

**2020 REPORT TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND
NUMBER OF SERIOUS POLICE OFFICER INVOLVED INCIDENTS AND OFFICERS
DISCIPLINED**

January 1 – December 31, 2020

In accordance with Public Safety Article §3-207(b) (1), the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (PTSC) developed a system by which law enforcement agencies report to the Commission, as required by law, the number of serious officer-involved incidents each year, the number of officers disciplined each year, and the type of discipline administered to those officers.

The PTSC approved the following definition of “serious officer-involved incident” at its January 3, 2018 meeting:

Incidents in which:

- (1) Criminal charges were filed against an officer; or*
- (2) Complaints of criminal misconduct have been investigated and sustained against an officer; or*
- (3) Complaints of excessive force have been investigated and sustained against an officer where the force resulted in serious injury or death of a person; or*
- (4) An officer/person contact directly results in the serious injury or death of a person.*

Serious Officer Involved Incidents

The Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC) staff developed an online reporting process for reporting this information. “Serious Officer Involved Incident” reported information included:

The manner in which reports were submitted to the PTSC changed in 2020. Agency heads were emailed a template and the completed template was submitted to PCTC using a dedicated email address. The information to be reported did not change. Agencies were required to report the number of events for the following during calendar year 2020:

- (1) Direct officer contact that resulted in serious injury or death of the officer or person;*
- (2) Complaints of excessive force which were investigated and sustained against an officer where the force resulted in serious injury or death of a person;*
- (3) Complaints of criminal misconduct that have been investigated and sustained against an officer;*
- (4) Criminal charges were filed against an officer¹*

Officers Disciplined

Information reported for officer discipline administered during 2020 included:

- (1) Written Reprimand*

¹ An officer may be charged multiple times causing the reported numbers to appear disproportionate.

- (2) *Loss of Leave*
- (3) *Loss of Pay*
- (4) *Suspension Without Pay from Duty*
- (5) *Demotion*
- (6) *Dismissal from Employment*
- (7) *Monetary Fine*
- (8) *Other Type of Discipline*

The Commission’s definition for “Serious Officer Involved Incident”, as explained above, and reporting requirements for both serious officer involved incidents and administered officer discipline were shared with all Maryland Law Enforcement Agencies in a letter sent to each agency head in 2017.

2020 Law Enforcement Agency Reporting

There were 159 agencies employing approximately 16,000 Commission certified police officers in 2020. However, not all of the agencies were identified as being required to comply with Public Safety Article §3-207(b) (1) as some of the agencies have employees who are certified as law enforcement officers by the Police Training and Standards Commission but are not defined as law enforcement agencies under Public Safety Article §3-101(e). Therefore, a total of 139 agencies that were required to report officer discipline and serious officer incidents were identified for the 2020 reporting year. Agency heads received an email at the beginning of 2021 advising them of the new process for submitting the required reports and follow-up emails and phone calls were made periodically to agencies that had not submitted by May 15, 2021.

Eight agencies did not submit the Serious Officer Involved Incidents report while seven agencies did not submit the Officer Discipline Administered report. The non-reporting agencies were the same for both reports, although one agency did submit the Officer Discipline Administered report yet did not submit the Serious Officer Involved Incidents report. The cumulative totals for the reporting agencies are as follows:

2020 Serious Officer-Involved Incidents	
Direct officer contact that resulted in serious injury or death of the officer or person.	40
Complaints of excessive force which were investigated and sustained against an officer where the force resulted in serious injury or death of a person.	0
Complaints of criminal misconduct that have been investigated and sustained against an officer.	57
Criminal charges were filed against an officer. ²	60

2020 Officer Discipline Administered³	
Written reprimand.	825

² Reported information is not sufficiently definitive to establish the number of officers who received criminal charges. This data is reflective of the number of total criminal charges placed and not adjudicated.

³ In some instances, an officer received more than one form of discipline. In addition, incidents of discipline were reported once they were sustained and prior to any appeal process.

Loss of leave.	158
Loss of pay.	38
Suspension without pay from duty.	125
Demotion.	15
Dismissal from employment.	61
Monetary fine.	199
Other types of discipline.	36