegations, 14 cases less than 2019. These cases consisted of a total of 214 alleged violations of a rule of conduct (some cases involved multiple violations). Thirty 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 29% of those cases, it was determined that there was sufficient evidence to show the employee's actions violated policy. Seven of the thirty Use of Force cases were reported by CMPD employees against other employees.

Officers were involved in one deadly force incident in 2020, which resulted in a non-fatal injury to the suspect. In this case the suspect had a firearm when the officer discharged a weapon. Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) cases are investigated by the NC State Bureau of Investigation (SBI). In addition, this incident is currently under review, by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office. Five CMPD employees were criminally charged in 2020. While these types of incidents are a disappointment to the organization, the number of employees charged is less than one quarter of one percent (0.22%) 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 2020 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 implements solutions and expands collaborative relationships within our organization and community to enhance trust, fairness, and respect, to increase public safety.

# At CMPD We Value:



Oath of Office Upholding the United States and North Carolina Constitutions.



# People

Treating all people with dignity, respect, fairness and compassion.



Human Life Recognizing the value of every person.

#### Inclusion

Fostering a diverse and equitable culture that is committed to embracing all differences.



Promising to uphold the highest standards of integrity, being honest and ethical in all our actions.



#### Community

Meeting citizens where they are, working together to achieve a shared vision.





#### **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 Board. 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 reserved for an Independent Chain of Command Review Board or the employee's chain of command 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 <u>www.cmpd.org</u>. To read more about the role of Internal Affairs, click on "<u>Our Organization/Office of the</u> <u>Chief/Internal Affairs</u>." 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 <u>www.cmpd.org</u> and click on the "<u>Departmental Directives</u>" 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 complaints brought to the Internal Affairs Bureau: the Community Relations Committee, the Civil Service Board, and the Citizens Review Board.

#### Community Responsibilities **Based Board** Conducts hearings for citizen appeals to review 11 members the Chief of Police's use appointed by the of discretionary powers mayor (3), City Council (5), & City Oversees the Manager (3) presentation of evidence Created in 1997 to Considers witness increase CMPD's testimony accountability to the public Provides recommendations to Citizens the City Manager and Review the Chief of Police Board Community Relations Committee Community Oversight **City of Charlotte** Department, independent of CMPD · Represenetatives from the **Community Relations** Committee perform the following: Participate in hearings involving allegations of officer misconduct and shooting review boards in cases of serious injury or death to a citizen Review case files prior to hearings (e.g., statements, physical evidence, etc.) Question witnesses, accused employees,

- Automatic sets, accused employee and Internal Affairs investigators
  Participate in the discussion,
- deliberation and final adjudication of cases
- Participate in discussions and recommendations for disciplinary action

Reviews citizen appeals of departmental decisions in interna investigations involving:

- Unbecoming conduct
- Excessive use of force
- Illegal arrest, search, or seizure
- Discharge of firearms resulting in personal injury or death

Arbitrary profiling

Civil Service Board

#### Community Based Board

- 9 members appointed by the mayor (3) & City Council (3)
- Appeals of Civil Service Board decisions are limited to procedural matters and are heard in Mecklenburg County Superior Court

#### Responsibilities

- Maintain final authority over hiring, promotion, demotion, and termination decisions for all sworn police officers through the rank of major
- Hear officer-initiated appeals of certain disciplinary actions (i.e., suspension without pay, demotions, terminations)

## **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 responsible decisions.

The CMPD has more than 100 <u>Directives and Standard</u> <u>Operating Procedures</u> that establish policies for topics ranging from Response to Resistance to Towing Vehicles; however, to make internal discipline matters clearer, CMPD employees have 43 <u>Rules of Conduct</u> 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 the 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 some situations.

# **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 2020:** The CMPD received 114 complaints in 2020, the majority of which were internal complaints. As can be seen in the table to the right, the number of external complaints decreased by 3, while the number of internal complaints decreased by 11. Note: multiple allegations may result from a single event.

Total Complaint Events									
	2018	2019	2020	3 Yr. Avg. '18-'20	% Change (comparison of 2020 to 3 yr. avg.)				
External Complaint Events	26	35	32	31.0	3.2%				
Internal Complaint Events	114	93	82	96.3	-14.9%				
Total Complaint Events	140	128	114	127.3	-10.5%				

In 2020, there were 214 alleged rules of conduct violations, compared to 223 in 2019. This is a 4.0 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 adjudication.

Common Alleged Rule of Conduct Violations												
	EXTERNAL			INTERNAL				TOTAL				
	2018	2019	2020	3 Yr. Avg. ′18-'20	2018	2019	2020	3 Yr. Avg. ′18-'20	2018	2019	2020	3 Yr. Avg. ′18-'20
Violation of Rules	5	2	8	5.0	19	17	27	21.0	24	19	35	26.0
Departmental Reports	0	4	0	1.3	11	5	6	7.3	11	9	6	8.7
Driving	0	0	0	0.0	19	15	21	18.3	19	15	21	18.3
Neglect of Duty	2	5	1	2.7	27	21	6	18.0	29	26	7	20.7
Courtesy	10	12	8	10.0	11	6	11	9.3	21	18	19	19.3
Unbecoming Conduct	7	7	6	6.7	18	14	17	16.3	25	21	23	23.0
Use of Force	5	19	23	15.7	6	9	7	7.3	11	28	30	23.0
Conformance to Laws	4	4	0	2.7	6	9	8	7.7	10	13	8	10.3
Arrest, Search, and Seizure	2	6	13	7.0	5	8	5	6.0	7	14	18	13.0
Use of Body Worn Cameras	4	2	7	4.3	15	21	15	17.0	19	23	22	21.3

## **2020 COMPLAINT COUNTS**



## **COMPLAINTS – EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL ALLEGATIONS**

**2020** Investigation Decisions. Following the investigations and adjudications, 43% of External allegations were sustained compared to 39% in 2019. Internal allegations were sustained in 92% of cases in 2020 compared to 85% in 2019. This percentage of sustained internal allegations is consistent with past years.



