

Richland County Sheriff's Department

2016 Internal Affairs Report on Complaints, Defensive Actions, Traffic Collisions, and Assaults on Richland County Deputies

Professional Standards

Internal Affairs Unit



Leon Lott

Sheriff

January 17, 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2016 Internal Affairs Unit Report – At-A-Glance	4
Introduction	5
Internal Affairs Unit	6
Functions of the Internal Affairs Unit	7
Community Oversight	8
Making a Complaint	9
Complaint Investigations	10
Complaints and Dispositions	12
Defensive Action Reports	18
Vehicle Pursuits	20
Assaults on Deputies	22
Employee-Involved Traffic Collisions	24
Acknowledgements	25



MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

MISSION STATEMENT

It is our mission, as trusted public servants, to prevent crime and the fear of crime by providing excellence in law enforcement services, accountability, and connections with our communities.

CORE VALUES

Our mission is supported by our core values: “A passion for service, integrity, accountability, and professionalism”

2016 INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT AT A GLANCE

Richland County Demographic Profile: Our Community

According to the United States Census Bureau (2015), the 2015 Richland County population estimate was 407,051 people. The racial breakdown of the population is as follows: 47.5% white, 47.1% black, and 2.7% Asian. The US Census Bureau reports that 5.1% of the population of Richland County is Hispanic; however, the U.S. Census Bureau does not calculate Hispanic as a mutually exclusive category within the definition of race. Additionally, the United States Census Bureau reports that 2.8% of the Richland County population is American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or two or more races. The 2015 population estimates reports that 21.7% of the Richland County population is under the age of eighteen and 11.7% of the population is over the age of sixty-five. Furthermore, the 2015 population estimate for Richland County reports that 51.5% of the population is female.¹

Richland County Sheriff's Department Demographic Profile: Our Employees

As of November 14, 2016, the Richland County Sheriff's Department employed 602 sworn deputies. Of these deputies, 459 are male and 143 are female. In addition, the Richland County Sheriff's Department employees 136 civilian employees. Eighty-eight civilian employees are female and 48 are male.

Richland County Sheriff's Department Statistics: Our Workload

In CY 2016, 174,955 calls for service were received by the Richland County Sheriff's Department. This represents an increase of 3.15% over the calls for service received in CY 2015.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2015, July 1). *State & County QuickFacts: Richland County, South Carolina*. Retrieved January 18, 2017 from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/45/45079.html>.

INTRODUCTION

All of us have witnessed the detrimental effects controversial police actions have had on relationships between law enforcement agencies and various communities throughout the country. We understand that every interaction a Richland County Sheriff's Department Deputy has with a citizen, whether through an enforcement action or community engagement, is an opportunity to build trust and enhance the reputation of the sheriff's department and increase citizen satisfaction with the services we provide.

The citizens of Richland County expect and deserve the utmost professionalism from Richland County Sheriff's Department. To ensure Department employees are demonstrating exemplary conduct in interactions with the community as well as their coworkers, the Department is committed to an internal affairs process that handles complaints of officer conduct and investigates use of force incidents in a fair, consistent and transparent manner.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT

We are proud to be part of an organization that places a high value on integrity and community trust. The Internal Affairs Unit is charged with ensuring the level of trust and confidence the community has in its sheriff's department is safeguarded and that our agency remains deserving of that trust. We also ensure the rights of our employees are protected and all persons involved in an inquiry are treated with dignity and respect.

RCSD realizes that some misconduct allegations can generate significant community concern. Internal Affairs Investigators are assigned to investigate such allegations thoroughly so that commanders overseeing case reviews can make informed, unbiased decisions regarding complaint dispositions. Internal Affairs presents the information gathered during an investigation to employee commanders in what is called a Command Disciplinary Review Committee. Internal Affairs staff assumes no active role in determining the final adjudication of any alleged violation. That responsibility is reserved for the Command Disciplinary Review Committee and, ultimately, the Sheriff. Internal Affairs also represents the department and the Sheriff when a case disposition is appealed to one of the community oversight boards.

The men and women who are assigned to the Internal Affairs Unit take their responsibilities seriously and are dedicated to the unit's mission. The sergeants that comprise the unit's investigators have superior investigative skills; have the ability to communicate effectively with the public, and their commitment to both the department and the community we serve.

The Internal Affairs staff of two sergeants, led by a lieutenant and a deputy chief, is always willing to assist the public in addressing their concerns.

Please feel free to contact any unit member with any questions or concerns you may have. To learn more please visit www.rcsd.net.

The Internal Affairs Staff:
Deputy Chief Sam Berkheimer
Lieutenant Larry Payne
Master Sergeant Eleanor "Squeak" Savage
Sergeant Amy Lutz



FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT

The Internal Affairs Unit performs several critical functions to help the RCSD reach its goals:

➤ **Protection of the Public:**

The public has the right to expect efficient, fair, and impartial law enforcement; therefore, any allegation of misconduct by department personnel must be investigated and properly addressed to ensure the maintenance of these qualities.

➤ **Protection of the Employee:**

Employees must be protected against false allegations of misconduct. Although being the subject of an investigation may be unpleasant or uncomfortable, the best protection for an employee is a complete and thorough investigation conducted in a timely manner that clearly and unequivocally supports the employee's honesty and integrity if that is indeed the case.

➤ **Protection of the Department:**

The department often is evaluated and judged by the actions of its individual members. It is imperative that the entire organization not be subjected to public censure because of the misconduct of one member. When the public is confident that the department honestly and fairly investigates and addresses all allegations against its members, it is less likely that citizens will raise a cry of indignation over alleged incidents of misconduct.

➤ **Removal of Unfit Personnel:**

Personnel who engage in serious acts of misconduct or who have demonstrated that they are unfit to handle law enforcement responsibilities must be removed from the department for the protection of the public, fellow employees, and the department.

➤ **Correction of Procedural Problems:**

The department constantly seeks to improve its efficiency and the quality of its personnel. Occasionally, investigations by Internal Affairs disclose faulty procedures that otherwise may have gone unnoticed.

COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT

Sheriff's Department-community partnerships are critical for improving the quality of life in our community by preventing and addressing crime. These partnerships rely on community's trust, which is why the RCSD welcomes community oversight and strives to be transparent in its disciplinary process. The RCSD works with three different organizations that provide oversight of issues brought to the Internal Affairs Unit: the Command Disciplinary Review Committee, and the Citizens Advisory Board.

Citizens Advisory Council

The Richland County Sheriff's Department community-based council, the Citizens Advisory Council, was formed in an effort to increase the department's professional competence and accountability to the citizens of Richland County. Members review and comment on citizen complaints, disciplinary actions taken against deputies and/or employees, and internal policies and procedures, and then provide the Sheriff with an objective viewpoint.

The Citizens' Advisory Council convenes approximately four (4) times a year or as requested by the Sheriff or his designee.

➤ **Duties of the council:**

1. Review citizens' complaints against deputies and/or employees of the Sheriff's Department.
2. Review disciplinary actions against deputies and/or employees of the Sheriff's Department.
3. Review internal policies and procedures of the Sheriff's Department. The Citizens' Advisory Council will then examine each case to determine if they feel the department's actions are justified or unjustified. If the Citizens' Advisory Council determines the department's actions are unjustified, then Internal Affairs will be requested to revisit the case.

The Citizens' Advisory Council is comprised of a diverse cross-section of Richland County residents, to include; ministers, retired military veterans, and community leaders. Members are basis for appointed by the Sheriff and serve at his discretion. Service on the council is on a voluntary basis for an indeterminate period of time.

MAKING A COMPLAINT

Complaints against employees of the Richland County Sheriff's Department can be submitted in a variety of ways:

- **Online:** Visit RCSD's website at www.rcsd.net, and select "Officer Complaints" to complete the "Employee Complaints" form.
- **In person:** Request to speak to the employee's supervisor at any time, or file your written complaint at the Richland County Sheriff's Department headquarters located at 5623 Two Notch Road, Columbia, South Carolina. You can also visit any region office and ask to speak to a supervisor.
- **Email:** Send an email to lpayne@rcsd.net.
- **Phone:** Call the Internal Affairs Unit at (803) 576-3000 or (803) 576-1469.

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

The Richland County Sheriff's Department has a responsibility to prevent unethical and improper conduct among our employees, and to give them the very best preparation to make sound, appropriate, and responsible decisions.

RCSD has Standard Operating Policy and Procedures that establish policies for topics ranging from Use of Force to Towing Vehicles; however, to make internal discipline matters clearer, RCSD employees also have Rules of Conduct that must be followed. These rules cover the broader categories of behavior and performance expectations to which we hold all employees accountable. Note: The RCSD- Professional Standards Unit will add the Use of Body Worn Cameras policy in 2017.

We recognize that despite our best efforts, there will be times when citizens, fellow employees or supervisors perceive an employee's behavior to be inappropriate. When this occurs, staff uses a well-established process for receiving, investigating, and adjudicating complaints. Complaints regarding employee conduct are classified as either internal or external

The RCSD disciplinary process mandates the adjudication of complaint allegations by a supervisory chain of command. Internal Affairs Unit personnel serve to advise the chain of command on the investigation and disciplinary process, but do not participate in determination of the final disposition. There are four outcomes to which a complaint allegation can be adjudicated based on evidence of the alleged behavior and an evaluation of the appropriateness of the employee's behavior: sustained, not sustained, exonerated, and unfounded.

If an allegation is sustained by the Command Disciplinary Review Committee, the Committee will discuss and impose a corrective action consistent with the department's disciplinary philosophy. Internal Affairs reviews every internal investigation for consistency with the disciplinary policy and philosophy, and works with the committee to resolve any inconsistencies.

Upon disposition of a complaint allegation, Internal Affairs sends a letter to the complainant to advise them that their complaint has been thoroughly investigated and resolved. RCSD makes every effort to investigate and adjudicate all complaint allegations within a reasonable amount of time a complaint is made. However, there are circumstances, including case complexity and witness availability, which prevent this goal from being achieved in every instance.

- *Exonerated:* The acts that provided the basis for the complaint or allegation occurred, but the investigation revealed that they were justified, lawful and proper.
- *Sustained:* The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to prove the allegation made in the complaint.

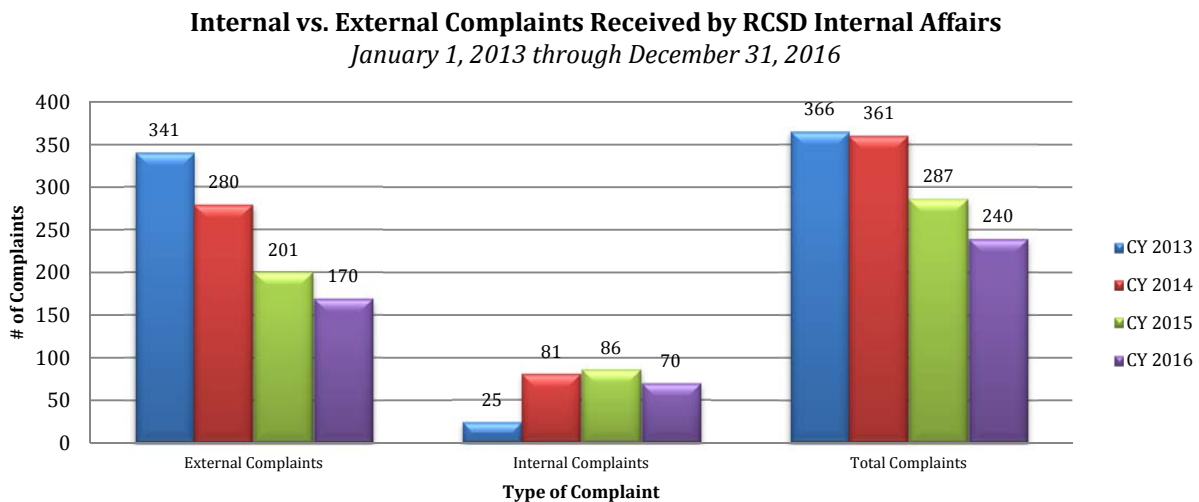
- *Not Sustained:* The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to prove or disprove the allegation made in the complaint.
- *Unfounded:* The allegation is false. The incident never occurred or the employee was not involved in the incident, or the investigation conclusively proved that the employee's alleged act or actions never took place.

