

2024

INTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT





INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Internal Affairs 2024-Annual Report

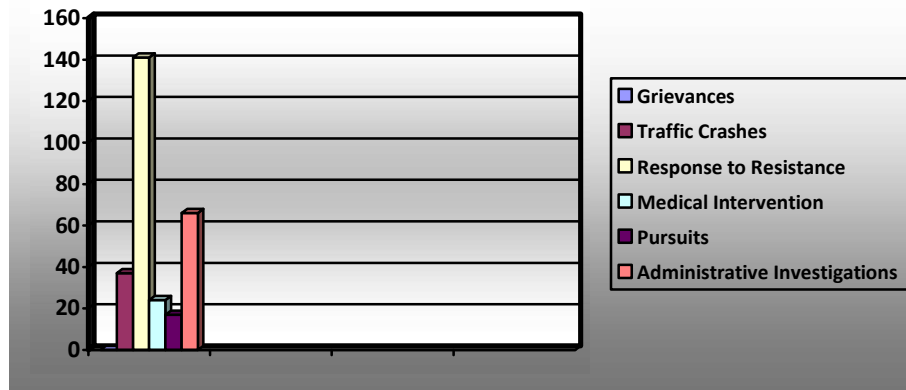
Sheriff Eric Flowers

Introduction

Pursuant to Agency policy, reviews and statistical reports are compiled concerning a wide variety of incidents involving Agency personnel. The primary categories of incidents are Grievances, Traffic Crashes, Response to Resistance, Medical Intervention, Vehicle Pursuits, Administrative Investigations, and Discipline. Discipline is a subcategory, which is applied in response to noted policy violations of the primary categories, but is also counted as a primary category for reporting and may include discipline for items not otherwise addressed through Internal Affairs assignment. Medical Interventions include instances in which an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED), Tourniquet, or the deployment of Naloxone (EVZIO) was utilized. These incidents are analyzed to determine trends, or to identify training needs. During 2024, the Internal Affairs Section documented 285 reports, including all aspects of Sheriff's Administration, Department of Law Enforcement and Department of Corrections concerning the below listed areas as follows:

➤ Grievances	00	(0 for 2023)
➤ Traffic Crashes	37	(43 for 2023)
➤ Response to Resistance	141	(138 for 2023)
➤ Medical Intervention	24	(37 for 2023)
➤ Pursuits	17	(24 for 2023)
➤ Administrative Investigations	66	(98 for 2023)

In 2024, 285 reports were generated. This is a 16% decrease from 2023, in which 340 reports were generated. In 2022, 343 reports were generated. This is a 17% increase from 2021, in which 293 reports were generated.



Bias Policing

There was 1 report of Bias Biased Profiling for the year of 2024.

This complaint was determined to be unfounded and there were no violations of any agency departmental rules, regulations, policies, or procedures.

For the year of 2023, there was 1 report of Bias Based Profiling. For the year of 2022, there were no reports of Bias Based Profiling. The relative lack of reports or complaints of bias-based profiling is reflective of the training Agency members receive in this area. This includes initial training through the Field Training Program and annual in-service training consisting of the following:

- proactive enforcement tactics
- officer/deputy safety
- courtesy
- cultural diversity
- legal aspects
- laws governing search and seizure
- interpersonal communication skills

The legal aspects of Bias Based Profiling are also an element of the Legal Update portion of annual in-service training. The training programs emphasize the need to respect the rights of all citizens to be free from unreasonable government intrusion or police interaction.

Grievances

There were no Grievances filed for the year of 2024.

For the year of 2023 there were 0 Grievances filed. For the year of 2022 there were 8 Grievances filed.

With regard to the low number of grievances, consideration should be given to the following:

- General Order 2531.10 Grievance Procedures establishes guidelines for resolution of employee grievances.
- The above-referenced Grievance Procedure provides Agency personnel with an avenue to address concerns about Agency policy and the policy's interpretation, application and enforcement, which included the ability to engage in an oral consultation without formally filing a Grievance Statement.
- The clarity and plain language of Agency policies and the availability of all Agency policies to all Agency members allows for openness and transparency in Agency operations.
- The open communication afforded Agency members via the above-referenced policy contributes to the lack of filed Grievances.

Disciplinary Action Appeals

There were no Disciplinary Action Appeals filed for the year of 2024.

In the year of 2023, there were no Disciplinary Action Appeals. In the year of 2022, there were 3 Disciplinary Action Appeals filed.

