

# City of Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission



## Mid-Year Report

January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009

The 2009 Mid-Year Report of the Fire and Police Commission (FPC) represents the FPC's desire to increase transparency and better inform the public of our efforts to ensure the safety of all individuals who work, visit, or live in the City of Milwaukee. Information in this interim report includes an analysis of complaints filed in the first 6 months of 2009, and select public safety statistics from the Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) and Milwaukee Police Department (MPD).

## CITIZEN COMPLAINT PROCESS

A primary function of the FPC is to provide citizens with a viable complaint process to ensure that Fire and Police Department personnel treat community members with courtesy and respect according to the rules and regulations of the respective departments. The FPC has full authority to independently investigate and discipline department employees up to and including termination from employment for acts of misconduct.

### CITIZEN COMPLAINT DEFINITIONS

#### Type of Complaint

**Informal:** A complaint is classified as informal when the complaint was submitted for informational purposes only or until a complainant files an official complaint form with the FPC. Informal complaints may receive limited investigation and are not recorded in officer records as misconduct complaints.

**Formal:** A complaint is classified as formal when an investigation has begun and the official complaint form has been submitted to the FPC. Formal complaints are recorded in officer records as misconduct complaints.

#### Allegation Categories

The FPC classifies complaint allegations into five general categories. The allegation categories are:

**Unauthorized use of force:** An allegation that an employee used excessive physical force or more force than was needed under the circumstances.

**Discourtesy:** Unnecessary, unprofessional, rude, profane, derogatory, inappropriate, or belligerent language, actions, or behavior by an employee.

**Disparate Treatment:** Language, conduct, or behavior that is inappropriate, demeaning, or derogatory concerning a person's race, religion, nationality, physical appearance, gender, or sexual orientation.

**Department Procedures:** An unauthorized or inappropriate deviation from established department policies or procedures.

**Department Services:** An inappropriate, unnecessarily slow, or insufficient response to an incident, call for service, or request for intervention of the department employee.

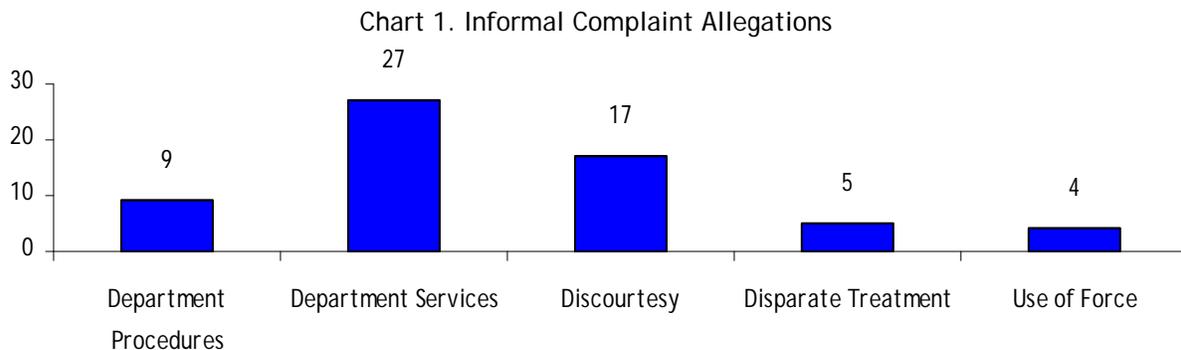
# Citizen Complaint Statistical Overview

A total of 188 complaints were filed with the FPC between January 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009. Sixty-six complaints were classified as formal, while 122 complaints were classified as informal.

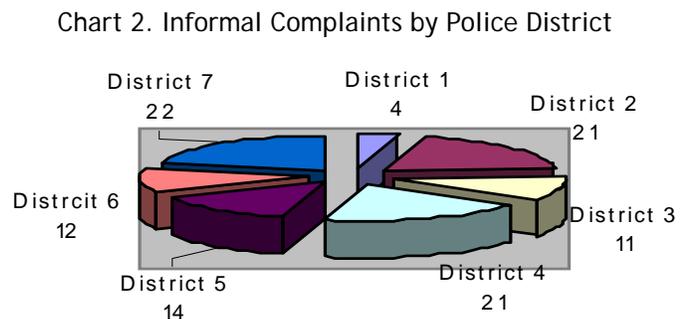
## INFORMAL COMPLAINTS<sup>1</sup>

Between January 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009, 122 complaints were classified as informal. Twelve complaints (9.8%) were still undergoing investigation at the time of this report, while 110 complaints (90.2%) were closed.