COMPLAINTS AND DISPOSITIONS

January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

The Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit evaluated 240 complaints during CY2016. Of these complaints, (170) were external complaints while (70) of the complaints evaluated by Internal Affairs were internal complaints. (Figure 1) For comparison, the number of internal and external complaints by year since January 1, 2013 are included in the below chart.

Figure 1: Complaints received by the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit: January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2016. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



Complaints evaluated by the RCSD Internal Affairs Unit cover a variety of policy violations. During CY2016, the majority of the complaints evaluated by the RCSD Internal Affairs Unit stemmed from allegations of a violation of the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Policy

- 105, II (F) (14) (Careless/Improper Work Performance) (34.19%)
- 105, II (F) (3) (Rudeness) (15.07%).

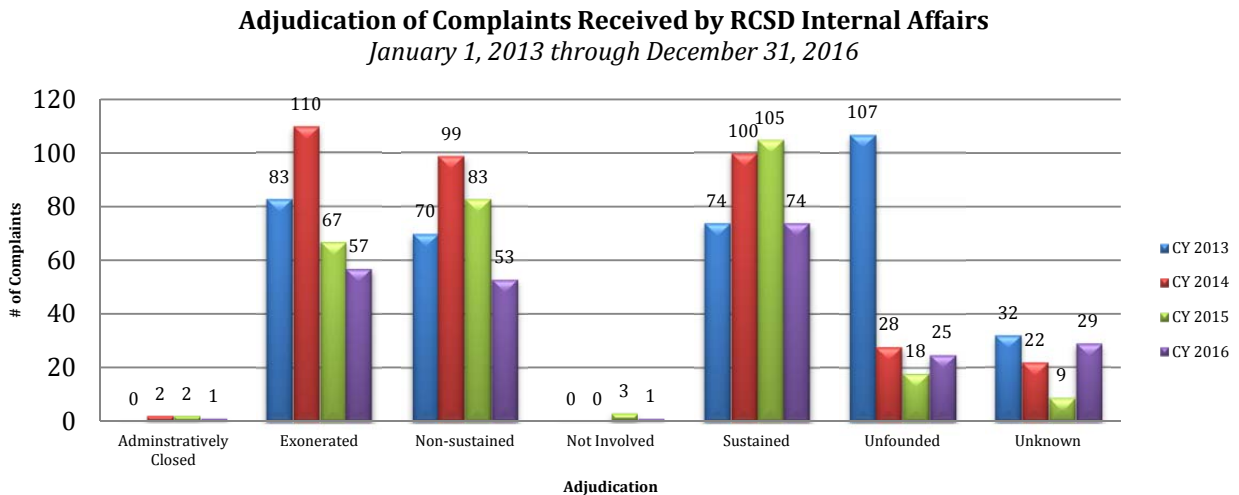
A complete table with complaints broken down by policy violation and year (since January 1, 2013) is included on page 13 (Table 1).

Table 1: Complaints by allegation type (policy violation). (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)

Policy Violation	External Complaints				Internal Complaints				Total
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	
105 II (F) - Information Policy	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
105 II (F) - Rules of Conduct	3	1	0	0	0	1	5	1	11
105 II (F) (1) - Insubordination, act that discredits/jeopardized the effective functioning of the service.	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	7
105 II (F) (11) - Disclosing confidential information to unauthorized persons.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
105 II (F) (12) - Conduct detrimental to operations of the department.	30	30	7	12	4	12	19	18	132
105 II (F) (13) - Unauthorized leaving assigned area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
105 II (F) (14) - Careless/improper work performance.	83	125	86	77	4	6	9	4	394
105 II (F) (17) - Failure to supervise.	1	0	0	0	1	7	0	9	18
105 II (F) (18) - Inattention to or dereliction of duty.	17	7	6	8	2	17	31	14	102
105 II (F) (2) - Abusive/Threatening language to citizens or co-workers, racial/ethnic jokes, slurs or profanity.	16	8	11	5	1	4	0	1	46
105 II (F) (3) - Rudeness	85	56	43	32	0	1	0	2	219
105 II (F) (7) - Any form of dishonesty.	6	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	10
105 II (F) (9) - Falsification of department records.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
105 II (H) - Failure to perform duty	12	8	0	1	0	0	1	0	22
105 II (I) (5) - Officers shall not fail to make required reports or records.	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	6
105 II (K) - Subject control / Defensive Action	21	9	6	5	2	3	1	0	47
105 II (M) - Use of alcohol	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
105 II (O) - Use of tobacco	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
105 II (P) - Care of Equipment, Uniform and Property	2	0	0	0	3	2	0	1	8
105, II, P, 10: Personal use of RCSD property	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
107 Harassment / Discrimination	16	3	0	4	0	1	0	1	25
402 Communications Violation	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
402 II (6)((4) Internet Social Media Policy	4	1	2	1	0	2	8	0	18
403 Equipment Issue, Use and Maintenance	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
403 II (I) - Failure to inspect videotape prior to beginning shift.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
603-C Use of Taser	4	0	5	0	2	4	0	0	15
703 I - Dept. vehicles will be operated in a safe manner at all times.	5	4	10	6	2	1	1	0	29
703 Operation of Vehicles	2	4	3	1	1	2	1	2	16
709 Courtroom Conduct	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
714 I (D) - Property/Evidence improperly disposed of.	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	7
901 II (A) (2) (g) - Failure to thoroughly investigate an incident	1	4	1	1	0	2	0	0	9
Annual/Sick Leave Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Defensive Action	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
False Arrest	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Harassment	9	5	8	3	0	0	0	4	29
Misconduct	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Profiling	7	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	11
Rudeness	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Search Warrants	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	4
Use of Handcuffs/Restraints-Persons in Legal Custody Other than Prisoners	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
(blank)	9	5	3	9	1	5	4	3	39
Total	341	280	201	170	25	81	86	70	1254

