

A photograph of the Sacramento skyline at dusk, with city lights reflecting on the water. The Sacramento River is in the foreground, and the city buildings are in the background. The sky is a mix of blue and orange.

City of
SACRAMENTO
Office of Public Safety Accountability

Quarterly Report

Q3 - 2023

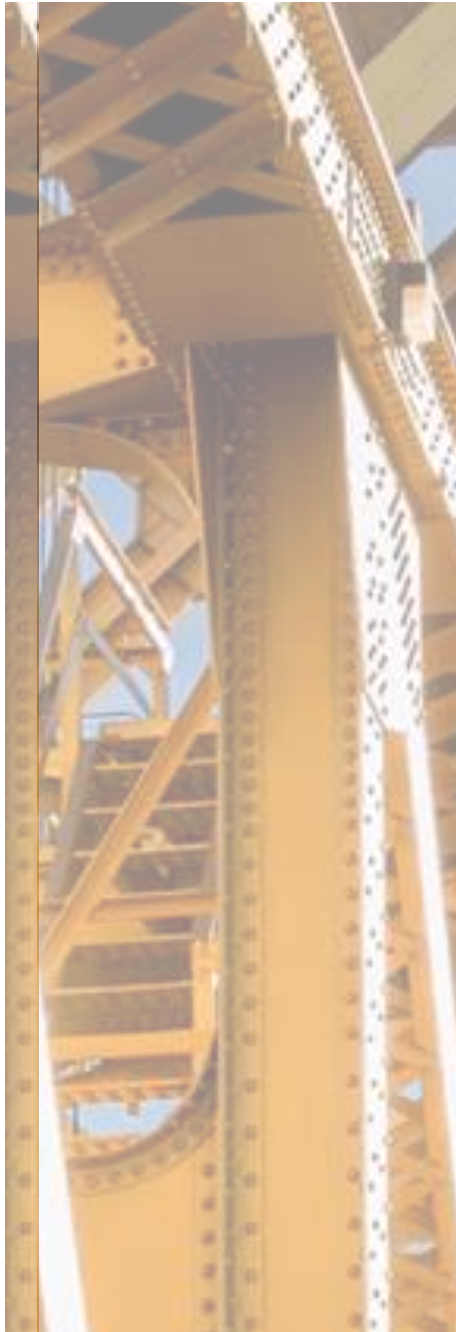
PRESENTED TO:

The City of Sacramento Mayor and City Council

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As required by City Code section 2.22.040, the director, at a minimum, shall prepare quarterly reports consistent with California Penal Code section 832.7(c), relating to the number, kind, and status of all citizen complaints filed against police department personnel for review by the Sacramento community police review commission and the city council.



SUMMARY

The City of Sacramento’s Office of Public Safety Accountability (OPSA) encompasses oversight practitioners responsible for the investigation, review, and audit of allegations of misconduct involving the Sacramento Police Department (SPD) and the Sacramento Fire Department (SFD) personnel. OPSA ensures that investigations have been completed fairly, thoroughly, and objectively.

The Office of Public Safety Accountability continues its efforts in the improvement of policing and better serving the interests of the public. The goals and objectives of the office involves creating meaningful opportunities for the community to influence decisions that impact them, incorporating innovative and progressive ideas to resolve issues, explaining challenges and limitations, and ensuring outcomes meet goals while remaining inclusive and accessible.

OPSA MISSION

The Mission of the Office of Public Safety Accountability is to improve the relationship between the City's public safety departments and the community they protect and serve. We promote trust, excellence, transparency, and accountability through independent and impartial oversight of complaints related to public safety employee misconduct.

SPOTLIGHT: COMPLAINTS

- Complainant alleged that a female officer parked her vehicle on the sidewalk with the engine running and the lights and sirens on. The complainant stated that when she went into the coffee shop the same female officer was standing in line to order coffee.
- Complainant alleged that he was unlawfully detained by officers and that officers illegally searched his backpack.
- Complainant alleged that the police department has failed to do anything about the sexual assault of her grandchild.
- Complainant alleged that officers violated his Fourth Amendment rights when he was pulled over for a traffic violation.
- Complainant alleged that officers held her daughter hostage in her room and used unnecessary force when they came to the residence to arrest someone else.
- Complainant alleged that an officer was rude and attempted to intimidate her and her sister when they were trying to get an update on a criminal investigation.
- Complainant alleged that officers came to his residence and attacked him by slamming him against his doors and poking him in his stomach multiple times.
- Complainant alleged that he was thrown to the ground by an officer and the force caused major injury.
- Complainant alleged that officers illegally searched his vehicle and was rude.
- Complainant alleged that officers have been harassing her sons. Complainant also alleged that officers continuously pushed her sons and placed a bag over her sons' head.
- Complainant alleged that a female officer touched and groped him while conducting a polygraph exam.
- Complainant alleged that an officer ran a red light at an intersection without using lights and sirens.

