



OFFICE OF THE HUDSON COUNTY PROSECUTOR

595 NEWARK AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07306

ESTHER SUAREZ
PROSECUTOR

TELEPHONE: (201) 795-6400
FAX: (201) 795-3365

April 21, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY
thehudsoncountyview@gmail.com

Re: April 13, 2021 OPRA and Common Law Request for the HCPO Internal Affairs Annual Summary Report for 2020 and the HCPO "Disciplinary Reaction Report" or "Public Synopsis of Major Discipline" for 2020.

Dear Sirs/Madams:

The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office (HCPO) is in receipt of your above request under the New Jersey Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47: 1A-1, et. seq. and the Common Law. (Copy is attached for your easy reference.)

Please be advised that the New Jersey OPRA statute, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i), has been amended to reflect, during the COVID-19 emergency, that the seven (7) day deadline within which to respond to OPRA requests no longer applies. The government entity is only required to make a "reasonable effort, as the circumstances permit" to respond within seven (7) days or as soon as possible thereafter.

In response to your request attached please find the following:

HCPO Annual Internal Affairs Summary 2020 (one page); and
Local Police Depts. Notices of Major Disciplinary Action 2020 (20 pages)

The Hudson County View
April 21, 2021
Page two

To the best of my information, knowledge and belief, this response includes all documents possessed by the HCPO that are responsive to your query.

In addition, you requested the same records under the common law. Since the HCPO has provided you with a full response to your request, any discussion under the common law is moot.

The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office reserves the right to raise any other grounds in support of this response. The failure of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office to assert an exception, exemption or privilege does not act as a waiver of any ground for denial.

As with any OPRA request, you have the right to challenge the HCPO's determination. At your option, you may either file a complaint in writing with the Government Records Council (GRC), located in the Department of Community Affairs, or institute a proceeding in the Superior Court.

Very truly yours,

ESTHER SUAREZ
Prosecutor of Hudson County

By:



JOHN P. LIBRETTI
Chief of Civil Litigation Unit

JL/
Enclosures
c. Office of the Hudson County Counsel

OPRA request

Hudson County View <thehudsoncountyview@gmail.com>

Tue 4/13/2021 9:56 AM

To: OPRA <opra@hcopo.org>;

Good morning,

Pursuant to OPRA and common law, I am requesting

- 1) The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office Internal Affairs Annual Summary Report for 2020.
- 2) The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office "Disciplinary Reaction Report," or "Public Synopsis of Major Discipline" for 2020. Per the AG's IAPP, every law enforcement agency must disclose a list of all major discipline that includes a brief summary of the transgression and the sanction imposed. That is the record I am seeking here, thank you.

Agency Name: Hudson County Prosecutor's Office
 Year: 2020

Annual Internal Affairs Summary

	Pending from Prior Years	New cases	Cases Closed	Source of Complaint			Criminal Outcome				Internal Disciplinary Outcome					Pending End of Year	
				Agency	Civilian	Anon.	Convictio n	Diversio n	Acquittal	Dismissa l	Not Exonerated	Sustained	Unfounded	Administra- tively Closed	Sustained		
Excessive Force	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Improper Arrest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Entry	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Improper Search	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Criminal Violation	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Differential Treatment	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Demeanor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Rule Violation	11	13	7	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	1	17

Total Cases Opened	<u>21</u>
Total Cases Closed	<u>7</u>
Total Pending Cases	<u>26</u>
Total Cases >180 Days	<u>6</u>



ESTHER SUAREZ
PROSECUTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Captain Matthew Gasiorowski
FROM: Sergeant Michael A. Signorile, Jr.
DATE: January 4, 2021
RE: 10 Day Disciplinary Synopsis (2020)

During calendar year 2020, no major discipline of ten (10) days or more was issued to any member of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office.