The above appeals notwithstanding, the infrequent occurrences of Disciplinary Appeals in 2024 may be a reflection of, and attributed to, the validity of the Internal Affairs process and the proportionality of discipline imposed as it relates to the seriousness of the violations. The Internal Affairs Unit works closely with supervisors at the Department and Division level to ensure that all disciplinary investigations and discipline imposed at the Division level occurs in a manner that is consistent with policy, procedure and past practices.

ANALYSIS OF DISCIPLINE ADMINISTERED (AGENCY WIDE)

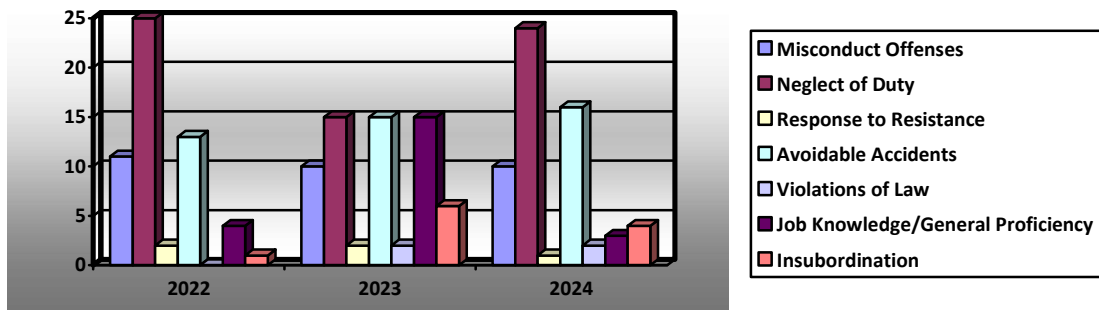
Discipline by Type

Offense Type	2022	2023	2024
Misconduct Offenses	11	10	10
Neglect of Duty	25	15	24
Response to Resistance	02	02	01
Avoidable Accidents: <i>Agency Owned Sheriff's Office Vehicles</i>	13	15	16
Violations of the Law	00	02	02
Job Knowledge/General Proficiency	04	15	03
Insubordination	01	06	04

*The total number of allegations is not the total number of cases. One case may have multiple allegations of misconduct. Cases with sustained allegations may have been initiated in prior years.

The above chart indicates a decrease in disciplinary action administered in the area of Job Knowledge/General Proficiency. Neglect of Duty has shown an increase during the reporting year of 2024. Avoidable Accidents have shown a slight increase during the reporting year of 2024. All other areas remain a fairly consistent level of sustained violations with subsequent issuance of discipline within all offense types. Disciplinary Action was administered for 51 sustained instances occurring in 2024.

Disciplinary Action was administered for 59 sustained instances occurring in 2023. Disciplinary Action was administered for 55 sustained instances occurring in 2022. In some instances, there were more than one sustained Agency policy violation for the same employee, which may require the issuance of more than one disciplinary action.



Discipline by Component

Division	2022	2023	2024
Corrections	12	10	16
Civilians	03	07	09
Uniform	39	42	24
Investigations	01	00	02
Civil, Court	00	00	00
Volunteer	00	00	00
Totals	55	59	51

Breakdown of Disciplinary Action Administered in 2024

Law Enforcement	Amount	Corrections	Amount	Civilian/*Volunteers	Amount	TOTALS
Letters of Counseling	22	Letters of Counseling	12	Letters of Counseling	07	41
Letters of Reprimand	01	Letters of Reprimand	01	Letters of Reprimand	01	03
Suspension 8 Hours	02	Suspension 8 Hours	00	Suspension 8 Hours	00	02
Suspension 16 Hours	00	Suspension 16 Hours	00	Suspension 16 Hours	01	01
Suspension 24 Hours	00	Suspension 24 Hours	03	Suspension 24 Hours	00	03
Suspension 40 Hours	00	Suspension 40 Hours	00	Suspension 40 Hours	00	00
Disciplinary Transfer	00	Disciplinary Transfer	00	Disciplinary Transfer	00	00
Demotion	00	Demotion	00	Demotion	00	00
Termination	01	Termination	00	Termination	00	01
TOTAL	26	TOTAL	16	TOTAL	09	51

There was an increase with regard to the Disciplinary Actions administered to the Corrections component for the reporting year of 2024. This increase is attributed to the increase in sustained Neglect of Duty violations.

There was a 14% decrease from the prior year of 2023, in which 59 Disciplinary Actions were administered. There was a 7% increase from the prior year of 2022, in which 55 Disciplinary Actions were administered.

**Note that there can be more than one type of discipline administered in each Incident due to more than one sustained allegation.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMPLOYEE TRAFFIC CRASHES

There were 37 traffic crashes involving Agency owned Sheriff's Office vehicles in the year of 2024. Of the 37 traffic crashes, 21 were determined to be unavoidable and 16 were determined to be avoidable.