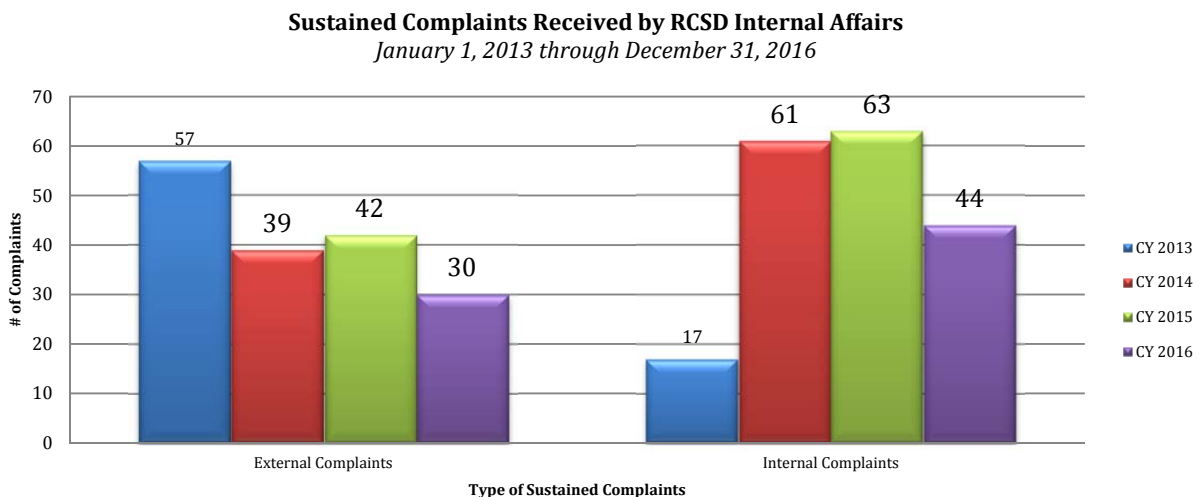
Complaints received by Internal Affairs are adjudicated in one of the following ways: administratively closed, exonerated, non-sustained, not involved, sustained, or unfounded. In CY2016, one complaint were administratively closed, 59 complaints were exonerated, 74 complaints were non-sustained, three complaints were not involved, 91 complaints were sustained, 17 complaints were unfounded, and 24 complaints do not currently have an adjudication.

Figure 2: Adjudication of complaints received by the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



Of the 240 complaints received by the RCSD Internal Affairs Unit in CY2016, 74 were **sustained** at the conclusion of the Internal Affairs investigation. Of these sustained complaints, 30 were external complaints and 44 were internal complaints. (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Sustained complaints received by the RCSD Internal Affairs Unit. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



Various actions are taken when a complaint against an employee is sustained through an Internal Affairs investigation. Actions can range from no action taken to termination. In CY2016, sustained complaints resulted in 12 written reprimands, 19 training initiatives, 4 verbal reprimands, and 7 employees being placed on probation. In addition, eight employees were terminated following sustained Internal Affairs investigations. (Table 2)

Table 2: Action taken on sustained complaints received by the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit. *(Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)**

Action	CY 2013	CY 2014	CY 2015	CY 2016	Total
Demotion	1	0	0	0	1
EBD	0	0	2	2	4
Loss of Vehicle 30 Days	0	1	3	2	6
No Action Taken	3	6	3	2	14
Probation	1	17	13	7	38
See Action Taken Notes	1	4	8	8	21
Suspension	1	1	2	6	10
Termination	8	7	5	8	28
Training Initiative	12	12	14	19	57
Verbal Reprimand	19	23	15	4	61
Written Reprimand	17	25	39	12	93
Unknown or Other	11	4	1	4	20
Total	74	100	105	74	353

Of the complaints received by Internal Affairs in CY2016, 50.8% were brought against deputies assigned to Region 1, Region 2, Region 3, Region 4, Region 6, or Region 7 at the time of the complaint. The highest number of complaints was against Region 2 deputies (12.7%), Region 4 deputies (9.3%), employees assigned to Investigations (8.9%) and Region 3 deputies and School Resource Officers (with 8.5% for each of these divisions). A complete table with the number of complaints by division and year is included in Table 3.

Table 3: Complaints by division of deputy's assignment at the time of the complaint.
(Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)