The number of sustained allegations increased by 3 from the previous year and not sustained allegations in 2020 decreased by 6 from the previous year. There were 70 external allegations in 2020, up from 67 in 2019.

A high rate of sustained internal allegations persists from previous years, most likely due 11 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 2020 that were Sustained, Not Sustained, Exonerated, or Unfounded.

# Allegations Sustained

Use of Body Worn Camera	95%
Arrest/Search/Seizure	44%
Conformance to Laws	71%
Use of Force 27%	
Unbecoming Conduct	100%
Courtesy	79%
Neglect of Duty	100%
Driving	100%
Departmental Reports	67%
Violation of Rules	74%

# Allegations Exonerated

0%		Use of Body Worn Camera
	38%	Arrest, Search, & Seizure
	14%	Conformance to Laws
	40%	Use of Force
0%		Unbecoming Conduct
11%		Courtesy
0%		Neglect of Duty
0%		Driving
0%		Departmental Reports
14%		Violation of Rules

# Allegations Not Sustained

5%	Use of Body Worn Camera
19%	Arrest, Search, & Seizure
14%	Conformance to Laws
23%	Use of Force
0%	Unbecoming Conduct
5%	Courtesy
0%	Neglect of Duty
0%	Driving
33%	Departmental Reports
9%	Violation of Rules

# Allegations Unfounded

0%	Use of Body Worn Camera
0%	Arrest, Search, & Seizure
0%	Conformance to Laws
10%	Use of Force
0%	Unbecoming Conduct
5%	Courtesy
0%	Neglect of Duty
0%	Driving
0%	Departmental Reports
3%	Violation of Rules

## **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 Review 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 <u>www.cmpd.org</u>, E-Policing Resources, then select <u>Departmental</u> <u>Directives</u>, then <u>100-004 Disciplinary Philosophy</u>.

The below graph illustrates the disciplinary action taken for sustained allegations in 2018 through 2020. 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 2020 saw a reduction in those cited for termination and active suspensions, 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 and written reprimands) were used most often in 2020, 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 criminal investigation separate 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 within that jurisdiction 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**



ASSAULT/DV 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.

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 2020, 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 -17% 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.

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.

	2018	2019	2020	3 Yr. Avg. '18-'20	2019-2020 Change
Total Use of Force Events*	395	453	418	422	-35
Total Police Interactions	597,315	601,359	514,898	571,191	-86,461
Total Arrests	16,828	17,630	14,568	16,342	-3,062

POLICE

**INTERACTIONS** HAVE

DECREASED

**ARRESTS HAVE** 

DECREASED

FVFNTS HAVE

DECREASED

# **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 2018 to 2020. 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



## **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 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 2020, there was one incident where an officer discharged a firearm at a person. Following is a summary of the case with additional information available from the Open Data Source webpage which is located at: <u>http://charlottenc.gov/CMPD/Pages/Resources/CMPD-OpenData.aspx</u>.

## Discharge of Firearm, Incident 1

The State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) is conducting a shooting investigation involving a CMPD officer. Officers were dispatched to a report of an assault with a deadly weapon at a convenience store in the 9300 block of Steele Creek Rd. Officers arrived at the convenience store and encountered the robbery suspect. The suspect fired shots at a CMPD officer and the CMPD officer returned fire. The suspect subsequently fled the scene in a vehicle and led officers on a vehicle pursuit which concluded in the 2100 block of S. Tryon Street after the suspect's vehicle collided with a utility pole.

## **IN-CUSTODY DEATH**

If a person dies while in the custody of CMPD, detectives from 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 arrestee care and transportation. For a complete list of those guidelines, please refer to <u>www.cmpd.org</u>. From the homepage, click E-Policing Resources, <u>Departmental Directives</u>, 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 2020, the CMPD had one in-custody death incident.



# 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 initiate pursuits but 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 <u>www.cmpd.org</u>, E-Policing Resources, and then to <u>Departmental Directives</u>, 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 2018 to 2020.



## 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**

	2018	2019	2020	3 Yr. Avg. '18-20
Assault on Female	0	2	0	0.7
Homicide	1	3	4	2.7
Burglary	0	2	0	0.7
Assault on Government Officer or Employee	0	1	5	2.0
Assault w/ Deadly Weapon	14	15	27	18.7
Breaking & Entering	2	3	1	2.0
Hit and Run	0	1	1	0.7
Larceny of Vehicle	2	0	0	0.7
Kidnapping	3	0	3	2.0
Resist, Obstruct or Delay	0	0	1	0.3
Robbery – Armed	36	49	44	43.0
Robbery – Common Law	0	0	2	0.7
Traffic Offense (Not DWI)	0	0	2	0.7
Warrant/Order for Arrest	1	4	2	2.3
Weapons Law Violation	1	0	1	0.7

Majority of pursuits were initiated to apprehend **armed robbery** suspects

# 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 2,320 employees operating 1,734 vehicles, with many vehicles being operated 24-hours a day. Department vehicles were driven a total of 20,139,064 miles in 2018; 22,048,942 miles in 2019; and 21,636,080 miles in 2020.

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, the employee is referred to the Training Academy for additional training.

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 2018 through 2020.

# **Collisions by Disposition**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

0

Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeant David Prince

Crime Analysis Division Meagan Allen

> Fleet Section Fred Kracke

Public Affairs Maurice Osborne