



**Office of Inspector General  
County of Los Angeles**

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**Reform and Oversight Efforts:  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's  
Department**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Office of Inspector General is charged by the Board of Supervisors with four primary functions:

- Monitoring the Department's operations and conditions in the jail facilities, including the Department's response to prisoner and public complaints.
- Periodically reviewing data on the Department's use of force, the Department's investigations of force incidents and allegations of misconduct and the Department's disciplinary decisions.
- Conducting periodic audits and inspections of Department operations and reviewing the quality of the Department's audits and inspections.
- Regularly communicating with the public, the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Department regarding the Department's operations.

This report is a brief summary of some of the Office of Inspector General's activities for the first quarter of 2018 toward fulfilling these functions.

## **ACCESS**

All requests by the Office of Inspector General which were made in compliance with the Memorandum to Share and Protect Confidential LASD Information have been complied with in a timely manner. Each access concern which has been expressed by the Office of Inspector General has been addressed by the Department in a satisfactory manner.

## **MONITORING**

### **Department Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems**

The Department's Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) was deployed one time this quarter on March 10, 2018. The Pomona Police Department requested mutual aid assistance regarding a barricaded suspect in an apartment building. The suspect was wanted for the murder of a Pomona police officer and the attempted murder of another, following a vehicle pursuit. The Sheriff's Department Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) responded to the

location to assist the Pomona Police Department. The suspect was barricaded inside the second floor apartment for approximately 15 hours. During this incident, SEB deputies deployed the UAS to assist in pinpointing the suspect's location within the apartment. The UAS allowed the deputies to accomplish their mission without unnecessarily exposing them to gunfire. The suspect was eventually taken into custody. The OIG reviewed the usage of the UAS and found it to be within department policy.