WAYS TO FILE A COMPLAINT



Call: (916) 808-7525



Online: <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/OPSA>



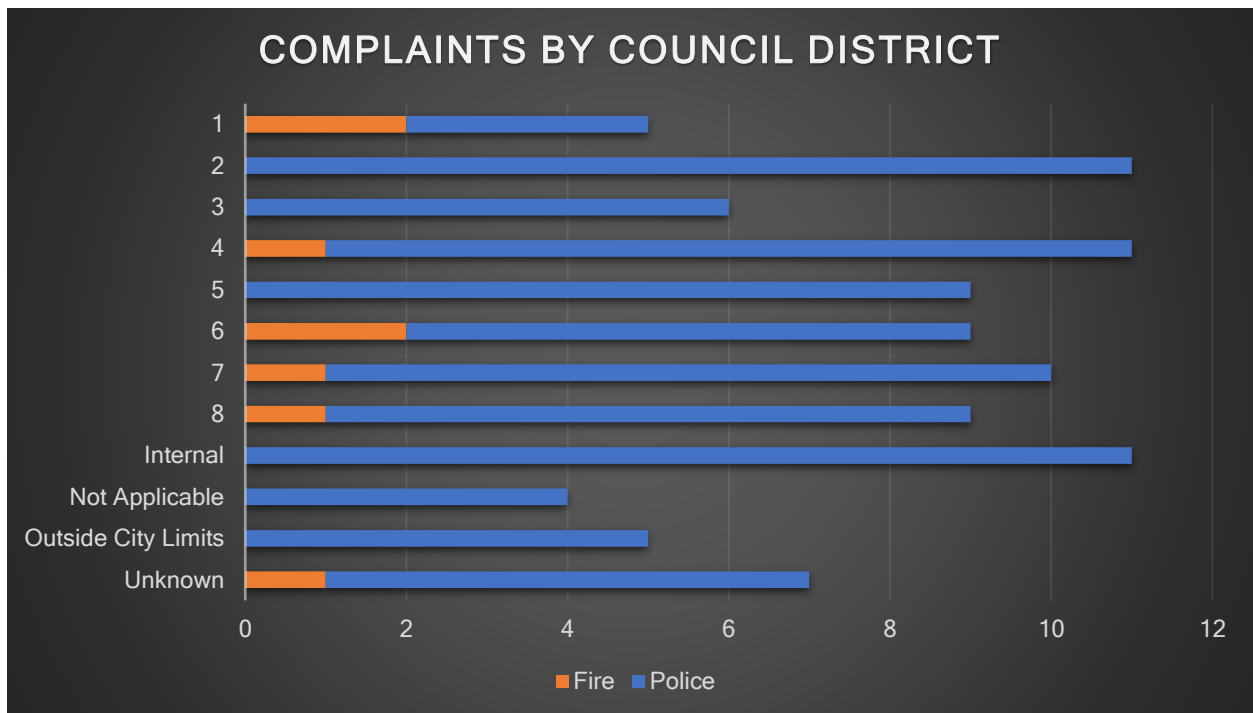
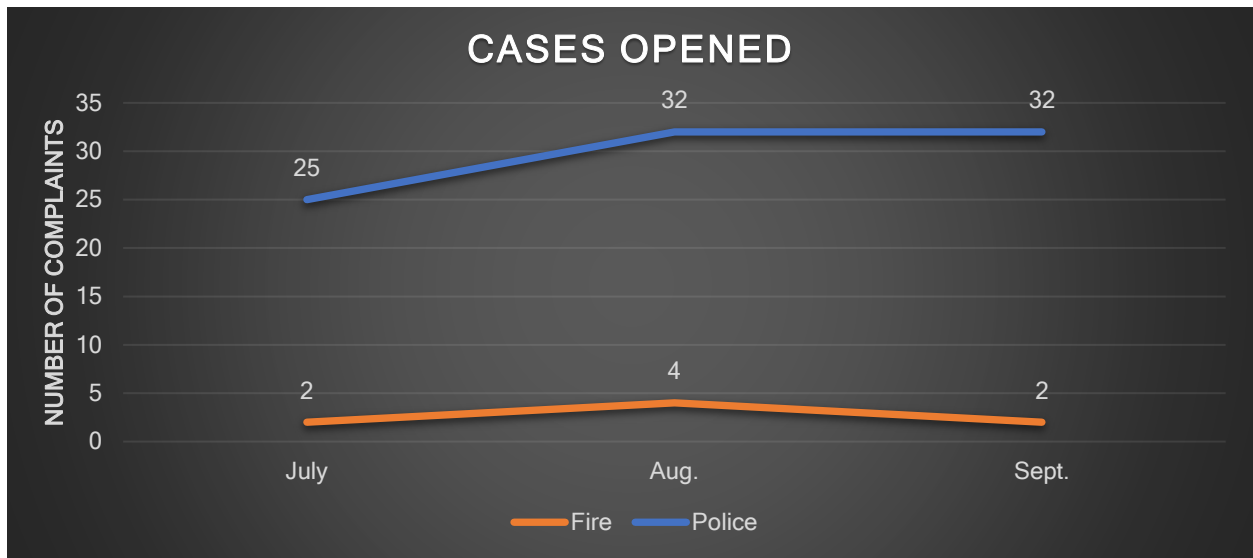
Mail: 915 I Street, Historic City Hall 3rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Due to COVID-19, OPSA staff is currently not available to receive in person complaints at the office.