Robert Kubert
Director

BAYONNE POLICE DEPARTMENT
BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY
07002

Robert Geisler
Chief of Police

Captain Matthew Gasiorowski
H.C.P.O. Internal Affairs
595 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07305


January 11, 2021

Re: Notice of Disciplinary Action Involving a Suspension of Ten (10) Days or More Administered in 2020

Captain,

There were no instances in which an officer received disciplinary action of a suspension of ten (10) or more days.

Respectfully,


Captain Robert Ryan
Internal Affairs Unit



BOROUGH OF EAST NEWARK
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
Internal Affairs Unit

34 Sherman Avenue
East Newark, New Jersey 07029
Phone: (973) 481-2900
Fax: (973) 481-0627

ANTHONY MONTEIRO
CHIEF OF POLICE

Sgt. Michael O'Donnell
Internal Affairs Officer

Re: Notice of disciplinary action involving a suspension of 10 days of more during 2020

Please be advised that during 2020, there was (1) instance in which an officer received disciplinary action of a suspension of 10 days or more. One officer received a suspension of 10 days for violation of chain of command and for abandonment of his post.

Sgt. Michael O'Donnell



(201) 868-3300

Police Department

Town of Guttenberg

County of Hudson

6808 Park Avenue

Guttenberg, NJ 07093-1820



Fax: (201) 809-1584

INTERNAL AFFAIRS MEMO

TO: Sergeant Michael A. Signorile, Jr.
FROM: Det. Marcin M. Rysiec
DATE: January 18, 2021
RE: Major discipline (2020)

Please be advised that one (1) member of this agency had faced major disciplinary action during 2020. This officer (Sergeant) was suspended with pay since February for violations of this department's rules and regulations. The officer failed to properly supervise and report an arrest and a use of force incident.

Detective Marcin M. Rysiec #132
Guttenberg Police Department
6808 Park Ave.
Guttenberg, N.J. 07093
Office: 201-868-3300
Fax: 201-809-1584



DAVID STRUMOLO
CHIEF OF POLICE



318 HARRISON AVENUE
HARRISON, NEW JERSEY 07029-1796
(973) 483-4100

HUDSON COUNTY -- NEW JERSEY

During the year of 2020, The Harrison Police Department did not have any disciplinary actions which resulted in a major discipline of ten days or more.

Det. Lt. Charles Schimpf #880




**COUNTY OF HUDSON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION
Office of Internal Affairs
830 Bergen Avenue 3rd Floor
Jersey City, New Jersey 07306
201-395-5600**



THOMAS A. DeGISE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

RONALD P. EDWARDS
DIRECTOR

TO: Hudson County Prosecutor's Office – Internal Affairs Unit
FROM: Erika P. Patterson 
REF: Annual Summary
DATE: January 12, 2020

In maintaining with the guidelines established by the Attorney General Office, I have included a brief synopsis of complaints where a fine or suspension of ten days or more was assessed to a member of the Hudson County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

1. Officer was suspended for 133 days for having a bench warrant issued on March 30, 2020 for failure to appear. The initial arrest was on August 6, 2019 in Sussex County for writing bad checks with a value of 2,000.00 dollars.



ESTHER SUAREZ
PROSECUTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Captain Matthew Gasiorowski
FROM: Sergeant Michael A. Signorile, Jr.
DATE: January 4, 2021
RE: 10 Day Disciplinary Synopsis (2020)

During calendar year 2020, no major discipline of ten (10) days or more was issued to any member of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office.