## **Deputy Involved Shootings**

### **Shootings: January 1 through March 31, 2018**

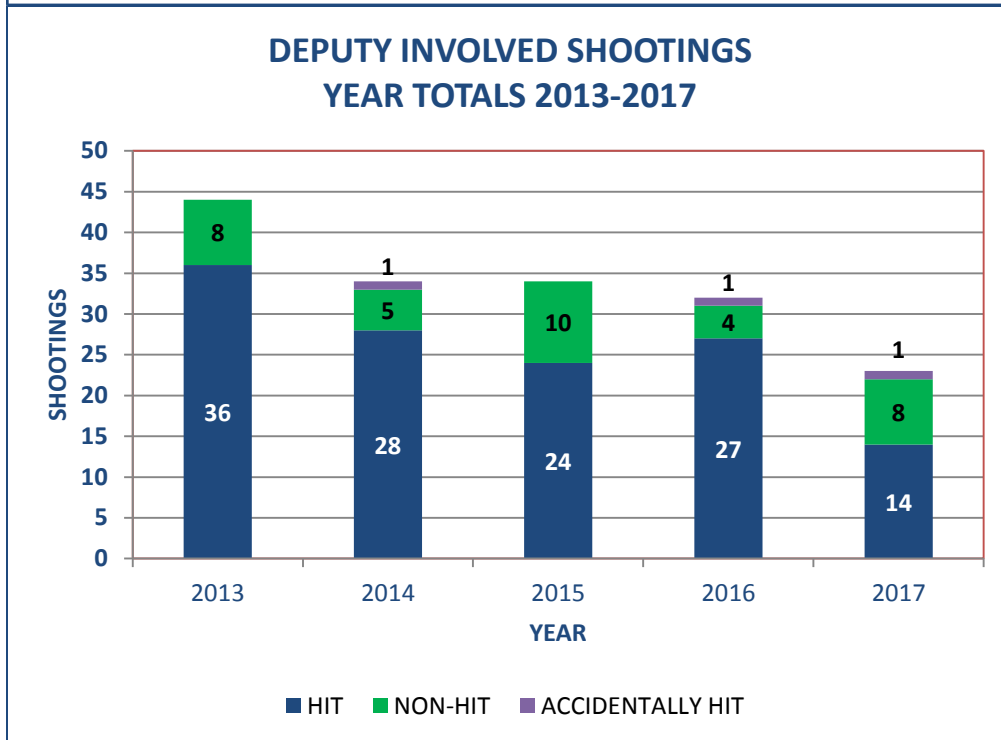
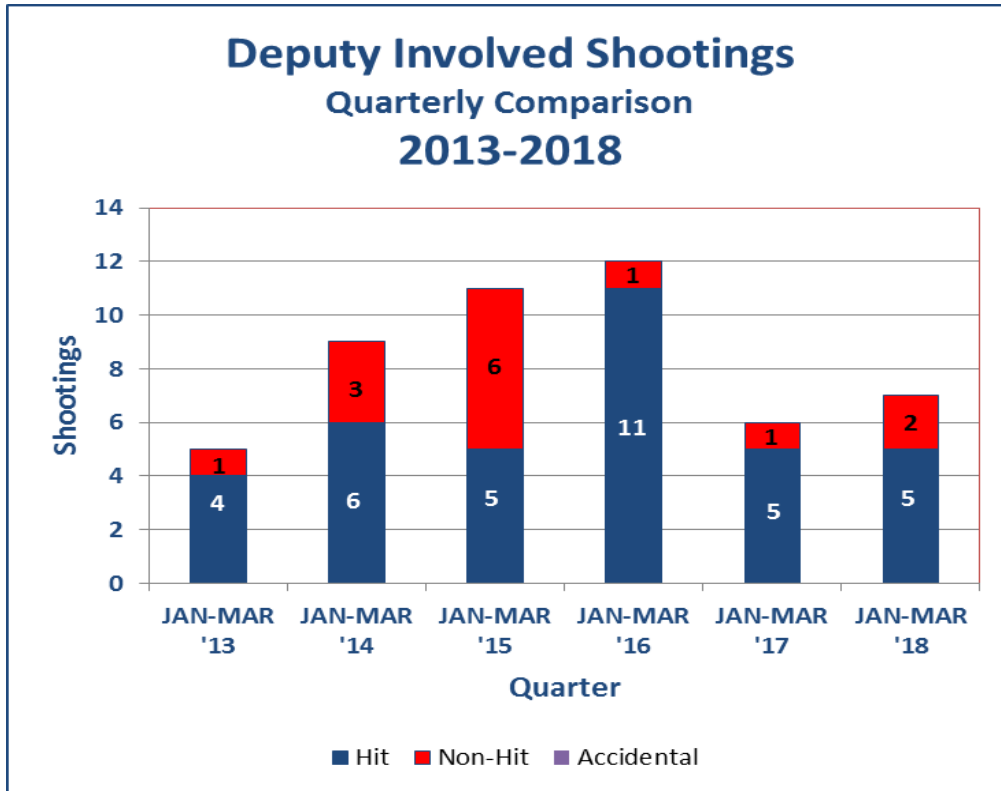
Between January 1 and March 31, 2018, the Office of Inspector General responded to the scene of seven Deputy Involved Shooting investigations. In five of these Deputy Involved Shootings, persons were hit by deputy gunfire, three of whom suffered fatal injuries. Four of the persons shot were Hispanic males and one was an Hispanic female.

The Office of Inspector General categorizes as a Deputy Involved Shooting any shooting in which: 1) a person was intentionally shot at by a Department member, whether injured by the gunfire or not; 2) a person was injured, including fatally, by the Department member's gunfire, whether intentionally or not; and 3) the Department member shot at a vehicle occupied by a person, unless it is clear from the circumstances that the purpose of the use of the firearm was to disable the vehicle (i.e. shoot tires).

The Department's definitions of shootings can be found in the Manual of Policies and Procedures, 3-10/300.00. The Department categorizes accidental shootings of persons by the tactical nature of the shooting itself. The Department has added to its data sharing web site a "Persons Accidentally Struck by Gunfire" table to identify those shootings in which a person was accidentally struck by a Department member's gunfire in tactical situations or in situations in which the gun was discharged unintentionally.

The Department's Homicide Bureau investigates all Deputy Involved Shootings in which a person is injured, regardless of the shooting's category.

Comparison to prior years



## **District Attorney Review of Deputy Involved Shootings**

The Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau submits the investigation of each Deputy Involved Shooting which occurred in the County of Los Angeles and in which a person has been injured to the District Attorney's Office for review and the possible filing of criminal charges.

The District Attorney has issued findings in two 2017 cases. In the March 7, 2017 fatal shooting of Dennis Todd Williams-Rogers, the District Attorney opined in a memorandum dated February 21, 2018, that there was insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the shooting deputy's decision to shoot Rogers-Williams was unreasonable. In the March 20, 2017 fatal shooting of Andrew Lane, the District Attorney opined in a memorandum dated March 22, 2018, that the shooting deputies were acting in lawful self-defense and the defense of others.