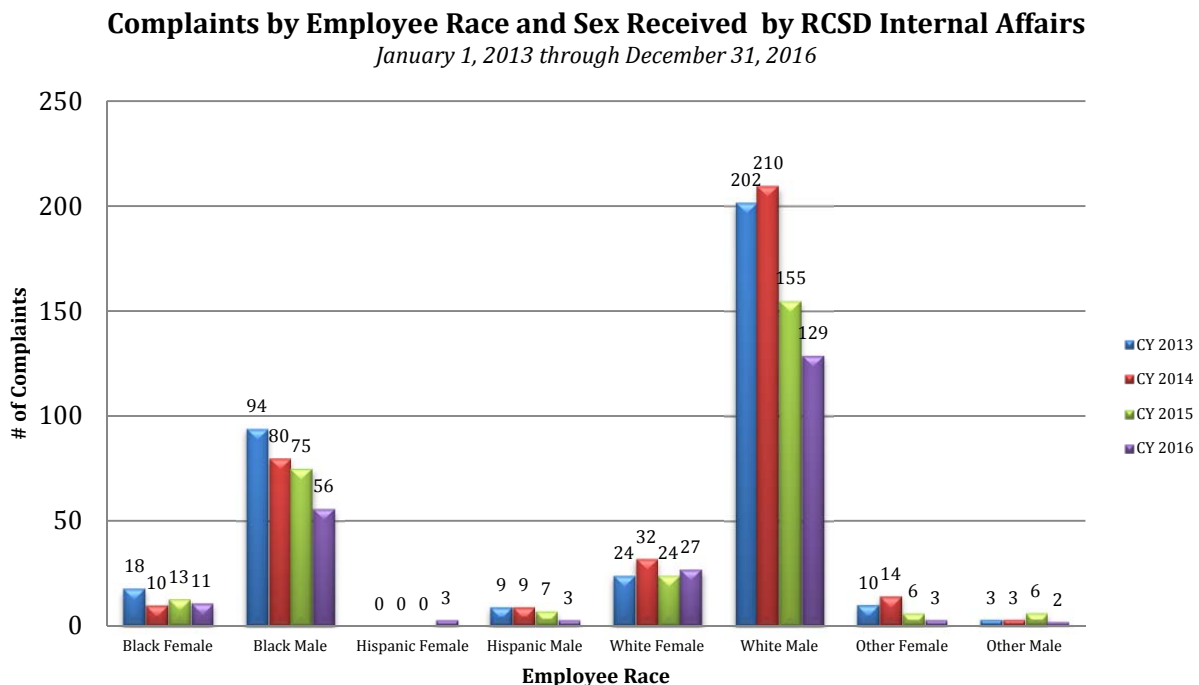
Division	CY 2013	CY 2014	CY 2015	CY 2016	Total
Administration	1	0	5	3	9
CAT Team	13	10	8	5	36
Civil Process	2	6	3	7	18
Code Enforcement	4	7	4	5	20
Community Services	2	2	3	1	8
Desk	15	9	12	8	44
Drug Suppression	7	12	12	0	31
Evidence	1	1	0	4	6
Fugitive Task Force	2	9	5	2	18
Gang Task Force	3	0	0	1	4
Internal Affairs	0	0	1	0	1
Investigations	35	21	18	21	95
K-9	5	6	7	9	27
Lab	0	0	0	3	3
Narcotics	10	5	3	1	19
PIO	0	2	3	0	5
Posse	0	1	0	0	1
Professional Standards	2	1	0	1	4
Records	0	2	0	0	2
Region 1	26	32	26	17	101
Region 2	42	52	25	30	149
Region 3	19	20	20	20	79
Region 4	44	56	23	22	145
Region 5	16	13	12	6	47
Region 6	18	15	20	19	72
Region 7	32	15	21	12	80
Safe & Sound Town	0	0	2	0	2
School Crossing	0	0	1	0	1
School Resource	37	32	23	20	112
Special Project	1	1	0	0	2
SRT Team	0	0	2	0	2
Traffic	14	6	15	9	44
Training	6	9	5	6	26
Unassigned	1	1	0	0	2
Victims Assistance	0	1	2	2	5
Warrants	1	6	3	0	10
Youth Services	1	5	2	2	10
Total	360	358	286	236	1240

During CY2016, 18.2% of the complaints made against RCSD personnel were made against female employees while 81.8% of the complaints were made against male employees. As of November 14, 2016, RCSD Personnel Staff report that 31.3% of the employees at the Richland County Sheriff's Department are female and 68.7% are male. A breakdown of the number and percent of complaints by race and sex of the employee and the race and sex of employees of the RCSD is found in Table 4 and Figure 4.

Table 4: Complaints received by the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit by race and sex of employee between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs and RCSD Personnel Staff)

Race and Sex of Employee	# of Complaints	% of Complaints
Black Female	11	4.66%
Black Male	56	23.73%
Hispanic Female	3	1.27%
Hispanic Male	3	1.27%
White Female	27	11.44%
White Male	129	54.66%
Other Female	2	0.85%
Other Male	5	2.12%
Total	236	100.00%

Figure 4: Complaints received by the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit by race and sex of employee. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



DEFENSIVE ACTION REPORTS

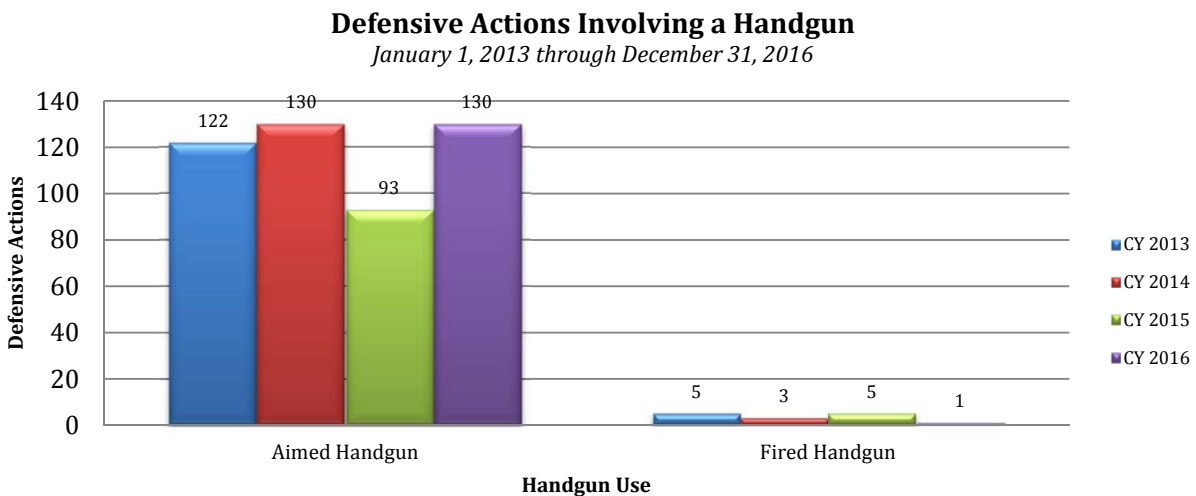
January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

Between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016, the Richland County Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Unit received 231 defensive action reports consisting of 375 defensive actions. A Richland County deputy aimed his or her Taser at a subject 43 times and fired his or her Taser at a suspect 29 in CY2016. (Figure 5) In addition, there were 130 instances where the deputy's firearm was aimed at the suspect and 1 instance where a firearm was fired in CY2016. (Figure 6) *Note: More than one defensive action type may be associated with one incident, thus the number of incidents where any defensive action was used may not equal the number of defensive action reports nor will it necessarily equal the number of subjects and/or employees involved in those incidents. In some of the incidents where a deputy pointed his or her weapon it was to conduct a search warrant.*

Figure 5: Defensive actions involving a Taser. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



Figure 6: Defensive actions involving a firearm. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



In CY2016, males accounted for 70.5% of the suspects and 88.9% of the employees involved in defensive action reports received by the RCSD Internal Affairs Unit. A complete breakdown of suspects and employees involved in defensive action reports can be found in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5: Race and sex of suspects involved in defensive action reports. *(Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)*