Frank X. Schillari
Sheriff

Hudson County Sheriff's Office

Hudson County Administration Building
595 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey 07306
(201) 795-6300



Internal Affairs Unit

To: Hudson County Prosecutor's Office Internal Affairs Unit
From: HCSO IAU
Date: 1/14/20
Subject: Suspension in excess of 10 days for 2020

- Officer received 45 day suspension for neglecting to take proper precautions when handling a firearm and neglected to take proper action after an accidental discharge had occurred.
- Officer received 75 day suspension for neglecting to get prior authorization from a supervisor to bring an unauthorized weapon to work location. Officer additionally, neglected to take proper action after an accidental discharge had occurred.
- Officer received 6 month suspension and demotion in rank for neglecting to take proper action after an accidental discharge had occurred.
- Officer suspended for 10 days for Chronic absenteeism.
- Officer suspended for 30 days for Chronic absenteeism.
- Officer suspended for 90 days for communicating with defendant in civil matter regarding the nature of allegations being made against them prior to service by law enforcement and/or the court.
- Officer received 30 day suspension for Chronic Absenteeism and lateness.
- Officer received 90 day suspension for Chronic Absenteeism and lateness.
- Officer terminated for failing to notify department of suspended license.
- Officer received 10 day suspension for improper use and operation of agency vehicle.
- Officer received 15 day suspension for failing to take appropriate action while on duty.



Kenneth F. Ferrante
Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF HOBOKEN
One Police Plaza
Hoboken, New Jersey 07030-5787



Tel. (201) 420-2100
Fax. (201) 420-8325

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021
To: Chief Kenneth F. Ferrante
From: Lieutenant Steven Aguiar
Subject: Major Disciplinary Synopsis

One (1) officer was suspended for 45 days for Other Criminal Violation(s). The officer was arrested for Driving While Intoxicated while off-duty.

One (1) officer was suspended for 90 days for the violation of Neglect of Duty. The officer failed to follow departmental policy related to the Outside Employment Program.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lieutenant Steven Aguiar



JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Internal Affairs

1 Journal Square Plaza, 4th Floor
Jersey City, N.J. 07306
201-547-5472 / 73



DATE: 01/05/2021

FROM: Dino Nerney

TO: Captain George Rotondo, Internal Affairs Unit Commander

SUBJECT: Disciplinary Actions: Terminations, Reduction in rank; Suspension of 10 days or more..

The Hudson County Prosecutors Office, Internal Affairs Division has requested a summary of disciplinary action which resulted in Termination, Reduction in Rank or Suspension of 10 days or more for the calendar year 2020. The following is a summary of such investigations.

IAU File # 2018-042

A member of this agency was convicted in Hudson County Superior Court of Official Misconduct 2C:30-2
Theft 2C:20-3.

Finding: Sustained

Penalty: Terminated

02/14/2020

IAU File # 2020-016

A member of this agency repetitively used profane and derogatory language during an arrest, towards a member of the public.

Finding: Sustained

Penalty: Loss of 10 days

02/17/2020

IAU File # Disp. 2020-031

A member of this agency violated the provisions for reporting off sick. During this period of being off sick the officer went on vacation and posted videos and pictures on social media of her dancing, contrary to her claim of illness or injury.

Finding: Sustained

Penalty: Loss of 10 days

03/19/2020

2020-060

A member of this agency was involved in a motor vehicle accident which he was found to be at fault for causing.

Finding: Sustained

Penalty: Loss of 20 days

06/30/2020

I.A.U. 2020-086

A member of this agency was charged by the F.B.I. with a violation of Title 18 U.S.C Section 371 (Conspiracy), the underlying charge is a violation of Title 18 section 6676 (Theft or Bribery Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds).

Finding: Sustained

Terminated: 10/05/2020

Loss of 109 days

I.A.U. 2020-022

A member of this agency presented a false, fraudulent and altered doctors' note to the Police medical Unit.

Finding: Sustained

Penalty: Terminated

09/17/2020

I.A.U. 2014-080

A member of this agency purposely and intentionally failed to report and make the proper notifications to dispatch and supervisory personnel following an on-duty officer involved in a motor vehicle accident.

Finding: Sustained

Penalty: Loss of 25 days

09/23/2020

I.A.U 2020-008

A member of this agency while off duty was arrested by the Hasbrouck Heights Police Department for Driving While Intoxicated, refusal to take a breath test and careless driving.