On March 29, 2018, the District Attorney also issued findings in the January 12, 2016 non-fatal shooting of Jeremy Anthony James. The District Attorney opined that the deputies acted in lawful self-defense and the defense of each other when they shot Jeremy James.

The District Attorney's findings may be found at the District Attorney's web site, <http://da.lacounty.gov/reports/ois>.

## **In Custody Deaths**

Between January 1 and March 31, 2018, five persons died while incarcerated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The Office of Inspector General responded to the scene of the deaths which occurred within the detention facilities.

On January 26, 2018, a prisoner died at the Los Angeles County/USC Medical Center (LCMC). This person had been found by Sheriff's deputies at Twin Towers Correctional Facility on January 22, during what appeared to be a suicide attempt. The prisoner was rescued by deputies, who administered CPR until paramedics arrived, and was transported to LCMC where the prisoner died four days later.

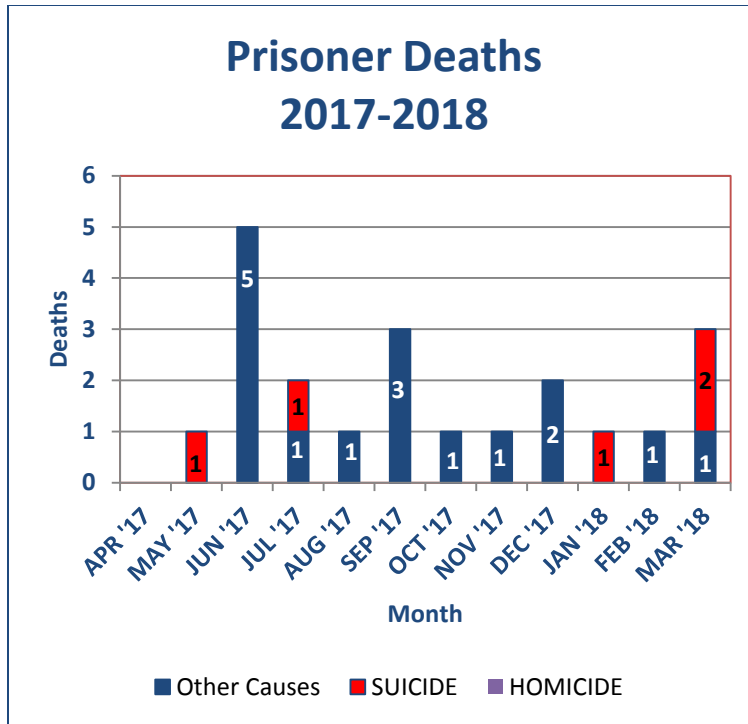
On February 28, 2018, a prisoner died in the intensive care unit at LCMC. The prisoner was suffering from a medical condition at the time of arrest and was hospitalized at LCMC ICU since the prisoner's booking at the Inmate Reception Center. The apparent cause of death was the medical condition for which the prisoner was hospitalized.

On March 8, 2018, a prisoner died at the Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital. This person was found unconscious in a cell at the Santa Clarita court and was taken by paramedics to the hospital, where the prisoner died. The cause of death was not immediately apparent.

On March 9, 2018, a prisoner died at Twin Towers Correctional Facility. The prisoner presented with a history of medical issues when booked on March 5. On March 9, the prisoner was found unresponsive and not breathing during what appeared to be a suicide attempt. The prisoner was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics.

On March 26, 2018, a prisoner died at Men's Central Jail. The prisoner was discovered unresponsive during what appeared to be a suicide attempt. Emergency aid was rendered, paramedics were called, and they pronounced the prisoner dead at the scene.

The Office of Inspector General attended the Custody Services Division administrative death reviews for each of the five prisoners. The OIG remains concerned about the rendering of timely aid to prisoners in distress as well as the timeliness and quality of life saving efforts. The Office of Inspector General continues to monitor the quality and thoroughness of the administrative death reviews as well as on going efforts of the Department and Correctional Health Services to improve prisoner/patient care.



Two persons died while in the custody of Sheriff’s Department personnel in the field. The Office of Inspector General responded to the scene of the investigation of each of these deaths. The Office of Inspector General was also present at the Critical Incident Review by the Department of these deaths.