ALLEGATIONS/COMPLAINTS

The Office of Public Safety Accountability received 89 complaints against police personnel containing 191 allegations and eight complaints against fire personnel containing 14 allegations during the Third Quarter of 2023.

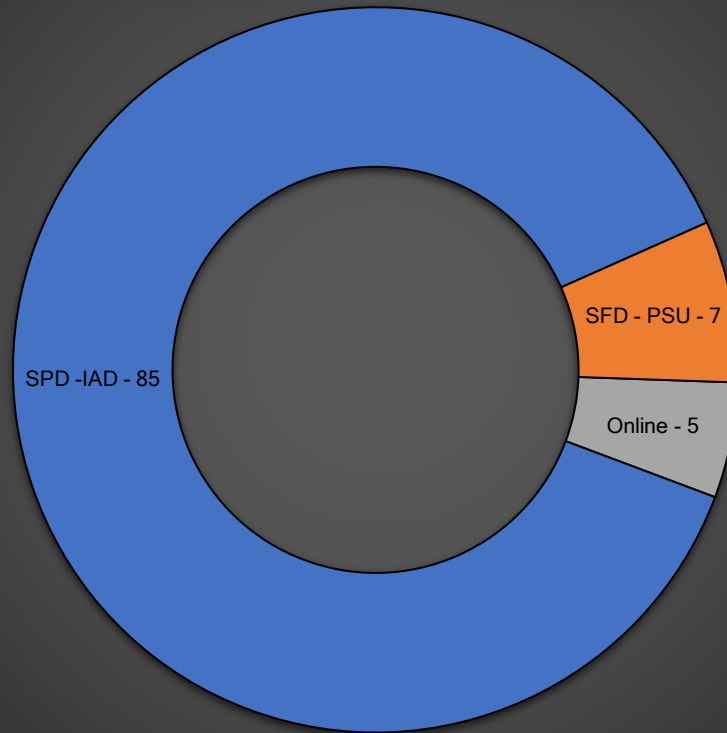
There were six additional allegations of misconduct reported to the office that did not involve public safety employees in the City of Sacramento. The OPSA staff does its best to connect these complainants with the proper agency or provide further information to help them resolve their concern.



ALLEGATIONS BY TYPE

| Allegation | Number of Allegations | |
|--|-----------------------|------------|
| | Fire | Police |
| Conduct Unbecoming | 2 | 15 |
| Discourtesy | 6 | 22 |
| Discrimination | 0 | 2 |
| Dishonesty | 1 | 15 |
| False Arrest | 0 | 7 |
| Firearm Discharge | 0 | 1 |
| Force | 0 | 13 |
| Harassment | 0 | 11 |
| Improper Search & Seizure | 0 | 26 |
| Improper Tactics | 1 | 11 |
| Insubordination | 0 | 1 |
| Missing Property | 0 | 5 |
| Neglect of Duty | 0 | 19 |
| Profiling | 0 | 3 |
| Service | 4 | 31 |
| Traffic | 0 | 9 |
| Total | 14 | 191 |
| <i>Note: One complaint can include multiple allegations.</i> | | |

COMPLAINT FILING METHOD



Note: Online data reflects complaints filed directly with OPSA. Internal Affairs Division (IAD) and Professional Standards Unit (PSU) complaints are filed directly with their respective departments.