Finding: Sustained

Penalty: Loss of 20 days

11/19/2020

IAU File # 2020-002

A member of this agency while off duty entered a public restroom and made an inappropriate and unwelcome advance toward a female JCPD Officer.

Finding: Sustained

Penalty: Loss of 30 days

03/27/2020

IAU File# 2018-099

A member of this agency while off duty was arrested for Criminal Acts: Assault.

Finding: Sustained

Penalty: Suspended for 47 work days without pay

Loss of 30 days

Total 77 days

04/02/2020

IAU File # 2020-010

A member of this agency used a derogatory term and attempted to offset his actions by placing his body worn camera to a default setting in an attempt to remove the footage.

Finding: Sustained

Penalty: Loss of 20 Days

04/25/2020

IAU File# 2018-091

A member of this agency was engaged in a physical altercation with a juvenile that escalated. The officer drew his weapon which resulted in an inadvertent discharge without injury.

Finding: Sustained

Penalty: Loss of 25 Days

03/13/2020

IAU File #2019-086

A member of this agency while off duty retrieved a firearm after consuming 6-8 beers. He negligently discharged a round from the firearm during a dispute. The New Jersey State Police responded and their investigation resulted in his arrest and subsequent placement in Pre-Trial Intervention.

Finding: Sustained

Penalty: Suspension 19 days

Loss of 71 days

Total Loss 90 day

Respectfully,

LT Eddie Nieves

Lieutenant Eddie Nieves for
Captain George Rotondo
Internal Affairs Unit Commander



Secaucus Police Department

Dennis Miller, CPM

Chief of Police

Municipal Government Center | 1203 Paterson Plank Road | Secaucus, NJ 07094

Office: (201) 330.2045 | Fax: (201) 330.2098



Public Synopsis of Disciplinary Action

(January 2020 – December 2020)

- Police Officer was suspended for 10 days for repeatedly being late for duty



ALLEN PASCUAL
Commissioner

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BERGEN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

POLICE DEPARTMENT

LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
4233 KENNEDY BOULEVARD
NORTH BERGEN, NJ 07047



PETER FASILIS
Chief of Police

Internal Affairs Unit Annual Public Synopsis

In accordance with the New Jersey Attorney General's Guideline regarding "Internal Affairs Policy and Procedures," Reporting Requirement 10, the following information is being provided to the general public:

January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

1. A Police Sergeant from this department was suspended for failing to properly supervise subordinates. The resulting internal investigation sustained disciplinary action against the officer in the form of a ten (10) day suspension for violations of the North Bergen Police Department Rules, Regulations, and General Orders.
2. A Police Lieutenant from this department was suspended for failing to properly supervise subordinates. The resulting internal investigation sustained disciplinary action against the officer in the form of a ten (10) day suspension for violations of the North Bergen Police Department Rules, Regulations, and General Orders.

Please Note:

The synopsis provided on this document will be published in the North Bergen Police Department (NYPD) 2020 Annual Report which will be available in printed form at police headquarters, circulated on the NYPD Social Media Platforms, and included on the NYPD Website www.northbergenpd.com

**KEARNY POLICE DEPARTMENT
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMO**

TO: Capt. Matthew Gasiorowski
Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, Internal Affairs Unit

FROM: Capt. Timothy Wagner, KPD Internal Affairs Unit *TW*

DATE: January 13, 2021

SUBJECT: 2020 Summary of Officer Suspensions of 10 or More Days

Pursuant to the New Jersey Attorney General's Internal Affairs Policy and Procedures, kindly accept this memorandum as notice that in calendar year 2020 no department members were assessed a fine or suspension of 10 days or more.



STEVENS
INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY
THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY

Stevens Police Department
Deputy Chief Robert DiGenova
201 216 5106

Memorandum

To: Capt. Matthew Gasiorowski
From: DC Robert DiGenova *DCD*
Date: January 29, 2021
Subj: 2020 Major Discipline / Internal Affairs

During the course of 2020 the Stevens Police Department had no major disciplinary action of 10 days or more.