On February 4, 2018, a person assaulted two deputies as they attempted to arrest the individual. A bystander and two additional deputies came to the assistance of the deputies. A total appendage restraint procedure was used to restrain this person. Deputies then saw that the person had stopped breathing. The deputies removed the restraints and administered CPR until paramedics arrived. Paramedics pronounced the person dead at the scene. The cause of this person’s death has not yet been released by the Medical Examiner.

On March 5, 2018, deputies observed a person who appeared to be in medical distress. Paramedics were called but when they arrived found no medical issues. Subsequently, the deputies observed that the person again appeared to be in acute medical distress. Deputies called for paramedics again and took the person into custody. Because the person was in custody, paramedics transported the person to Martin Luther King Hospital, where the



person was pronounced dead. The cause of this person’s death has not yet been released by the Medical Examiner.

## Custody Operations

### Office of Inspector General Site Assessments

Office of Inspector General personnel conducted fifty-seven site visits to nine Los Angeles County custody and lockup facilities the first quarter of 2018. Typically during these visits, Office of Inspector General staff meet with Department personnel at all ranks, from security and custody assistants to facility captains and commanders, and with civilian staff, clergy, and volunteers.

Office of Inspector General personnel also continued to meet with prisoners in the general population, administrative segregation units, and disciplinary, medical and mental health housing. Monitors met with and received input from prisoners at cell front, during recreation and treatment group time, and in private interview rooms when necessary to ensure confidentiality. The following chart represents facilities visited from January 1, 2018, through March 31, 2018.

Facility	Site Visits
Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF)	14
Inmate Reception Center (IRC)	5
Los Angeles County Medical Center (LCMC)	1
Men’s Central Jail (MCJ)	17
North County Correctional Facility (NCCF)	3
Pitchess Detention Center East (PDC East) – Fire Camp	1
Pitchess Detention Center North (PDC North)	2
Pitchess Detention Center South (PDC South)	2
Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF)	12
<b>Total through March 31, 2018</b>	<b>57</b>

## Citizen’s Commission on Jail Violence Updates

*CCJV Recommendation 3.12: The Department should purchase additional body scanners.*

The Department continues to operate body scanners at the Inmate Reception Center, Century Regional Detention Facility, Pitchess Detention Center – South and Pitchess Detention Center North. As previously reported, the Department

experienced technical issues related to the operation of the two scanners at Pitchess Detention Center North. The Department reported to the Office of Inspector General that it has rectified these issues and that it began full operation of both machines on March 6, 2018. Office of Inspector General personnel observed prisoners being scanned at Pitchess Detention Center North on March 19, 2018.

Pitchess Detention Center North personnel working the scanners currently submit refusal information to operations personnel. The system developed by Pitchess Detention Center reflects careful measures to record accurate information that is housed in a single location with operations personnel. The Department reports that Pitchess Detention Center North will track the same information as Pitchess Detention Center South, including the number of prisoners refusing, as well as their race and reason for refusal.

As previously reported, the Department was near installment of three scanners at North County Correctional Facility and a final walk-through was conducted on December 5, 2017. At that time, the Department planned on placing one scanner near the vocational shops and three scanners into the Inmate Processing Area (IPA). Prisoners scanned in the IPA would proceed to the former laundry area in order to prevent prisoners who were not yet scanned from having contact with those already scanned. The original anticipated completion date was February 28, 2018.

The Department began installing hardware to house cables and wires for the machines in January 2018 before facility personnel realized that the configuration in the IPA was unworkable. Personnel discovered that the IPA Sergeant, who must be able to supervise all activities in the area, would not have view of all deputies and prisoners with the workflow design. The Department has installed three body scanner machines in the former laundry room adjacent to the IPA. These machines must be hardwired and personnel must be trained on how to operate the machines. The Department reports a new anticipated completion date for hardware installation and training of personnel by the end of May 2018.

### ***CCJV Recommendation 7.1: The Investigative and Disciplinary System Should be Revamped***

On October 8, 2013, the Board of Supervisors authorized \$29.3 million to fund Phase I of the Department's implementation of the CCJV recommendations. On April 15, 2014, and September 30, 2014, in two separately approved motions, the Board authorized approximately \$34.7 million to fund Phase II of the Department's implementation of the CCJV

recommendations. The budget authorized for the recommendations listed here was to provide increased staffing.

