



CITY OF
WESTLAND
An All AMERICAN City
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Department of Police

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August 20, 2020

MuckRock News
DEPT MR 98434
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516
Attn: Samuel Sinyangwe

Re: FOIA Request

Mr. Sinyangwe,

We are in receipt of your FOIA request date July 20, 2020 wherein you request "1. *the total number of use of force incidents, separated by year and by type of force used from 2016-2019 (for example, "27 taser incidents in 2016, 3 baton incidents in 2017, etc.)*

2. *the total number of civilian complaints alleging any form of law enforcement misconduct that were reported and the total number sustained, separated by year (for example, 8 complaints in 2016, 2 complaints sustained in 2017, 4 complaints in 2018, 1 complaint sustained in 2019, etc.)*

3. *the total number of civilian complaints alleging law enforcement use of excessive force that were reported and the total number sustained from 2016-2019, separated by year*

4. *the total number of civilian complaints alleging biased policing or racial profiling that were reported and the total number sustained from 2016-2019, separated by year"*.

Our responses to your inquiries are as follows:

- 1.) In 2016 we had 184 use of force incidents, in 2017 we had 145, in 2018 we had 105 and in 2019 we had 99. Unfortunately, we do not have a process currently to be able to accurately differentiate the type of force used without reviewing each use of force and drawing out the numbers based on the type of force used as you requested. Performing that task would be overly burdensome.
- 2.) In 2016 we had 18 total citizen complaints with 8 being sustained, in 2017 we had 21 complaints with 16 being sustained, in 2018 we had 44 complaints with 25 being sustained, and in 2019 we had 14 complaints with 5 being sustained.
- 3.) While this information is captured to some extent, it is not in a format where a simple report can be run to retrieve the information as requested. We would need to review each file to be able to pull that information for your request which is overly burdensome and not required under MI FOIA law.
- 4.) While this information is captured to some extent, it is not in a format where a simple report can be run to retrieve the information as

requested. We would need to review each file to be able to pull that information for your request which is overly burdensome and not required under MI FOIA law.

On a side note, we are working with a vendor currently to capture much of this information that you have requested and will be making that information available on our website in the near future.

If you have any specific questions that I may be able to help with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lt. Stephen Bird". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Lt. Stephen Bird
Westland Police Department
Support Services
(734) 721-5350