Union City Police Department

Internal Affairs Unit

3715 Palisade Ave

Union City, N.J. 07087

201-348-5638 / 201-348-5793 (Fax)



Mayor Brian P. Stack
Director of Public Safety
201-348-5745

Nichelle Luster
Chief of Police
201-348-5780

To: Hudson County Prosecutor's Office
Internal Affairs Unit
595 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07305

From: Lieutenant M. Bergbauer #368

Date: January 11, 2021

Re: 2020 Summary of Major Discipline

Captain Matthew Gasiorowski,

Below is a summary of the Internal Affairs investigations which resulted in major discipline (10 days or more) for 2020.

1. IA MVA 2019-029

Date Opened: 08/28/2019

Charges: Conduct Unbecoming a Public Employee

Description: An Internal Affairs investigation was launched for an officer involved motor-vehicle accident in the calendar year 2019. During the Officer's recorded interview, they were less than candid regarding details about the accident in order to disguise fault. The investigation revealed the officer was dishonest and resulted in a 45-day suspension in 2020. The Officer was added to the Brady/Giglio list sent to your office in the early part of this year.

2. IA 2020-073

Date Opened: 08/06/2020

Charges: Conduct Unbecoming, Misuse of Public property, Other Sufficient Cause

Description: On August 6, 2020 a complaint was received from an officer's immediate supervisor stating the officer was insubordinate. The investigation found that the officer violated a sergeant's orders by taking a police vehicle to a walking post and thereafter striking a pedestrian. The investigation revealed the officer was driving in excess of 40 miles per hour and disregarded a stop sign. The officer settled for a 60-day suspension.

3. IA2020-075

Date Opened: 09/02/2020

Charges: Failure to properly care for assigned equipment and vehicles, damaging same due to neglect

Description: An Internal Affairs investigation was opened into an officer involved motor-vehicle accident. The accident resulted in severe injuries to a citizen and the officer. There was excessive property damage and the police vehicle was a total loss. The investigation determined the officer was driving in excess of 50 miles per hour and disregarded a traffic signal. As a result of this investigation, the officer was served with a 10-day suspension and requested a hearing (pending).

4. IA2018-029

Date Opened: 10/11/2020

Charges: Failure to properly care for assigned equipment and vehicles, damaging same due to neglect

Description: An Internal Affairs investigation was opened into an officer involved motor-vehicle accident. The accident resulted in severe injuries to a citizen and the officer. There was excessive property damage and the police vehicle was a total loss. The investigation determined the officer was driving in excess of 43 miles per hour and disregarded a traffic signal. As a result of this investigation the officer was served with a 10-day suspension and requested a hearing (pending).

LHMBS/368

Lieutenant M. Bergbauer #368
Internal Affairs Unit



Weehawken Police Department Internal Affairs Division



400 Park Avenue
Weehawken NJ
(201) 863-7800

January 1st, 2021

Hudson County Prosecutor
Esther Suarez Esq.
595 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

RE: 2020 Major Discipline Summary

Madam Prosecutor,

In the year 2020 the Weehawken Police Department did not impose major discipline of 10 days or more upon any of our officers for Internal Affairs complaints that have been sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Capt. James D. White
Internal Affairs Commander



Mayor Gabriel Rodriguez
Public Safety

POLICE DEPARTMENT WEST NEW YORK, N.J.07093



To: Deputy Chief Santiago Cabrera
From: Sgt. Henry Codina
Date: December 31st, 2020
Subject: Public Synopsis of Disciplinary Action

This memorandum is being submitted in accordance with Attorney General Directive 2020-5.

Sir,

This is to inform you that in the 2020 calendar year, no Officers were disciplined 10 days or more.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sgt. Henry Codina
Internal Affairs Unit