Incident Date	Black		Hispanic		White		Other		Unknown	Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male		
CY 2013	31	252	0	5	20	45	1	0	56	410
CY 2014	24	193	1	4	15	50	0	1	25	313
CY 2015	10	152	0	5	6	35	0	0	16	224
CY 2016	24	143	0	3	6	31	0	0	44	251
Total	89	740	1	17	47	161	1	1	141	1198

Table 6: Race and sex of employees involved in defensive action reports. *(Source: RCSD Internal Affairs Unit)*

Incident Date	Asian		Black		Hispanic		White		Other		Unknown	Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male		
CY 2013	0	0	11	61	0	14	26	318	5	11	4	450
CY 2014	0	0	7	46	0	12	25	281	0	19	7	397
CY 2015	0	0	2	32	0	6	29	198	0	7	4	278
CY 2016	0	1	0	24	0	6	23	199	0	11	7	271
Total	0	1	20	163	0	38	103	996	5	48	22	1396

VEHICLE PURSUITS

January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

Richland County deputies were involved in 91 vehicle pursuits in CY2016. There were 102 suspects and 113 deputies involved in these vehicle pursuits. Of the suspects involved in these vehicle pursuits, 47.3% were black males (Figure 7). Additionally, over three-quarters of the deputies involved in these vehicle pursuits, 77.7%, were white males (Figure 8). Over the past four years (January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2016), black males have consistently accounted for the majority of suspects involved in pursuits (73.3% in 2013, 67.1% in 2014, and 72.5% in 2015) and white males have consistently accounted for the majority of deputies involved in pursuits (67.2% in 2013, 79.6% in 2014, and 76.1% in 2015).

**NOTE: more than one suspect and/or deputy may be associated with a single pursuit. For this reason, the number of suspects involved (91) and the number of deputies involved (94) may not equal the number of actual pursuits that occurred in a given year (91 pursuits in CY2016).*

Figure 7: Race and sex of suspects involved in vehicle pursuits. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)

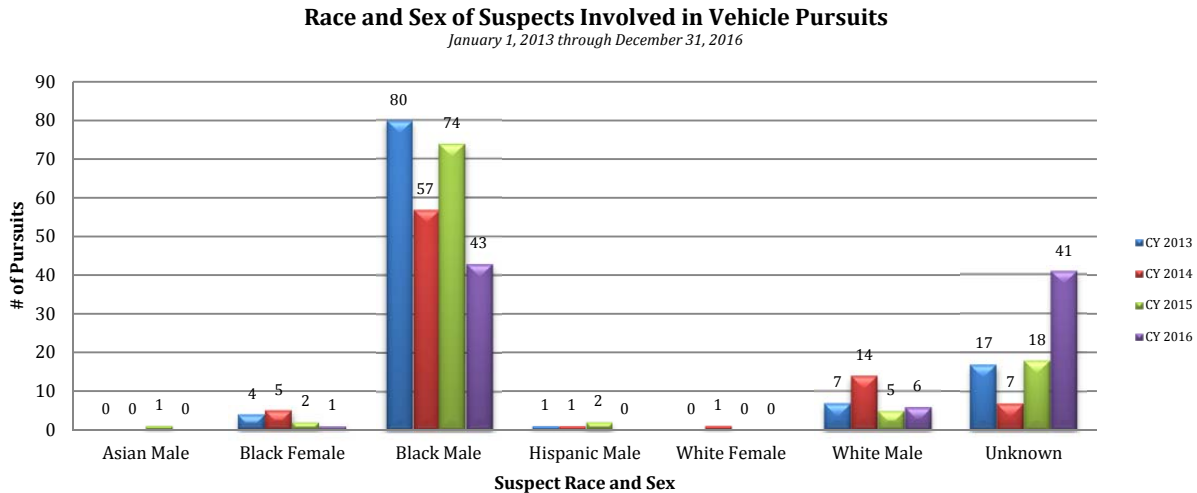
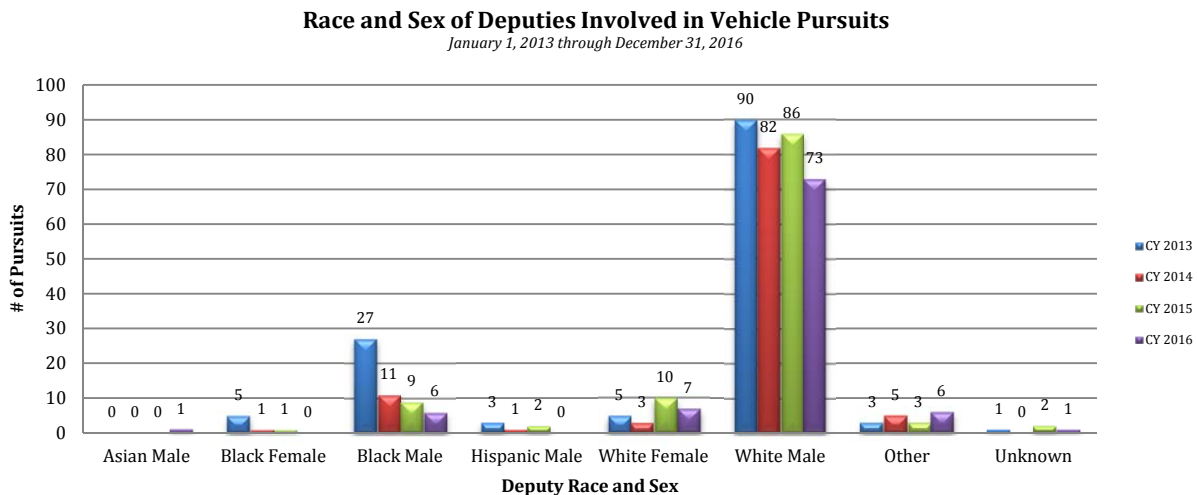
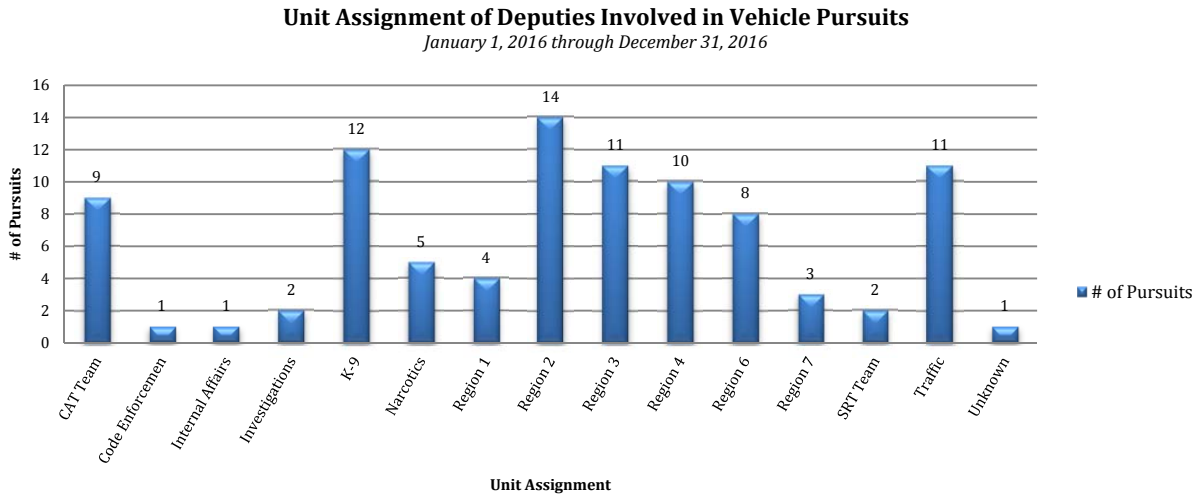