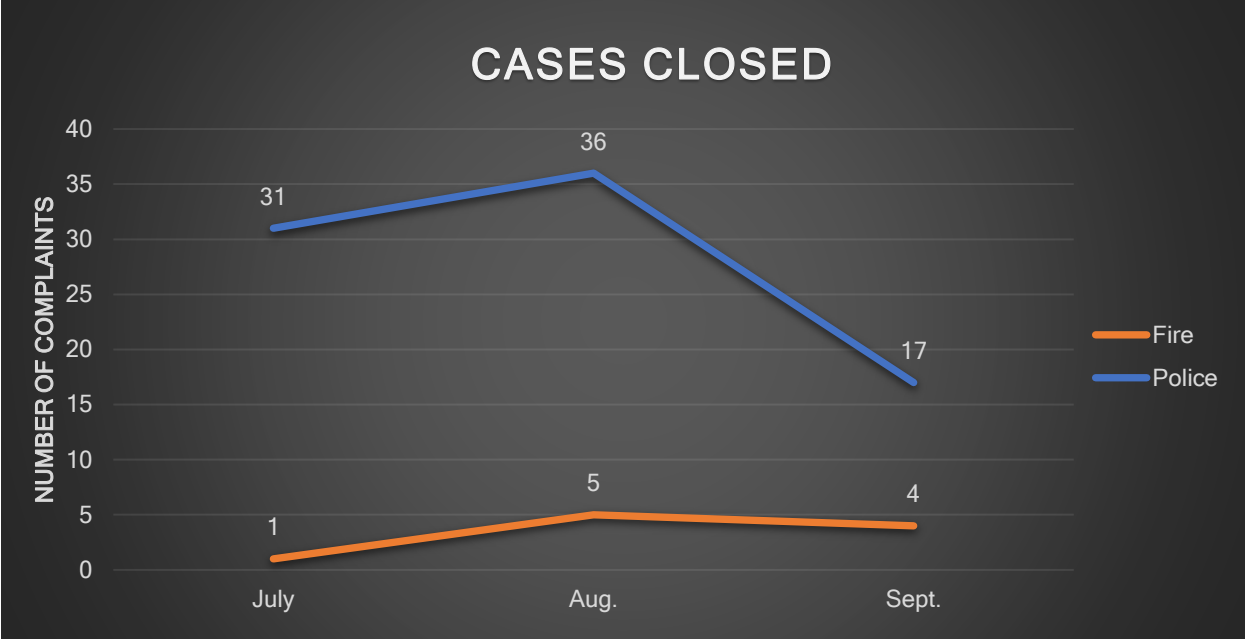
FINDINGS

Police

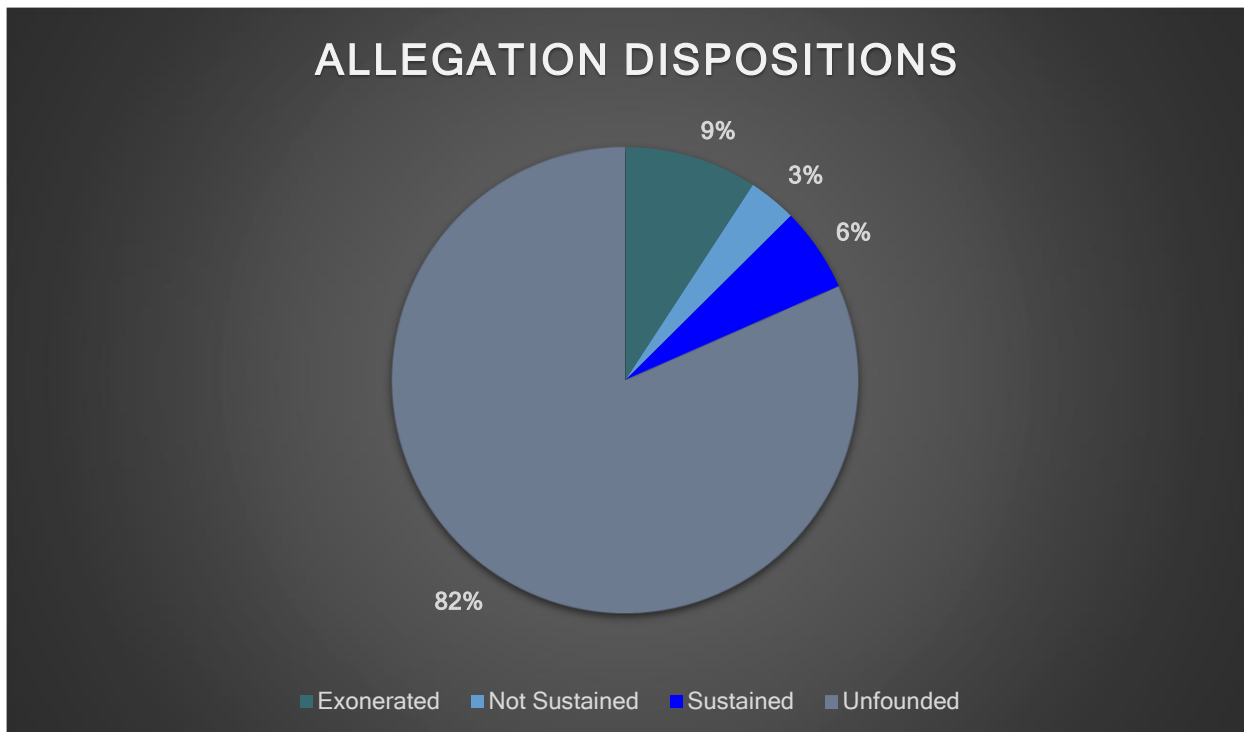
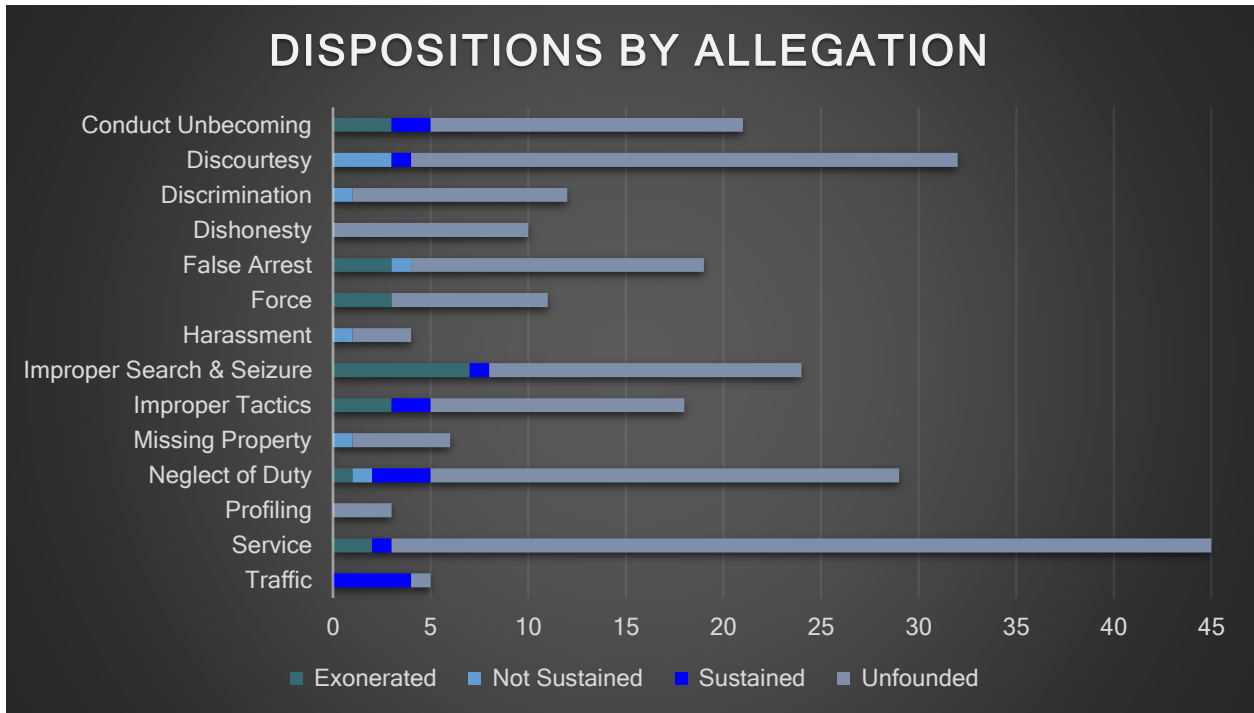
There were 84 police complaints containing 239 allegations that were closed during the Third Quarter of 2023. Fourteen of the allegations were closed with a disposition of Sustained, which is a 6% Sustained rate. The remaining 225 allegations did not yield any policy violations.

