



Phone 814-234-7150
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Borough of State College
"A Home Rule Municipality"

STATE COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

243 South Allen Street
State College, PA 16801
www.statecollegepa.us
police@statecollegepa.us



JOHN F. GARDNER
Chief of Police

March 21, 2024

Mr. Samuel Sinyangwe
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 160393
263 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
160393-77782869@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Mr. Sinyangwe:

Thank you for your written request to the State College Police Department for information pursuant to the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law. On March 19, 2024, you stated, "To Whom It May Concern: Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Right to Know Act, I hereby request the following records:

1. the total number of use of force incidents reported from 2017-2022, separated by year.
2. the total number of use of force incidents, separated by type of force and year, from 2017-2022 (for example, information that specifies the number of taser incidents in 2022, baton incidents in 2022, taser incidents in 2021, baton incidents in 2021, etc.)
3. the total number of civilian complaints against law enforcement that were reported and the total number sustained from 2017-2022, separated by year.
4. the total number of civilian complaints alleging law enforcement use of excessive force that were reported and the total number sustained from 2017-2022, separated by year.
5. the total number of civilian complaints alleging biased policing or racial profiling that were reported and the total number sustained from 2017-2022, separated by year.
6. the total number of civilian complaints alleging criminal conduct that were reported and the total number sustained from 2017-2022, separated by year.
7. the total number of officer-involved shootings from 2017-2022, both fatal and non-fatal, separated by year.
8. the total number of people who police used force against in 2022, broken down by race/ethnicity.

When available, I would appreciate being sent individualized data in this request in spreadsheet format. If individualized data are unavailable, please send information that includes aggregate statistics for the item instead.

Note that my requests for civilian complaints are specifically for civilian complaints, please do not include complaints filed by one officer/the department against another officer. The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my requests. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 5 business days, as the statute requires.”

Your request has been granted in part and denied in part. The State College Police Department is not in possession of responsive reports that present the civilian complaints data as requested. The Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law, Section 705 – Creation of record, provides that “when responding to a request for access, an agency shall not be required to create a record that which does not currently exist or to compile, maintain, format or organize a record in a manner in which the agency does not currently compile, maintain, format or organize the record.” The State College Police Department does not maintain, format, compile or organize its data according to the variables set forth in your request, specifically in spreadsheet format. The data you have requested can be found in the attached documents.

You have the right to file an appeal if a written request for access to a record has been denied or deemed denied. An appeal regarding criminal investigative records should be submitted in writing, to the following:

Mr. Bernard Cantorna
Centre County District Attorney
Courthouse Annex-3rd Floor
106 High Street
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823

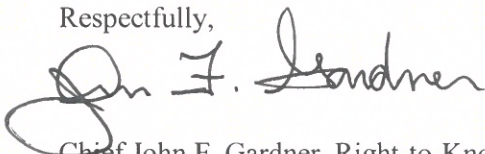
An appeal regarding non-criminal investigative records should be submitted in writing, to the following:

Liz Wagenseller, Executive Director
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Office of Open Records
333 Market Street, 16th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101-2234
Or you can file an appeal online at <https://www.openrecords.pa.gov/Appeals/AppealForm.cfm>

If you choose to file an appeal, you must do so within fifteen business days of the mailing date of the agency’s response, or within fifteen business days of a deemed denial, Section 1101.

If you have further questions, please call Chief John F. Gardner, Right-to-Know Officer. Please be advised that this correspondence will serve to close this record with our office as permitted by law.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Gardner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Chief John F. Gardner, Right-to-Know Officer
Chief of Police
243 South Allen Street, State College, Pennsylvania 16801
Phone: 814-234-7161

CIVILIAN COMPLAINTS:

	<u>REPORTED</u>	<u>SUSTAINED</u>
2017	4	3
2018	1	1
2019	2	1
2020	2	2
2021	2	1
2022	2	0

EXCESSIVE FORCE COMPLAINTS:

	<u>REPORTED</u>	<u>SUSTAINED</u>
2017	1	1
2018	0	0
2019	1	0
2020	1	1
2021	2	0
2022	1	0

**BIAS BASED POLICING
COMPLAINTS:**

	<u>REPORTED</u>	<u>SUSTAINED</u>
2017	0	0
2018	0	0
2019	0	0
2020	0	0
2021	0	0
2022	1	0

CRIMINAL CONDUCT:

	<u>REPORTED</u>	<u>SUSTAINED</u>
2017	0	0
2018	0	0
2019	0	0
2020	0	0
2021	1	1
2022	0	0