The reported outcome for all crashes that occurred during 2024 are as follows:

➤ Careless Driving	02
➤ Animal	02
➤ Equipment Malfunction	01
➤ Failed to Keep in Proper Lane	01
➤ Failure to Yield	04
➤ Following Too Closely	05
➤ Improper Backing	09
➤ Improper Passing	01
➤ Improper Turn	01
➤ Inattentive	05
➤ Ran Off Roadway	01
➤ Reckless Driving	01
➤ Swerved to Avoid	01
➤ Unknown	03

As a result of the avoidable accidents, members received Letters of Counseling, as well as Remedial Driver's Training.

In the calendar year of 2024, there were 37 traffic crashes involving Agency owned Sheriff's Office vehicles. This is a 14% decrease from the previous year of 2023. In the calendar year of 2023, there were 43 traffic crashes involving Agency owned Sheriff's Office vehicles. This is a 54% increase from the previous year of 2022.

In the calendar year of 2023, there were 43 traffic crashes involving Agency owned Sheriff's Office vehicles. Of the 43 traffic crashes, 24 were determined to be unavoidable and 19 were determined to be avoidable.

In the calendar year of 2022, there were 28 traffic crashes involving Agency owned Sheriff's Office vehicles. Of the 28 traffic crashes, 13 were determined to be unavoidable and 15 were determined to be avoidable.

2024 Response to Resistance – Law Enforcement

During the 2024 reporting year, the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) recorded, 161,938 events for the Department of Law Enforcement. Of those events 2408 arrests were made and those arrests resulted in 90 Response to Resistance Reports which accounted for 4% of the total arrests and a ratio of 1:26 arrests. The percentage of arrest requiring response to resistance has increased from the previous year of 2023.

During the 2023 reporting year, the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) recorded, 171,232 events for the Department of Law Enforcement. Of those events 4461 arrests were made and those arrests resulted in 88 Response to Resistance Reports which accounted for 1.9% of the total arrests and a ratio of 1:50 arrests. The percentage of arrest requiring response to resistance has increased from the previous year of 2022.

During the 2022 reporting year, the Indian river County Sheriff’s Office Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) recorded, 167,858 events for the Department of Law Enforcement. Of those events 3680 arrests were made and those arrests resulted in 78 Response to Resistance Reports, which accounted for 2% of the total arrests and a ratio of 1:47 arrests. The percentage of arrest requiring response to resistance has decreased from the previous year of 2021.

Response to Resistance Incidents Compared to Arrests: Law Enforcement				
YEAR	Total Number of IRC SO Arrests	Number of Response to Resistance	% of Arrests when Response to Resistance is Used	Ratio
2022	3680	78	2%	1:47
2023	4461	88	1.9%	1:50
2024	2408	90	4%	1:26

The following table provides a statistical breakdown of Department of Law Enforcement Response to Resistance techniques used by members of the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office for the years of 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Response to Resistance by Lethal or Less-Lethal Type for Department of Law Enforcement

Force Type	2022	2022 Percentage	2023	2023 Percentage	2024	2024 Percentage
Physical: Hands On	22	28%	13	15%	05	6%
Chemical: OC Spray / Pepper Ball	05	6%	04	4%	07	8%
Impact Weapon	00	00	00	00	01	1%
PIT	N/A	00	15	17%	10	11%
VIT	N/A	00	17	19%	17	19%
K-9	20	26%	12	14%	08	9%
Taser	26	33%	27	31%	31	34%

Firearm	05	7%	00	00	04	4%
Stop Sticks	N/A	00	N/A	00	02	2%
Pinch	N/A	00	N/A	00	05	6%
Total Incidents	78	100%	88	100%	90	100%

**The following table has been adjusted include 'pinch' and 'stop sticks' for the year of 2024. Prior years do not include this information*

With regard to the Law Enforcement use of response to resistance reports for the year of 2024, VIT is comparable to the year of 2023. Physical Hands On as well as the utilization of the K-9 has shown a decrease compared to the previous year of 2023. The total percentage of arrests requiring response to resistance by Law Enforcement has increased by 2% in the year of 2024. The Taser remains the preferred non-lethal weapon of choice and during the year of 2024, this has shown a nominal increase from the year of 2023.

2024 Response to Resistance – Corrections:

During the 2024 reporting year, 4228 inmates were processed through the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office Corrections Department. There were 51 Response to Resistance incidents documented in the Corrections Department, which accounted for 1.21% and a ratio of 1:83 inmates. The total percentage of incidents requiring response to resistance has increased by 2%. This is a marginal increase.