Fire

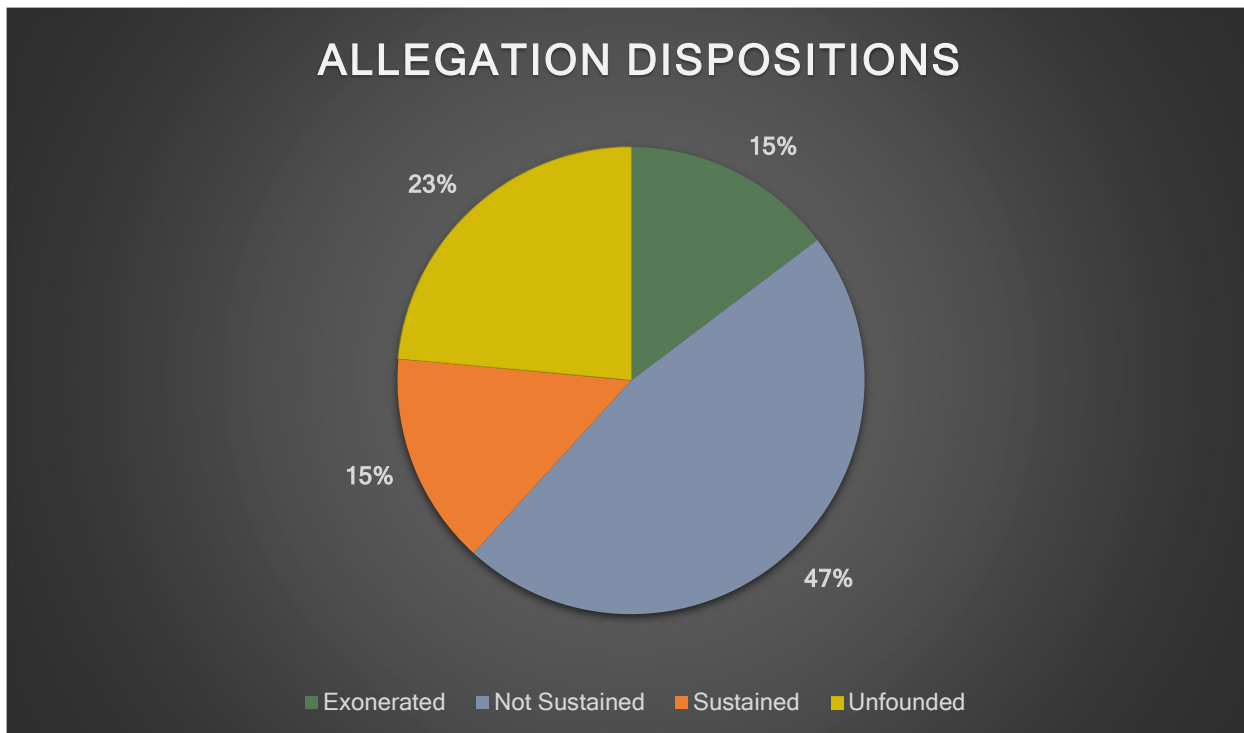
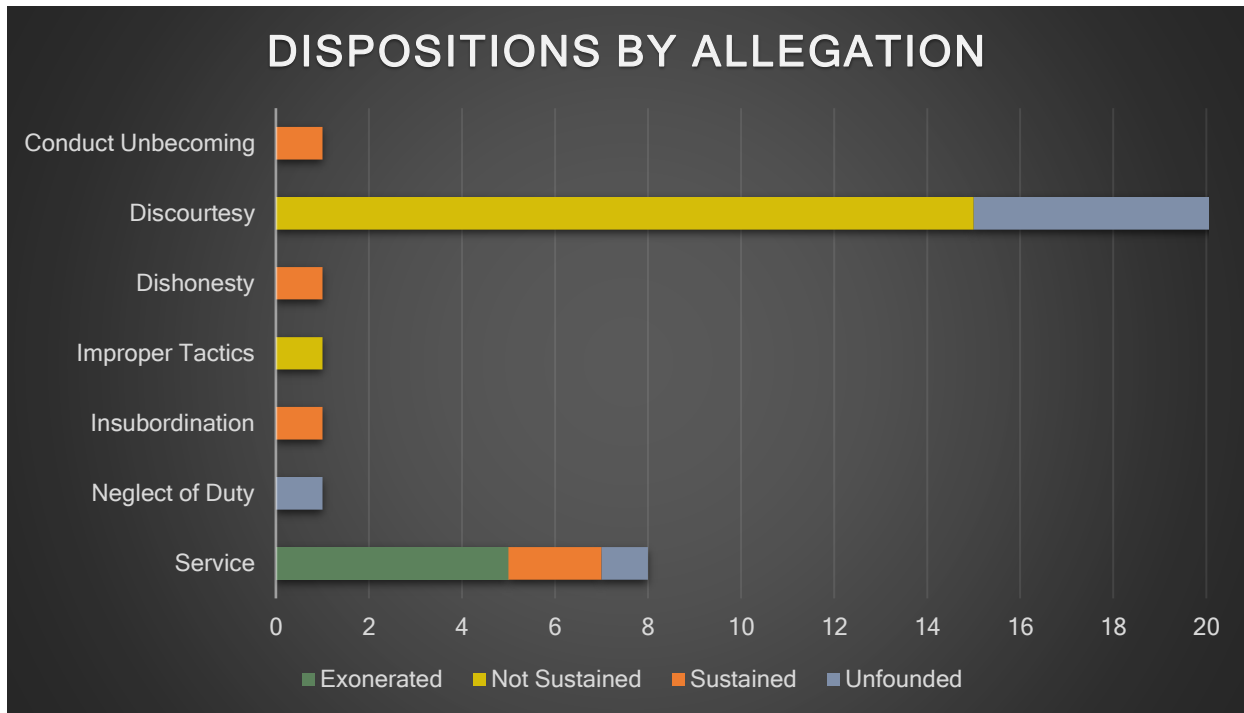
There were 10 fire complaints containing 34 allegations that were closed during the Third Quarter of 2023. Five of the allegations were closed with a disposition of Sustained, which is a 15% Sustained rate. The remaining 29 allegations did not yield any policy violations.



Police



Fire



COMPLAINANT DEMOGRAPHICS

The OPSA does its best to collect demographic information from complainants and through information provided by SFD and SPD for complaints filed directly with each department. Departmental complaints that are internally generated without a specific complainant are not included in the data below.

| Complainant | Fire | | Police | |
|------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| 18 and under | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% |
| 19-30 | 0 | 0% | 13 | 16% |
| 31-40 | 0 | 0% | 19 | 24% |
| 41-50 | 2 | 25% | 20 | 25% |
| 51-60 | 2 | 25% | 12 | 15% |
| 61-70 | 2 | 25% | 4 | 5% |
| Over 70 | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% |
| Did Not Disclose | 0 | 0% | 2 | 3% |
| Unknown | 2 | 25% | 8 | 10% |
| Total | 8 | 100% | 80 | 100% |

| Gender | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
|------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Female | 5 | 63% | 32 | 40% |
| Male | 2 | 25% | 35 | 43% |
| Did Not Disclose | 0 | 0% | 2 | 3% |
| Transgender | 1 | 13% | 0 | 0% |
| Unknown | 0 | 0% | 11 | 14% |
| Total | 8 | 100% | 80 | 100% |