Sixty-two informal complaints listed an allegation (see Chart 1). The most common allegation was department services, with 27 informal complaints (43.5%), followed by discourtesy with 17 complaints (27.4%). Disparate treatment, with 5 complaints (8.1%), and use of force, with 4 complaints (6.5%) were the least common allegations.



The most common police district for the complaint location was Police District 7, with 22 informal complaints (21.0%) (see Chart 2). Police Districts 2 and 4 had 21 complaints each (20.0%). District 1 had the fewest number of informal complaints, with 4 (3.8%).



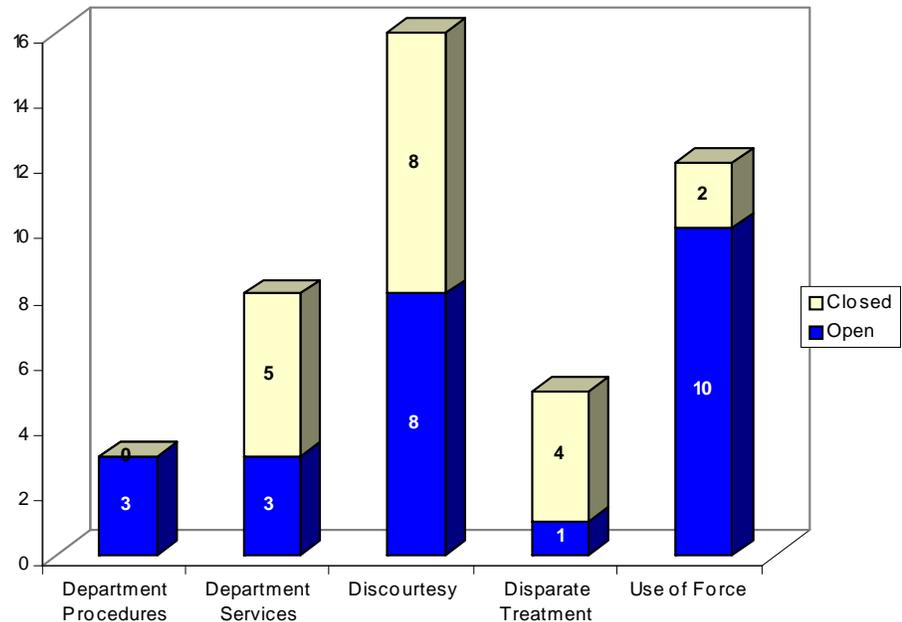
1. Limited data is presented here for informal complaints because information is often incomplete. Because informal complaints may receive limited investigation, not all information will be collected from the complainant.

## FORMAL COMPLAINTS<sup>2</sup>

Between January 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009, 66 complaints were classified as formal. In comparison, 58 complaints were classified as formal during the first 6 months of 2008. This represents an increase of 8 formal complaints, or 13.8 percent, between the first six months of 2008 and 2009. Of the 66 formal complaints filed in 2009, 42 complaints (63.6%) were still undergoing investigation at the time of this report, while 24 complaints (36.4%) were closed.

Forty-four formal complaints listed an allegation (see Chart 3). The most common allegation was discourtesy, with 16 formal complaints (36.4%), followed by use of force with 12 complaints (31.8%) and department services with 8 complaints (18.2%). Disparate treatment, with 5 complaints (11.4%), and department procedures, with 3

Chart 3. Formal Complaint Allegations

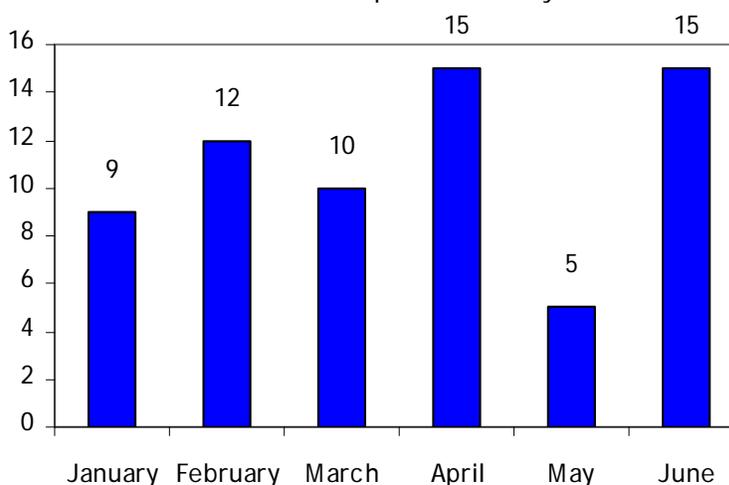


complaints (7.5%) were the least common allegations. Of the 44 complaints that listed an allegation, 25 complaints (56.8%) were open, and 19 complaints (43.2%) were closed.