During the 2023 reporting year, 4461 inmates were processed through the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office Corrections Department. There were 50 Response to Resistance incidents documented in the Corrections Department, which accounted for 1.12% and a ratio of 1:89 inmates. The total percentage of incidents requiring response to resistance has increased by 25%.

During the 2022 reporting year, 4305 inmates were processed through the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office Corrections Department. There were 40 Response to Resistance incidents documented in the Corrections Department, which accounted for 0.93% and a ratio of 1:107 inmates. The total percentage of incidents requiring response to resistance has increased by 0.11%. This is a marginal increase.

Response to Resistance Incidents Compared to Arrests: Corrections				
YEAR	Total Number of Inmates Processed	Number of Response to Resistance	% Of Arrests when Response to Resistance is Used	Ratio of UOF instances per population
2022	4305	40	0.93%	1:107
2023	4461	50	1.12%	1:89
2024	4228	51	1.21%	1:83

**The following table provides a statistical breakdown of Department of Corrections Response to Resistance techniques used by members of the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office for the years of 2022, 2023, and 2024.*

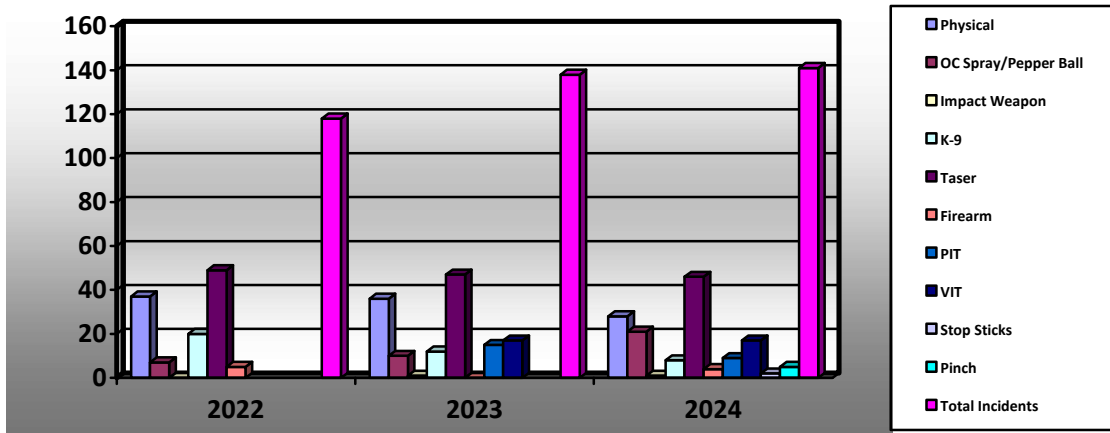
Response to Resistance by Lethal or Less-Lethal Type for Department of Corrections

Force Type	2022	2022 Percentage	2023	2023 Percentage	2024	2024 Percentage
Physical: Hands On	15	38%	23	45%	22	43%
Chemical: OC Spray/ Pepper ball	02	5%	06	12%	14	28%
Impact Weapon	00	00	01	2%	00	00
K-9	N/A	00	N/A	00	00	00
Taser	23	57%	20	41%	15	29%
Firearm	N/A	00	N/A	00	00	00
Restraint Chair	14	00	10	00	01	00
Totals Incidents	40	100%	50	100%	51	100%

With regard to the Corrections use of response to resistance, the Chemical spray has shown an increase for the year of 2024 from the prior year of 2023. The utilization of the Taser has shown a 25% decrease for the year of 2024 from the prior year of 2023. The utilization of physical force has shown a 4% decrease for the year of 2024 from the prior year of 2023. The utilization of physical force has shown a 53% increase during the year of 2023, compared to the previous year of 2022. The Taser has shown a 13% increase during the year of 2023, compared to the previous year of 2022. The fluctuations with inmate population and more inmates who enter the facility dealing with substance abuse and mental health issues can be a contributing factor to the rise and fall in the use of the Physical/Hands-on force and Taser use within the Corrections facility during the year of 2021. The total percentage of arrests requiring response to resistance have increased by 2% with the previous year of 2023.