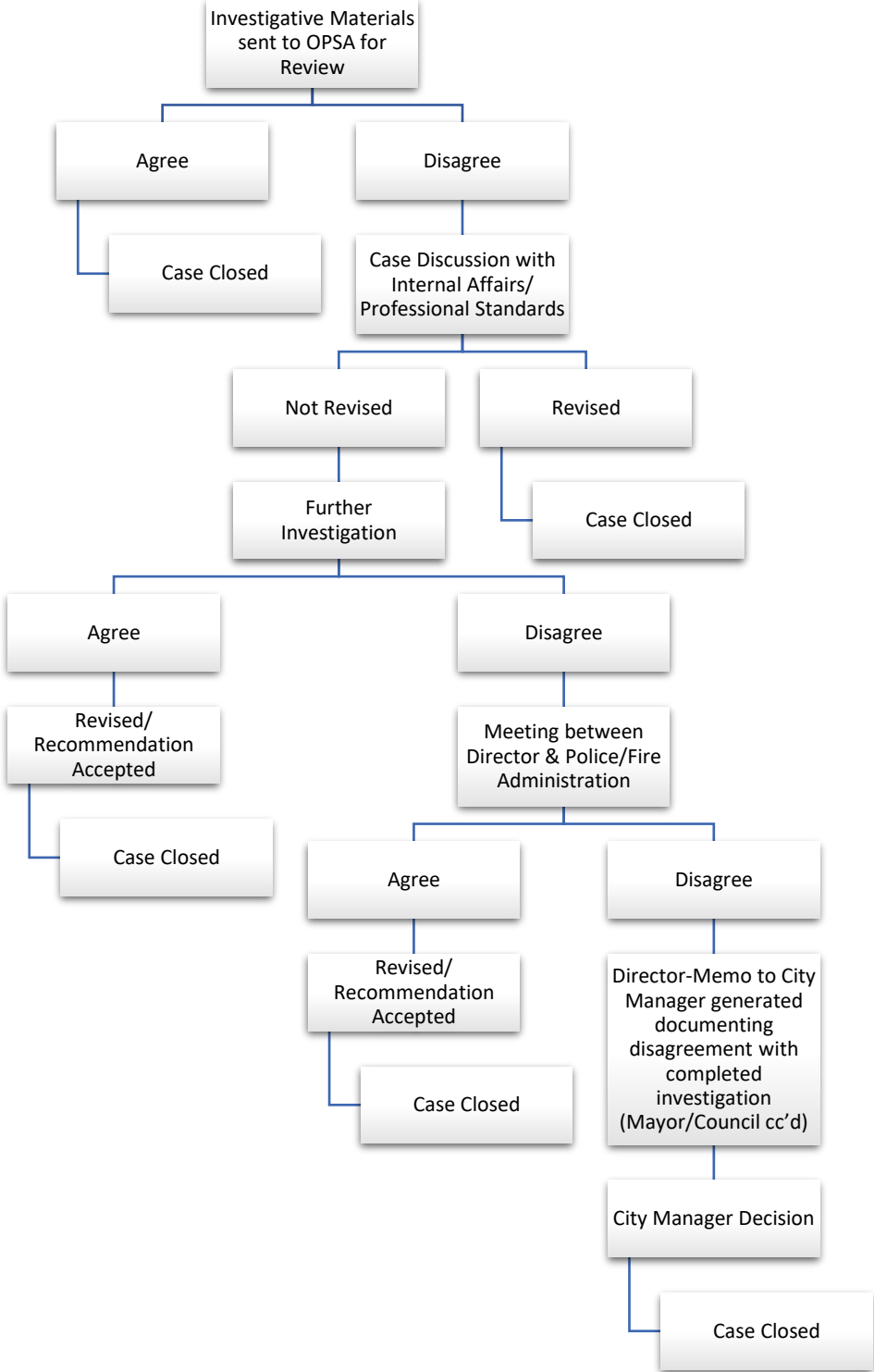
| Race/Ethnicity | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
|------------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| American Native | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% |
| Asian | 0 | 0% | 6 | 8% |
| Black/African American | 1 | 13% | 28 | 35% |
| Bi-racial | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 1 | 13% | 11 | 14% |
| White/Caucasian | 5 | 63% | 15 | 19% |
| Did Not Disclose | 0 | 0% | 2 | 3% |
| Unknown | 1 | 13% | 16 | 20% |
| Total | 8 | 100% | 80 | 100% |

Note: Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Internal cases are not included in this data set. OPSA tracks additional Gender/Race/Ethnicity categories, but only includes reportable quarterly data.

REVIEWS

An overview of the OPSA review process can be found in the chart below.

Review Process Chart



REVIEWS

Under the direction, control, and supervision of the City of Sacramento Mayor and City of Sacramento City Council, the Office of Public Safety Accountability tracks and monitors any internal investigation, reviews completed investigations, and advises the Sacramento Police Chief and the Sacramento Fire Chief of deficient investigations involving misconduct allegations against public safety personnel.

OPSA receives all police and fire complaints, regardless of where the complaints are filed. After OPSA conducts a preliminary review of each alleged complaint, a determination is made as to whether the case will or will not be reviewed. OPSA documents the determination by sending a review form to the Sacramento Police Department Internal Affairs Division and Sacramento Fire Department Professional Standards Division indicating whether the case will be reviewed or not reviewed. For all cases selected for oversight review, OPSA receives access to all investigative materials utilized to render a finding prior to discipline being imposed.

During Q3 of 2023, OPSA reviewed 100% of the completed investigations filed against the Sacramento Fire Department and 38% of the completed investigations filed against the Sacramento Police Department. Of the completed investigations reviewed by OPSA, seven investigations for police and three investigations for fire required further review.