The Office of Inspector General has met with the Sheriff's Department and members of the Chief Executive Officer's office to: a) memorialize a shared understanding of the specific intentions of the CCJV staffing recommendations, b) identify criteria and processes that can be used to determine whether the Sheriff's Department is meeting the that intent, and c) review the implementation status of those recommendations.

The Office of Inspector General is continuing our review and analysis of the sufficiency of staffing levels in the Internal Affairs Bureau and the impact staffing has on the thoroughness of the Department's administrative investigations.

#### *Internal Affairs Bureau Funding Request*

The Citizen's Commission on Jail Violence (CCJV) recommended expanding the Internal Affairs Bureau's role to include:

- Reviewing, and if appropriate, investigating, all uses of force which involve serious injuries and significant force (7.1)
- Spot checking unit level investigations of other uses of force (7.1)

The CCJV also made recommendations which would add to the case load of the Internal Affairs Bureau:

- Vigorously investigate off duty conduct (7.11)
- Revise discipline guidelines to establish increased penalties for excessive force and dishonesty (7.7)
- Investigate all complaints of retaliation (7.14)
- Use of cameras as investigative tools (7.15)

The Sheriff submitted a budget request to fund the additional resources necessary to implement these (and other) CCJV recommendations. In regards to the Internal Affairs Bureau, the objective was to increase its investigative capacity.<sup>1</sup> The Department requested authorization for 28 additional positions for the Internal Affairs Bureau, to be added in three

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<sup>1</sup> Chief Executive Office Recommendations for Funding to Implement the Citizen's Commission on Jail Violence Recommendations, adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors October 8, 2013.

phases, as follows:

Phase I – 1 lieutenant, 6 sergeant investigators and 3 support staff

Phase II – 1 lieutenant, 6 sergeant investigators and 2 support staff

Phase III - 1 lieutenant, 6 sergeant investigators and 2 support staff

Positions for phase I and phase II of the implementation of the Internal Affairs Bureau staffing increase were authorized by ordinance and subsequently budgeted by the Board of Supervisors.<sup>2</sup> This resulted in a net increase in budgeted authorized Internal Affairs Bureau positions of:

- 12 investigator sergeants (instead of the requested 18)
- 2 lieutenants (instead of the requested 3)
- 5 support staff (instead of the requested 7)

#### *Ensuing Staffing Levels*

Although the objective of the funding request was to increase the Internal Affairs Bureau's investigative capacity by increasing the aggregate number of positions in the Internal Affairs Bureau, the Department had difficulty achieving that objective. In September 2017, the Department reported filling twelve sergeant positions in the Internal Affairs Bureau, creating for the first time the staffing levels envisioned by the Department in response to the CCJV recommendations. However, reflective of the difficulty the Department has in keeping these positions filled, as of March 31, 2018, four additional sergeant positions in the Internal Affairs Bureau have been vacated due to reasons over which the Department has no control.

The Department reported that the difficulty in keeping the Internal Affairs Bureau fully staffed was (and is) due to a shortage of sergeants. A review of the Department's eHR Position Report for the first quarter of fiscal year 2017 verified there is an historical overall shortage of sergeants within the Department. In 2017 the eHR position report reflected that the Department had 1,544 sergeant positions authorized by ordinance. Of these, 1,267 positions were filled by full time employees, leaving 277 vacant sergeant positions, a vacancy rate of 18%.

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<sup>2</sup> The request for authorization to implement phase III was delayed by the Department in order to fund the Custody Compliance and Sustainability Bureau.

*CCJV Recommendation 7.14: The grievance process should be improved to include added checks and oversight*

The Department is still in the process of implementing iPads in all LASD facilities to capture information related to prisoner requests and grievances. The Department has 132 iPads deployed across all facilities; 62 at CRDF, 58 at MCJ and 12 at TTCF. At CRDF, iPads have been installed in all housing units, across the facility. As of March 20, 2018, the iPads have processed 1,344,243 requests, averaging approximately 10,000 requests per day.

The Department has expanded the types of information that can be accessed from the iPads. As previously reported, the former categories included court information, release dates, sentence status and account balances. The Department expanded the types of accessible information to the following: commissary information, Education Based Incarceration (EBI) class information (specific to each facility's EBI programs), Proposition 47 information, Title 15 information, Assembly Bill 109 information, prisoner rules and regulations, state prison status, "A Guide Through Custody," Fire Camp information, prisoner mail rules and immigration information.