**Data in the Restraint Chair field data, due to its use in conjunction with a response to resistance, will populate. There was one (01) response to resistance instances, which required the added utilization of the restraint chair.*

Response to Resistance Totals of Lethal and Less-Lethal to Include Law Enforcement and Corrections



**The following table has been adjusted include 'pinch' and 'stop sticks' for the year of 2024. Prior years do not include this information*

During the 2024 reporting year, members of the Indian River County Sheriff’s office utilized response to resistance on 141 occasions including both Law Enforcement and Corrections, when a response to resistance was required to make a lawful arrest or contain a violent individual. This is a 2% increase from the prior year of 2023. During the 2023 reporting year, members of the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office utilized response to resistance on 138 occasions including both Law Enforcement and Corrections, when a response to resistance was required to make a lawful arrest or to contain a violent individual. This is a 17% increase from the prior year of 2022.

The Agency provides ongoing training for all members in various methods for responses to resistance that may be utilized when affecting an arrest, detaining a violent individual, defending oneself or another, as well as de-escalation techniques. The Indian River County Sheriff’s Office authorizes several types of responses to resistance in order to give members the tools necessary to overcome resistance with the most minimal amount of force. The Internal Affairs Unit conducts ongoing reviews of each reported response to resistance incident to determine if the response to resistance gives rise to any training issues that need addressing. A response to resistance that appears to fall outside of departmental policy and procedures would result in further Administrative Investigation. The frequency of Response to Resistance incidents will increase and decrease from year to year. There is no way to anticipate how frequently Response to Resistance incidents will occur.

With regard to the shift data reflecting response to resistance incidents utilized by Law Enforcement, the Delta 18:00 to 06:00 shift has the highest recorded incidents. This can be attributed to many factors including the given timeframe of occurrences (predominately Friday/Saturday evenings and nights). It is generally recognized that drug/alcohol use increases during these times which is evidenced by an elevated number of citizens frequenting alcohol-serving establishments, or consuming recreational drugs or alcohol at their residences. These issues increase the likelihood of officers encountering violent, intoxicated, confrontational, or armed offenders. Offenders exhibiting these variables are more frequently inclined to resist, fight, or flee from officers, which causes the Law Enforcement members to utilize a variety of levels of force to maintain control of these situations. In the previous year of 2023, Charlie 18:00 to 06:00

shift had the highest recorded incidents. In the previous year of 2022, Charlie 18:00 to 06:00 shift had the highest recorded incidents.

With regard to the shift data reflecting response to resistance incidents utilized by Corrections Bureau staff, the Charlie 18:00 to 06:00 shift has the highest recorded incidents. This can be attributed Law Enforcement conducting more arrests during these time frames involving offenders who are committing traffic violations, responding to calls for service in which offenders are violent, under the influence of drugs or alcohol and those offenders acting aggressive and hostile upon their arrival to the Indian River County Jail, during and after the booking process. These offenders are often inclined to offer resistance, cause disturbances, and are often going through a detoxification period, which requires the Correction members to utilize different levels of force to take control of these situations.

**Note that there can be more than one type of force used in each Incident; therefore, the total number of Force types may exceed the total number of Use of Force Incidents as well as some instances where more than one deputy may be involved and be required to utilize varying levels of force on one subject.*

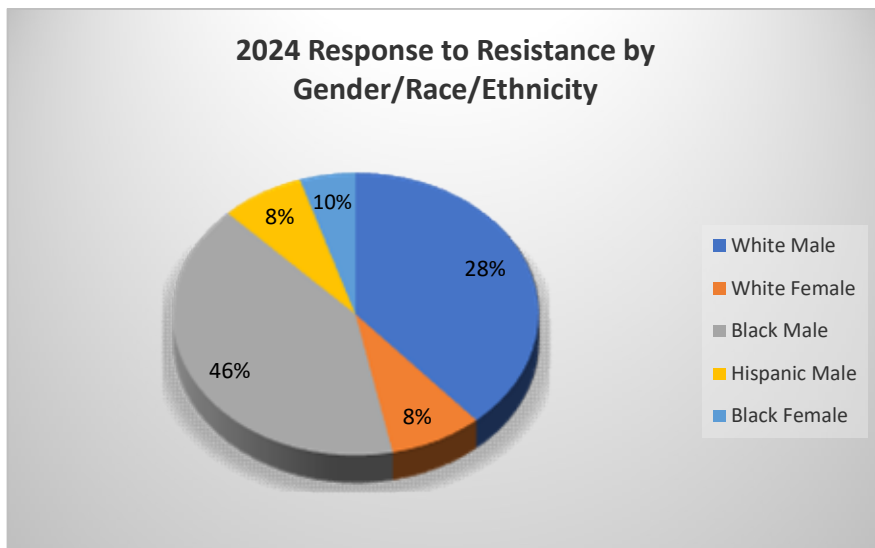
The Internal Affairs Unit received 1 complaint alleging excessive or unnecessary response to resistance (not resulting in injury). This complaint involved a Corrections deputy. After investigation, it was determined that the Corrections deputy involved utilized a reasonable degree of force, and the case was closed as unfounded.