Review Finding Options

- Agree
- Discussed – Revised
- Discussed – Not Revised, Memo Sent
- Discussed – Further Investigation, Agree/Recommendation Accepted
- Discussed – Further Investigation, Disagree/Memo Sent

Further Review Results

Police

| Month | Recommendation/Disagreement | Outcome |
|-----------|--|--|
| July | Allegation Incorrect – separate allegation for each employee | Discussed - Further Investigation, Agree |
| August | Incomplete Investigative Information | Discussed - Further Investigation, Disagree/Recommendation Under Consideration |
| August | Incomplete Investigative Information | Discussed - Further Investigation, Disagree/Recommendation Under Consideration |
| September | SPD Policy Issue | Discussed - Further Investigation, Disagree/Recommendation Under Consideration |
| September | Disposition Incorrect | Discussed - Further Investigation, Agree |

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|
| September | Additional Allegation Needed | Discussed - Further Investigation, Disagree/Recommendation Under Consideration |
| September | Disposition Incorrect | Discussed - Further Investigation, Disagree/Recommendation Under Consideration |

Fire

| Month | Recommendation/Disagreement | Outcome |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| September | Disposition Incorrect | Discussed – Further Investigation, Agree |
| September | Incomplete Investigative Information | Discussed - Further Investigation, Disagree/Recommendation Under Consideration |
| September | Additional Allegation Needed | Discussed - Further Investigation, Disagree/Recommendation Under Consideration |

CRITICAL INCIDENTS

Officer-Involved Shooting – 3800 Block of 24th Street

On August 15, 2023 at approximately 5:08 p.m., Sacramento Police Department patrol officers responded to multiple callers reporting a person armed with a machete or large knife on a Sacramento Light Rail Train. The train had stopped near the 3800 block of 24th Street. When officers arrived, they removed one passenger from the train and tried to talk with the male, who was armed with a large knife. Officers attempted to deescalate the situation for several minutes. Less lethal munitions were used, however they were ineffective. While still armed with the knife, the suspect charged at officers and an officer involved shooting occurred.

Officers disarmed the suspect and rendered medical aid until relieved by Sacramento Fire Department personnel. Despite these efforts, the male was pronounced deceased on scene.

This investigation is in the preliminary stages and details may change as information becomes available.

The Sacramento County Coroner's Office will release the identity of the deceased after the next of kin have been notified. This incident is being investigated by the Sacramento Police Department's Homicide Unit, Internal Affairs Division, and Professional Standards Unit. An investigation into the incident will also be conducted by the Force Investigation Team. The investigation will focus on policy, tactics, and training as it relates to the use of force. The Office of Public Safety Accountability and the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office are providing oversight by monitoring the investigation.

This incident falls under the City Council's policy on Police Use of Force as well as SB 1421. As a result, the video and audio associated with this incident will be released to the public within 30 days. Detectives are in the process of identifying and retrieving video associated with this incident.

The Sacramento Police Department encourages any witnesses with information regarding this incident to contact the dispatch center at (916) 808-5471 or Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers at (916) 443-HELP (4357). Callers can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000. Anonymous tips can also be submitted using the free "P3 Tips" smartphone app.

Officer-Involved Shooting 300 Block of L Street

Below is a summary of the events known to us at this time. The investigation into this incident is in the preliminary stages, and details may change as information becomes available.

On September 12, 2023, at approximately 1:01 a.m., Sacramento Police Department patrol officers responded to a parking garage in the 300 block of L Street regarding a man armed with a gun and pointing it at multiple security guards. The complainant provided a detailed description of the individual. Upon arrival, officers located the individual, who had a firearm in his hand. Officers attempted to talk to the individual, however he did not follow orders to put the firearm down.

A perimeter was established, and our Crisis Negotiation Team, Uncrewed Aerial Systems Unit, and SWAT Team responded to the scene. De-escalation techniques were attempted for several hours. While on-scene, officers saw the individual fire the gun. Throughout this incident the individual repeatedly brandished a firearm. During this encounter, the individual pointed the firearm at officers, and an officer-involved shooting occurred. A SWAT officer discharged their duty weapon one time, striking the individual.

Officers rendered emergency medical aid until relieved by Sacramento Fire Department personnel. Despite these efforts, the male was pronounced deceased on scene.

Officers recovered a firearm at the scene (pictured below). No officers were injured during the encounter.

The Sacramento County Coroner's Office will release the identity of the deceased after the next of kin have been notified.

This incident is being investigated by the Sacramento Police Department's Homicide Unit, Internal Affairs Division, and Professional Standards Unit. An investigation into the incident will also be conducted by the Force Investigation Team. The investigation will focus on policy, tactics, and training as it relates to the use of force. The Office of Public Safety Accountability and the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office are providing oversight by monitoring the investigation.

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OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

- African American Employee Leadership Council (AAELC), July 6, 2023 - Presentation: OPSA Audit Findings
- Juice Sacramento, August 2, 2023 - Presentation: OPSA Audit Findings
- Sacramento Community Police Review Commission (SCPRC), September 11, 2023 - Presentation: OPSA Complaint Reporting Overview