The number of days that passed between the day the incident occurred and the day the formal complaint was filed by the complainant ranged from 0 days to 1,803 days. On average, 90 days passed between the incident date and the report date. The mode, or the number of days that occurred most often, between the incident date and report date was 2 and 3 days. The median, or middle value, between the incident date and report date was 14 days.

2. The majority of formal complaints from the first 6 months of 2009 were still undergoing investigation at the time of this report. For this reason, data may be incomplete.

Chart 4. Formal Complaints Filed by Month



Fifteen formal complaints (22.7%) were filed in both June and April (see Chart 4). Twelve complaints (18.2%) were filed in February. May, with 5 complaints (7.6%), was the month with the fewest complaints filed.

Sixty-three formal complaints were classified by police district with regards to complaint location (see Table 1). The most common police district for the complaint location was District 7, with 23 complaints (36.5%), followed by District 5 with 12 complaints (19.0%). District 4, with 4 complaints (6.3%), and District 1, with 3 complaints (4.8%) were the least common locations.

Table 1. Formal Complaints by Police District

Police District	Number of Formal Complaints	Percentage
District 1	3	4.8%
District 2	7	11.1%
District 3	9	14.3%
District 4	4	6.3%
District 5	12	19.0%
District 6	5	7.9%
District 7	23	36.5%

#### DEMOGRAPHICS OF COMPLAINANTS

The age of the complainant was available in 60 formal complaints. The average age of individuals who filed formal complaints was 37 years old, with a range of 18 years old to 59 years old. The median age for formal complainants was 39 years old, while the median age for the city of Milwaukee is 32 years old<sup>3</sup>.

Complainant gender was available in 65 formal complaints. Thirty-seven complainants (56.9%) who filed formal complaints were male, while 28 complainants (43.1%) were female. Demographics for the city of Milwaukee indicate that 48.2% of the population is male, while 51.8% is female<sup>3</sup>.

Complainant race was available in 50 formal complaints. Forty-two complainants (84.0%) were African-American, while 8 complainants (16.0%) were Caucasian. Demographics for the city of Milwaukee indicate that African-Americans make up 38.7% of the population, while Caucasians make up 45.2% of the population<sup>3</sup>.

3. City of Milwaukee Fact Sheet, United States Census Bureau  
Fire and Police Commission  
2009 Mid-Year Report

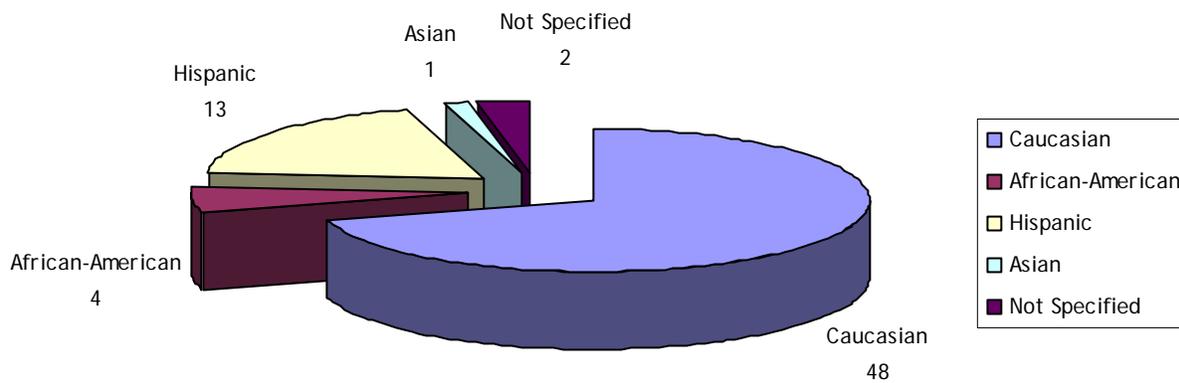
*DEMOGRAPHICS OF ACCUSED EMPLOYEES*

For many of the complaints filed with the FPC, complainants are unable to give detailed information related to the MFD or MPD employee involved in the complaint. Demographic information presented here, if available, has typically been gathered after-the-fact by the FPC investigators. All closed formal complaints from the first 6 months of 2009 involved employees of MPD. Forty-six complaints contained information on the officer(s) involved, with 68 employees listed in the complaints.