The Internal Affairs Unit received 3 complaints of excessive response resulting in injury. Two of the complaints involved Corrections deputies and one complaint involve a Law Enforcement deputy. After investigation, in one of the complaints, it was determined that the Corrections deputy involved utilized a reasonable degree of force, and the case was closed as exonerated. With regards to the other Corrections deputy, after investigation, it was determined that the force utilized did not constitute a justified response to the subject's resistance and was contrary to Agency training and policy. This resulted in a sustained allegation of excessive response resulting in injury. After investigation, regarding the Law Enforcement deputy, it was determined that the Law Enforcement deputy involved utilized a reasonable degree of force, and the case was closed as unfounded.

With regard to the use of less-than-lethal response, members of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office shall use only the reasonable response necessary to effect lawful objectives. Regarding the use of lethal response, members of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office are never required to retreat in lieu of the justifiable use of lethal response; however, a lethal response must never be used if a lesser degree of force can be employed without unreasonably endangering the member or another person. Members may use lethal response only when they reasonably believe that the action is in defense of human life, including the member's own life, or in defense of any person in imminent danger of serious physical injury as in compliance with Florida State Statute 776.05.

An analysis of the use of force statistics for Indian River County Sheriff's Department for 2024 was compared to the same statistics for 2023. This review was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of force being used and to address any training needs for the sworn deputies of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office. At this time, there are no specific training needs identified that have not been addressed.

The Indian River County Sheriff's Office provides ongoing training for all members in various methods for responses to resistance that may be utilized when affecting an arrest, detaining a violent individual, defending oneself or another, as well as de-escalation techniques. The Indian River County Sheriff's Office recognizes several types of resistance in order to give the members the tools needed to overcome resistance with the minimal amount of force required. Less-than-lethal responses are exhaustively reviewed during in-service training. Indian River County Sheriff's Office training emphasizes de-escalation and flexible response tactics to maintain safety while offering alternatives to lethal response. Over the course of the past three years, the positive impacts of this training have been reflected in the low number of lethal responses required. The Internal Affairs Unit conducts an ongoing review of each report to determine if the response to resistance was within departmental policy and/or if any training needs are identified. A response to resistance that appears to fall outside of departmental policy may result in an Administrative Investigation.



The above graph reflects the year 2024 Response to Resistance by race, gender and ethnicity. Response to Resistance incidents occurring involved 28% Caucasian males, 46% African-American males, 8% Caucasian females, 10% African-American females and 8% of the reports involved Hispanic males.

The Indian River County population estimates are currently 172,323 with a growth rate of 1.5% in the past year according to the most recent United States census data. Of this population estimate in relation to the above graph, 72.6% are Caucasian (non-Hispanic), 9.1% are African-American, 0.5% are American Indian and Alaska Native, 1.8% are Asian, 0.1% are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 1.8% are Two or More Races, 14.1% are Hispanic or Latino

Discharge(s) of a Firearm

During the 2024 reporting year, there were 4 incidents where a firearm was utilized and each use was consistent with Agency policy and procedures.

During the 2023 reporting year, there were no incidents where a firearm was utilized.

During the 2022 reporting year, there were 5 incidents where a firearm was utilized and each use was consistent with Agency policy and procedure.

The low usage of firearms is attributed to the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office training in several types of response to resistance. This provides members the tools needed to overcome resistance with the most minimal amount of force necessary as well as training in de-escalation techniques as it relates to responding to resistance.

Vehicular Pursuits

The Indian River County Sheriff’s Office is aware of the dangers of police vehicle pursuits. The agency is consistently evaluating departmental procedures, and every pursuit is investigated by the involved deputy’s chain of command to ensure compliance with policy. Deputies must take into consideration numerous factors before beginning a pursuit, i.e., pedestrian traffic, time of day, traffic conditions, and if the identity of the subject being pursued is known. Authorization must be received from a supervisor to continue the pursuit after a deputy initiates it.

In 2024 there were 17 pursuits documented by the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office. Of those 17 pursuits, 59% occurred between 1900 – 0300 where there is the least amount of pedestrian and vehicle traffic on the roadways.