As reported in the Office of Inspector General's *Reform and Oversight Efforts* January 2018, the Department initiated a "Limitations Policy" (Custody Division Manual Policy 8-04/050.00 titled "Duplicate or Excessive Filings of Grievances and Appeals and Restriction of Filing Privileges), to restrict the number of grievances filed by each prisoner, subject to certain exceptions for sensitive grievances. The Department imposed a limit of two grievances per week or four per month, per prisoner. Until the Custody Automated Reporting and Tracking System is automated to identify grievances that exceed the limits in the policy, custody grievance team personnel must identify grievances that exceed the Department's limit. The Department reports that between January 1, 2018, and March 15, 2018, twelve prisoners at five facilities were restricted from filing grievances according to this policy. The Office of Inspector General will continue to monitor the restrictions on access to the grievance system.

***CCJV Recommendation 7.15: The use of lapel cameras as an investigative tool should be broadened***

As previously reported, the Department opted for an alternative implementation of this recommendation and embarked on a five-year program to install fixed cameras in the jail facilities. The Department continues to implement Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras at the Pitchess Detention Center. At Pitchess Detention Center-South, the Department installed 176 cameras throughout the compound. The OIG observed the placement of these cameras during a site visit on March 19, 2018. While some cameras are currently operational (as previously reported), the Department anticipates that all cameras will be fully operational as of April 13, 2018.

At Pitchess Detention Center-North, the Department has installed 188 of the planned 190 cameras as of April 19, 2018, with the anticipated installment of two additional cameras. The Department reports that the 188 installed cameras are currently operational and that previously reported issues with the camera server are now resolved. The Department anticipates that the additional two cameras will be installed by April 31, 2018. The Office of Inspector General will continue to monitor their implementation.

## **COMMUNITY CONTACTS**

The Office of Inspector General continues to regularly communicate with the public, the Board of Supervisors, the Civilian Oversight Commission and the Sheriff regarding the work of the Office of Inspector General and the Department's operations.

The Inspector General attends all meetings of the Civilian Oversight Commission, town hall presentations by the Civilian Oversight Commission, and the Office of Inspector General is present at all Board proceedings which affect or touch on the Department's operations.

## Handling of Comments Regarding Department Operations and Jails

The OIG received ninety four new complaints in the first quarter of 2018 from members of the public, prisoners, prisoners' family members and friends, community organizations and County agencies.<sup>3</sup> Each complaint was reviewed by OIG staff. Eighty four of these complaints were related to conditions of confinement within the Department's custody facilities, as shown below:

Complaint/ Incident Classification	Totals
Personnel Issue	
Use of Force	1
Rude/Abusive Behavior	3
Unlawful Conduct	3
Failed to Take Action	2
Discrimination	5
Medical/Dental Issue	16
Mental Health Services	3
Housing	3
Dietary	5
Other Service Issue	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>

Twenty nine complaints were related to civilian contacts with Department personnel by persons who were not in custody.

Complaint/ Incident Classification	Totals
Personnel Issue	
Use of Force	1
Rude/Abusive Behavior	3
Unlawful Conduct	9
Failed to Take Action	2
Discrimination	1
Off Duty Conduct	2
Other Service Issue	10
No Discernable Issue	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>

<sup>3</sup> When complaints raise multiple issues, the OIG tracks and monitors the Department's response to each issue. As such, a single complaint may receive more than one classification as reflected in the referenced tables.

Five complaints were not about the Department or Department personnel and were referred to the appropriate agency or the complainant was directed to seek legal advice.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Sheriff and his staff remain receptive to OIG recommendations and the Inspector General and his staff strive to establish and maintain a collaborative working relationships achieved between the Office of Inspector General and with the Department personnel. Department efforts to identify and correct systemic deficiencies continue despite substantial personnel and other barriers to successful reform identified in this and other OIG reports. The OIG continues to closely monitor all aspects of Department operations including its policy development, investigations, executive level operational reviews and its handling of critical incidents. The Inspector General and his staff continue to identify issues and to work with the Department to facilitate systemic reform of its policies, practices, and operations. The Department has remained receptive to many of the Office of Inspector General's recommendations and suggestions. The Office of Inspector General will continue to monitor, track and report on Department critical incidents, policies and operations.