The average age of the accused employees was 35 years old, with a median of 33 years old and a mode of 36 years old. The age range of the accused employees was between 24 years old and 61 years old.

The majority of the accused employees (48 employees, 70.6%) were Caucasian (see Chart 5), followed by 13 Hispanic employees (19.1%). Four African-American employees (5.9%) and 1 Asian employee (1.5%) also had complaints filed against them.

Chart 5. Race of Accused Employees



The majority of accused employees were male (62 employees, 91.2%). Three female employees (4.4%) also had complaints filed against them.

Police Officer was the most common rank of the accused employees, with 62 employees (91.2%) with this rank. Five employees (7.4%) were at the rank of Police Sergeant, and 1 employee (1.5%) was at the rank of Police Chief.

# MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Between January 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009, the Milwaukee Fire Department responded to 2,058 fire calls (see Table 2). Aldermanic District 15 received the most fire responses, with 263 (12.8%), while Aldermanic District 11 had the fewest fire responses, with 63 (3.1%).

The Fire Department also responded to 11,846 ALS (Advanced Life Support) calls. Aldermanic District 6 received the most ALS calls, with 1,476 ALS calls (12.5%), while Aldermanic District 14 received the fewest ALS calls, with 436 calls (3.7%).

A total of 13,315 BLS (Basic Life Support) calls were responded to by the Milwaukee Fire Department.

Aldermanic District 6, with 1,514 BLS calls (11.4%), received the most BLS calls. Aldermanic District 14, with 495 BLS calls (3.7%) received the fewest BLS calls.

The Milwaukee Fire Department reported 9 fire fatalities between January 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009.

Table 2. Fire Responses, ALS calls, and BLS calls

Aldermanic District	Number of Fire Responses	ALS	BLS
1	154	922	1045
2	111	774	917
3	97	452	579
4	164	1097	1260
5	92	519	607
6	233	1476	1514
7	181	976	1057
8	125	693	770
9	150	889	830
10	108	545	599
11	63	545	551
12	156	720	1041
13	82	536	576
14	79	436	495
15	263	1266	1474
<b>Total</b>	<b>2058</b>	<b>11846</b>	<b>13315</b>

# MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

When comparing the first 6 months of 2009 to the first 6 months of 2008, MPD reported a 15.5% decrease in violent crime and a 14.7% decrease in property crime (see Table 3). Homicide, with an 18.2% increase, and rape, with a 15.6% increase, were the only crimes with an increase between 2008 and 2009. Auto theft, with a 31.7% decrease, and aggravated assault, with a 23.6% decrease, were the crimes that decreased the most between 2008 and 2009. Overall, crime dropped 14.8%, or 3,168 crimes, between the first six months of 2008 and 2009.

Compared to the first 6 months of 2008, homicides increased 18.2%, or 6 homicides, in 2009. The most common circumstances with regards to the homicides committed in 2009 were related to drugs and arguments or fights. Domestic violence related homicides increased 67% when comparing the first 6 months of 2008 to 2009.

Table 3. Six Month Crime Statistics for 2008 and 2009

Crime	2008 Quarter 1	2009 Quarter 1	2008 Quarter 2	2009 Quarter 2	2008 Total	2009 Total	% Change
Homicide	14	17	19	22	33	39	+18.2%
Rape	43	58	47	46	90	104	+15.6%
Robbery	670	620	724	675	1394	1295	-7.1%
Aggravated Assault	755	672	1174	802	1929	1474	-23.6%
Total Violent Crime	1482	1367	1964	1545	3446	2912	-15.5%
Burglary	1251	1135	1629	1331	2880	2466	-14.4%
Theft	5173	4968	6378	5425	11551	10393	-10.0%
Auto Theft	1529	1069	1814	1214	3343	2283	-31.7%
Arson	54	53	83	82	137	135	-1.5%
Total Property Crime	8007	7225	9904	8052	17911	15227	-14.7%
Total	9489	8592	11868	9597	21357	18189	-14.8%