DAY OF THE WEEK	PURSUIITS	PERCENTAGE
Monday	1	6%
Tuesday	1	6%
Wednesday	2	12%
Thursday	6	35%
Friday	2	12%
Saturday	3	17%
Sunday	2	12%
TOTAL	17	100%

TIME OF DAY	PURSUIITS	PERCENTAGE
Midnight	0	0%
0100	0	0%
0200	1	6%
0300	2	12%
0400	0	0%
0500	0	0%
0600	0	0%
0700	0	0%
0800	0	0%
0900	0	0%
1000	2	12%
1100	0	0%
1200	0	0%
1300	0	0%
1400	1	6%
1500	0	0%
1600	3	17%
1700	1	6%
1800	0	0%
1900	1	6%
2000	2	12%
2100	0	0%
2200	0	0%
2300	4	23%
TOTAL	17	100%

During the year of 2024, there were 17 vehicular pursuits, and with the exception of 3 followed agency Policies and Procedures. Of the 17 vehicular pursuits in 2024, there was no indication of a pattern or trend regarding the place, occurrence, time of occurrence or involved deputies.

During the year of 2023, there were 24 vehicular pursuits, and with the exception of 4 followed Agency Policy and procedures. During the year of 2022, there were 22 vehicular pursuits, and with the exception of 5 followed Agency Policy and procedures.

PURSUITS 2020-2024					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
In Compliance	10	12	17	20	14
Not in Compliance	1	2	5	4	3
Total Pursuits	11	14	22	24	17

Prediction of frequency or occurrence of pursuits is not possible due to the nature and dynamics of offences, which might cause a pursuit to arise. There is no evidence that any of the pursuits in 2024 is indicative of a problematic or unwarranted trend.

After reviewing General Order 4091.00 Vehicle Pursuits, there is no indication of a need for policy modifications or additional training. The pursuit cases clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of the policy as well as the proficient training of the involved members.

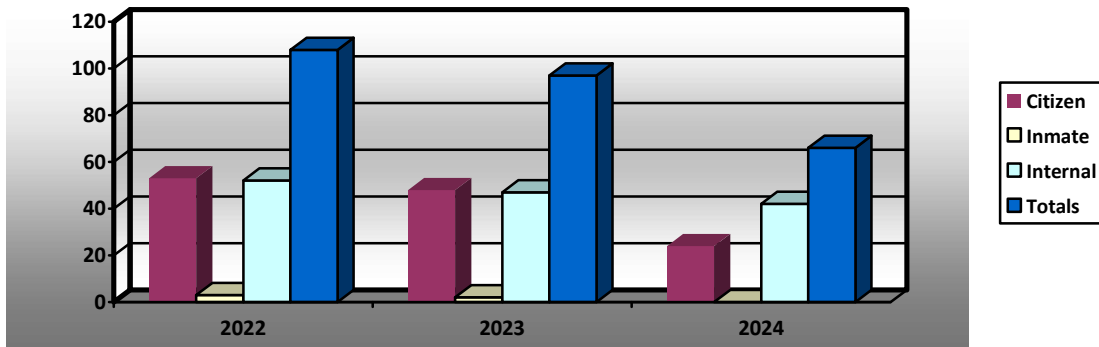
In summation, there was a minimal decrease in vehicle pursuits in the year of 2024 from the prior year of 2023. The broadening of the pursuit policy in 2021, continuous training, along with the proactivity of enforcement that detects and apprehends criminals, keeps our citizens free from crime, and our streets and highways safe.

Administrative Investigations

During the year of 2024, there were a total of 66 Administrative Investigations. There were 24 Administrative Investigations, indicated below listed under Internal Complaints, that were generated from disciplinary actions, resulting in Letters of Counseling or Letters of Reprimand, initiated by the immediate supervisor and did not require a formal investigation.

SOURCE	Citizen	Inmate	Internal Complaints (Supervisory, Employee, etc.)	Totals
2024	24	0	42	66
2023	48	2	48	98
2022	53	3	52	108

*The total number of allegations is not the total number of cases. One case may have more than one allegation of misconduct. Sustained allegations may have been initiated in prior years depending on length of investigation.



ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS HANDLED BY COMPONENT

The Internal Affairs Unit shall insure that any allegation of misconduct made against a member of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office is thoroughly and objectively investigated. Internal Affairs is responsible for retention of all allegations of employee misconduct pursuant to Agency policy. Upon initial review by Internal Affairs, the supervisor of the unit to which the accused employee is assigned will customarily have responsibility to investigate complaints of a lesser nature, such as: non-criminal misconduct, courtesy or profanity, or other lesser violations of Agency rules which would subject an employee to written discipline or less than 3 days suspension. The above notwithstanding does not preclude the Undersheriff or designee to direct the assignment of an investigation to ensure a complaint is handled in an objective manner. Any allegation that could lead to substantial discipline, including: suspension of greater than 3 days, demotion or termination shall be investigated by the Internal Affairs Unit, unless otherwise directed by the Sheriff or his designee.

