

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Metropolitan Police Department



Report on Litigation Data-Calendar Year 2024 (July to December)

Attached hereto is a report of all lawsuits and claims against the Metropolitan Police Department (Department) or its employees in their official capacity filed from July to December of 2024. The Office of the General Counsel reviews each new lawsuit served on the Department or its employees, an effort that continues as the lawsuit proceeds.

Each new lawsuit is entered into the Department's Personnel Performance Management System (PPMS), which includes the Supervisory Support Program. Thereafter, personnel from the Department's Internal Affairs Division (IAD) review each lawsuit to determine if there is any newly identified misconduct that needs to be investigated. In most cases, the Department is already aware of the allegation or conduct that led to the lawsuit and is investigating or has investigated the incident. Regardless, an IAD agent is assigned to monitor the lawsuit as it proceeds through litigation. If the investigation ultimately sustains misconduct, the Department takes appropriate action, which may include retraining, suspension without pay, forfeited leave, demotion, or termination, depending on the nature of the misconduct sustained. In addition, the Office of the General Counsel works to identify policy and training improvements that can be implemented arising out of these cases. Described below are the trends identified in these cases and the training and/or policy changes made based on an analysis of these matters.

The attached report also includes all the cases filed against MPD or its employees in their official capacity that were closed between July and December of 2024. These closed lawsuits include dismissal of cases, judgments against, and settlements executed on behalf of the Department, of any amount, during this period. Cases that are closed with settlement may be settled for a variety of reasons, including the uncertainty of trial outcomes and the cost of litigation. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) consults with the Department on settlements and exercises its business judgment in choosing whether to settle.

Below is an analysis of the litigation data related to the cases brought against the Department and closed during calendar year 2024 (July to December). Information concerning Department lawsuits has been provided to the Council of the District of Columbia as part of the Department's oversight hearings since 2015, and information on settlements and judgments has been submitted every year since 2018. Copies of previous years' responses can be found here: <https://dccouncil.gov/committee-oversight/>

Allegations of Fourth Amendment Violations

- Beginning in 2023 and continuing into this year, the Department has focused on ensuring compliance with the Fourth Amendment during citizen interactions. The Department's mission is to build on the trust it has with the community with a renewed emphasis on the Fourth Amendment's requirements during citizen and police interactions.
- To this end, the Department has taken several steps to provide updated training to members on this area of law.
 - Annual In-Service Training – In 2024, all members received two 4-hour blocks of in-person training committed to the Fourth Amendment, which was both classroom-based and interactive. This training was completed in two phases during 2024.
 - During this annual training, the Academy included a course focused on best practices for applying Fourth Amendment principles in daily policing, including the best tactics for handling armed unresponsive drivers of vehicles in public space.
 - On-Line Virtual Training – All sworn members are required to take and pass two separate Acadis training modules, which concentrated exclusively on the Fourth Amendment, prior to attending the in-person, annual in-service training described above.
 - Specialized Training – The Department conducted Fourth Amendment training for members in and seeking to apply for Special Mission Unit assignments several times throughout the past year.
 - Training Bulletins – The Department continues to keep its members abreast of current case law related to the Fourth Amendment, particularly all decisions issued by our Court of Appeals. The Office of General Counsel (OGC) closely monitors legal decisions in this area of law. OGC and the Metropolitan Police Academy develop and issue training bulletins

to keep members informed of recent decisions. These bulletins remain available to members on the Department's website.

- Roll Call Training – Training on the below issues also occurred for all members during Daily Roll Call Training (DRCT). These are periodic, brief, scenario-based or refresher trainings provided in-person by supervising sergeants to all patrol officers. DRCTs are provided across multiple days and shifts to ensure all patrol officers receive it. 2024 DRCT training has covered:
 - Premises Search Warrants
 - Warrant Exceptions:
 - Search Incident to Arrest
 - Exigent Circumstances
 - Community Caretaking Doctrine
 - Plain View Doctrine
 - Motor Vehicles Exception
 - Consent Searches
 - Arrests Warrants served inside a residence
- The Department has partnered with the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) to work collaboratively to ensure the arrest and prosecution process is procedurally and substantively sound.
 - MPD and USAO leadership meet regularly to review criminal cases, especially those involving firearms, to share information and to continue to look for areas of improvement in arrests and prosecutions.

Vehicle Crashes

- To reduce the number and severity of vehicle crashes, the Crash Review Board identifies candidates who can benefit from additional vehicle skills training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Training is conducted once candidates are identified based upon damages, injuries, and a member's driving history.
- Since the beginning of the year, 35 members of the Department have attended this training during five sessions.

Civil & Criminal Enforcement of Illegal Marijuana Establishments

- The Medical Cannabis Act of 2022 enacted an enforcement and licensing scheme for the medical cannabis market, which is overseen by Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA). As part of this law, various application periods were established for businesses to apply for a license to sell cannabis as part of the medical cannabis market. At the conclusion of these licensing periods, MPD assisted ABCA in the enforcement of these regulations to ensure that businesses were in compliance. Civil and criminal penalties were imposed on businesses who were found to be selling cannabis and/or cannabis infused products without the appropriate license.
- In addition to enforcement of the above-described regulations, MPD is committed to enforcement of the criminal laws that prohibit the sale of marijuana (for non-medical purposes) and other prohibited controlled substances. Business establishments and owners that are involved in the sale of marijuana (for non-medical purposes) or other narcotics will be subject to criminal and civil penalties.