Figure 8: Race and sex of deputies involved in vehicle pursuits. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



Deputies from various divisions within the Sheriff's Department are involved in vehicle pursuits. Between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016, Region 2 deputies were involved in the most pursuits (14) when compared to other units within the department. Deputies assigned to the K-9, Region 2, Region 3, Region 4, and the Traffic Safety Unit were involved in 10 or more vehicle pursuits (per division) during this time.

Figure 9: Unit assignment of employees involved in vehicle pursuits. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



ASSAULTS ON DEPUTIES

January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

Thirty three assaults on Richland County deputies were reported to the RCSD Internal Affairs Units. Of the deputies assaulted, 81.8% (27) were males, 15.2% (5) were female, and 3.0% (1) was a police K-9 (Figure 10). Thirty-three of these assaults involved the suspect using his or her body as a weapon against the deputy by hitting, pushing, choking, charging, or biting the deputy. Other assaults included the suspect using a beer bottle, bodily fluid, or vehicle against the deputy, verbal threats, and taking a fighting stance. In several instances, more than one type of assault occurred against the deputy (i.e. fist/hand strike and bodily fluid).

Figure 10: Assaults on deputies by deputy sex. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)

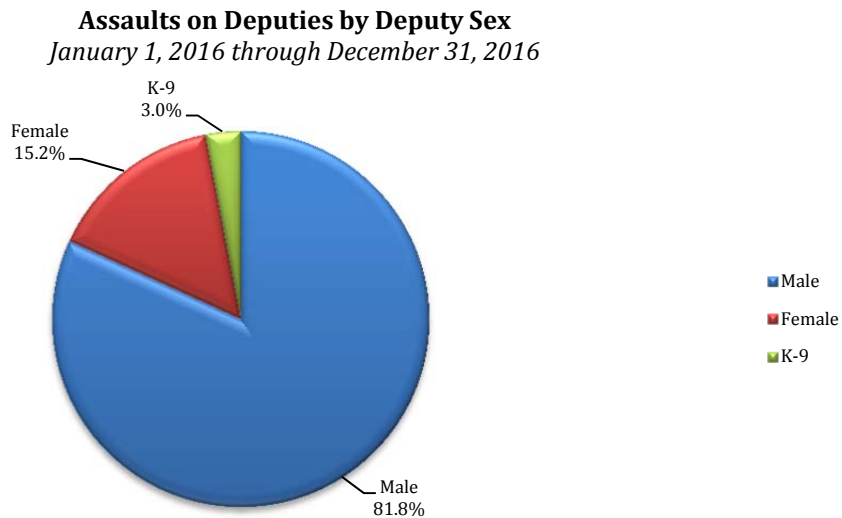
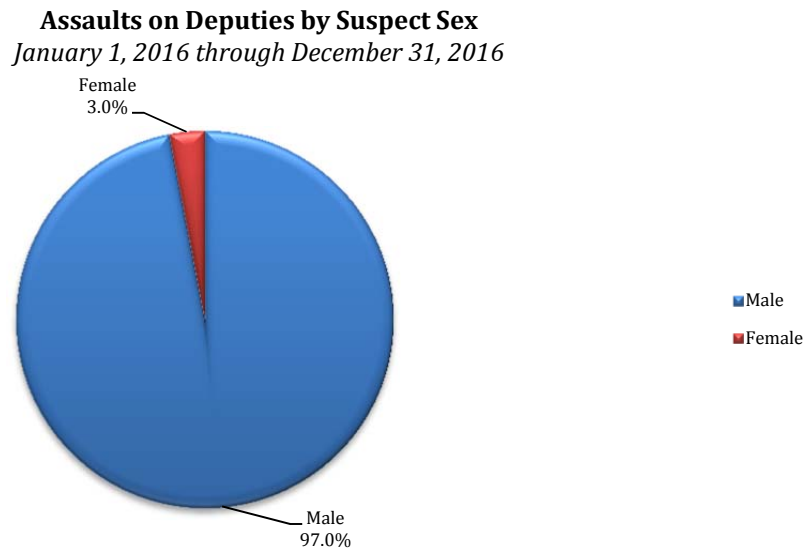


Figure 11: Assaults on deputies by suspect sex. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)



Assaults on deputies have occurred against deputies assigned to various units within the department. In CY2016, 24.24% (8) of the assaults on deputies have been against deputies assigned to Region 2. (Table 7).