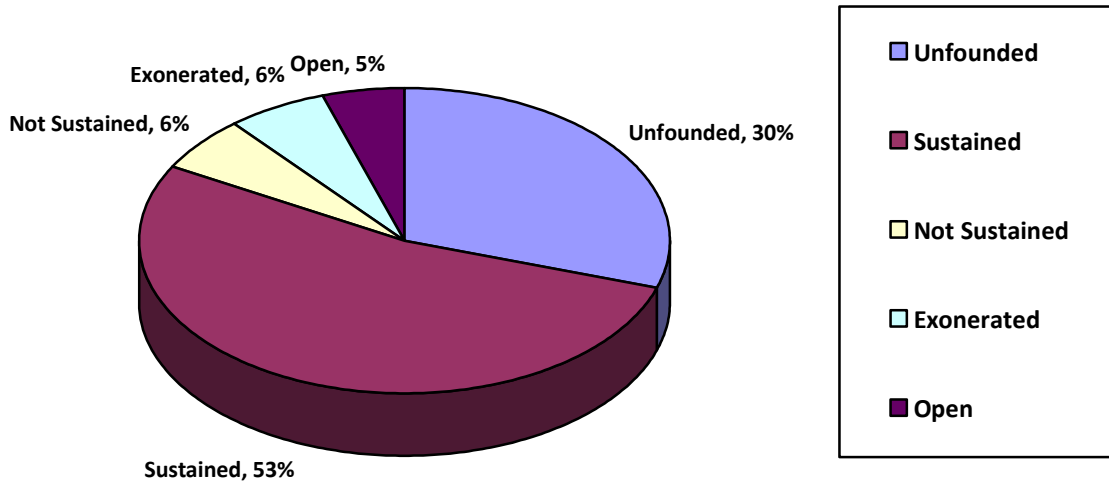
Component	2022	2023	2024
LE Operations	38	26	12
Internal Affairs	35	34	25
Corrections	26	03	04
Investigations	05	01	00
Support Services	00	00	00
Judicial Services	00	00	00
Communications	00	00	00
Bureau of Administration	02	04	00
Sheriff's Admin.	02	03	01

The dispositions of those cases are as follows:

Disposition	2022	2023	2024
Unfounded	58	46	20
Sustained	46	43	35
Not Sustained	04	08	04
Exonerated	00	01	04
<i>Employee Resigned Prior to Completion of Investigation; however, allegations were Sustained</i>	<i>03*</i> <i>Number is included in Sustained Disposition*</i>	<i>02*</i> <i>Number is included in Sustained Disposition*</i>	<i>02*</i> <i>Number is included in Sustained Disposition*</i>
			<i>**3 cases open</i>

A majority of the complaints originated from citizens (or supervisors) regarding employee conduct ranging from unprofessional conduct, courtesy, general proficiency, missed assignments, and neglect of duty offenses.

Dispositions of Administrative Investigations



Of the 66 Administrative Investigations, 30% resulted in the allegations being Unfounded, 53% Sustained, 6% Exonerated, 6% Not Sustained, and 5% open/not yet known. There was a 32% decrease in the overall complaints received in 2024 from the previous year of 2023. There was a 9% increase in the number of overall complaints received in 2023 from the previous year of 2022.

During the 2024 reporting year, the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) recorded 161,938 calls for service. This is a 5% decrease in calls for service from the previous year of 2023.

During the 2023 reporting year, the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) recorded, 171,232 calls for service. This is a 2% increase in calls for service from the previous year of 2022.

During the 2022 reporting year, the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) recorded, 167,858 calls for service. This is a 11% decrease in calls for service from the previous year of 2021.

The mission of the Internal Affairs Unit is to strive to protect the public trust and to maintain the integrity and accountability of the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office. Internal Affairs is essential in building and maintaining mutual trust and respect between agencies and the public. The Indian River County Sheriff’s Office works to provide the community with effective, efficient and courteous services. The policy of the Internal Affairs Unit is to vigorously investigate and review all instances of alleged misconduct through, fair, and objective investigations. Into the upcoming year of 2025, we will diligently analyze Administrative Investigations and other Internal Affairs data to ensure compliance with departmental policies and procedures.

Prepared By:
Lieutenant Chris Reeve
Internal Affairs Administrator Debra Worley
Professional Standards Assistant Ashley Bartuccelli

cc: Sheriff Eric Flowers
Undersheriff Thomas Raulen
Professional Standards Manger – Jacquelin Patrick