

LOS ANGELES FIRE COMMISSION

July 2, 2019

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June 21, 2019

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. BFC 19-079

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Independent Assessor

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY REPORT OF AUDITS

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

SUMMARY

On February 19, 2019, the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC or Commission) requested that the Independent Assessor provide quarterly reports of audits that are “in progress and that are contemplated by the Independent Assessor’s office.” This Report is prepared in compliance with that direction.

The Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA) is presently engaged in research in support of two audits: an audit examining the progress of recruits in Drill Tower classes 2013-1 through 2017-3, and an audit of complaints closed in the Complaint Tracking System (CTS) in 2018.

A third audit is contemplated. After discussions with the BOFC at the meeting on April 2, 2019, it was determined that the OIA will conduct two audits related to complaints closed in CTS in 2018; a report of statistics and an audit in which the OIA will review and assess the way the Department handled a subset of complaints of misconduct closed in 2018. It was also determined that the focus of that review will be determined after the first audit is completed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:

1. Approve the Report.

DISCUSSION

Audit 1

Recruit Progress in Specified Drill Tower Classes

The information related to this audit is presented in a separate report: BFC No. 19-067.

Audit 2

Annual review of cases filed and closed in the Complaint Tracking System in 2018.¹

Preliminary Scope and Methodology

Review and assess cases filed and closed in the Los Angeles Fire Department's (LAFD or Department) CTS and Discipline Tracking System in 2018.

Preliminary Objectives²

- A. Determine the number of cases filed annually 2009 through 2018.
- B. Determine the number of complaints closed in CTS in 2018 and compare these with the statistics from 2017.
 - 1. Determine the number of complaints by category.
 - 2. Determine whether a complaint was filed by a Department employee, an external complainant, or an anonymous complainant.
 - 3. Determine the number of complaints assigned to be investigated by Professional Standards Division, Chain of Command (Field), or the Alternative Investigative Procedure (Alternative Process).
 - 4. Determine the number of complaints by adjudication.
 - 5. Determine whether the subject was a sworn or civilian employee.
 - 6. Determine the status of sustained cases, including the number of settlement agreements.
- C. Determine the total number of Settlement Agreements which included Education Based Discipline (EBD).
 - 1. Determine the number of members who re-offended since completing EBD.
- D. Determine the number of cases awaiting a hearing before a Board of Rights, at the end of 2018.

The objectives for this audit were modified since the last quarterly report was presented to the BOFC on April 2, 2019 (BFC No. 19-043). In Objective B, the OIA added the comparison with 2017 statistics. Further, the OIA added Objectives C and C.1.

¹This audit will be similar to the audit presented to the BOFC on March 19, 2019, Review of Cases Closed in CTS in 2017 (BFC No. 19-037).

²Objectives are subject to change based on the research.

Audit 3

Assessment of how the LAFD handled a subset of complaints of misconduct that were closed in CTS in 2018.

The scope, methodology, and objectives for this audit will be determined after the annual review of cases (Audit 2 above) has been completed.

I am available to provide any additional information the Commission may require.

Respectfully submitted,



SUE STENGEL

Independent Assessor

Board of Fire Commissioners