Table 7: Assaults on deputies between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016 by unit assignment of deputy. (Source: RCSD Internal Affairs)

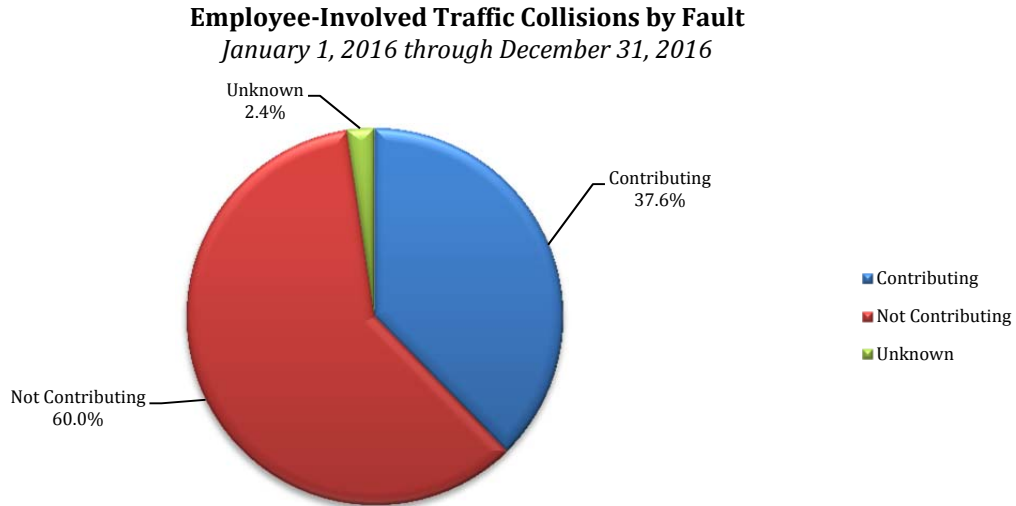
Unit	# of Assaults on Deputies	% of Total
Region 1	6	18.18%
Region 2	8	24.24%
Region 3	2	6.06%
Region 4	3	9.09%
Region 5	1	3.03%
Region 6	5	15.15%
Region 7	1	3.03%
CID	1	3.03%
Community Services	1	3.03%
Professional Standards	1	3.03%
Special Services	2	6.06%
Special Teams	2	6.06%
Total	33	100.00%

EMPLOYEE-INVOLVED TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

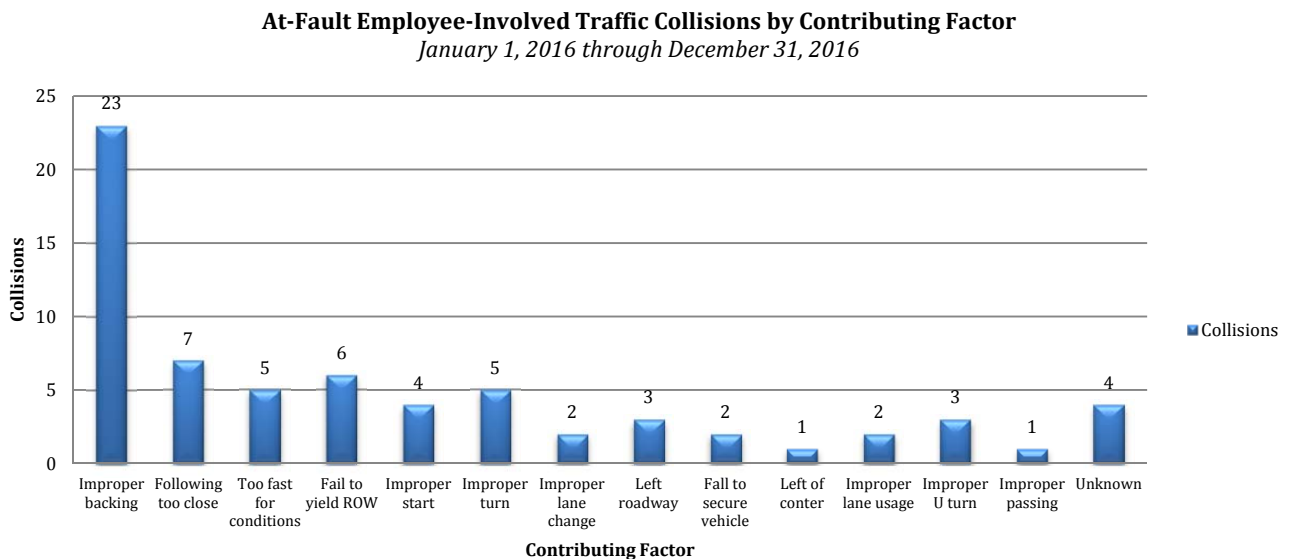
In CY2016, 184 employee-involved traffic collisions were reported to Internal Affairs. Of these collisions, 60.0% (102) were not at-fault, 37.6% (56) were at-fault, and the fault status of 2.4% (4) is unknown. *Traffic collisions with an unknown fault status are pending review by the accident review board.*

Figure 12: Employee-involved traffic collisions by fault. (Source: RCSD Special Projects Division & RCSD Internal Affairs)



The contributing factor in 35.9% (23) of the at-fault collisions was improper backing, following too close accounted for 10.9% (7), and 9.4% (6) were due to failure to yield the right of way.

Figure 13: At-fault employee-involved traffic collisions by contributing factor. (Source: RCSD Special Projects Division & RCSD Internal Affairs)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Please recognize this 2016 annual report is based on data that is not static, and is subject to change following publication. While the Richland County Sheriff's Department strives to share accurate, timely information with the community, there are factors which influence these changes. One way the Department attempts to minimize these changes, or updates, is by adjudicating 2016 case investigations prior to publishing this annual report. This is important because the annual report is based on the calendar year, and a complaint from an event in December may take several months to adjudicate, depending on the severity of the allegation and length of the investigation. With that caveat, please use this report to help understand the yearly trends related to our internal investigations and our commitment to thoroughly investigating all citizen complaints.

In an effort to continue providing the citizens of Richland County with agency transparency and accountability, the Richland County Sheriff's Department is implementing the use of body-worn cameras in CY 2017. The Richland County Sheriff's Department Internal Affairs Unit will continue to evaluate citizen and internal complaints as they are presented.

*Internal Affairs Unit
Sgt. Amy Lutz*

*Crime Analysis Unit
Sr. Crime Analyst Linda Houck*

