

2025 Annual Major Discipline Reporting Form

Internal Affairs Policy & Procedures | Appendix L

Pursuant to Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive No. 2022-34, every state, county, and local law enforcement agency in New Jersey is required to submit to the Attorney General and the County Prosecutor, and publish on the agency's public website, a brief synopsis of all complaints where a termination, reduction in rank or grade, and/or suspension of more than five days, as well as sustained findings listed in the above directive, regardless of the type or severity of discipline imposed, was assessed to an agency member. For the purposes of this report, please include all major disciplines in which a plea agreement was reached or final sanction was imposed during the time period listed below. In addition, include all discipline from earlier years which was has been on appeal, the final appeal was resolved during 2023, and the discipline remains in one of the enumerated categories. Instructions for completing this form can be found on the "Instructions" tab of the Excel version of this document.

Time period	January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025				
County	Hudson				
Agency	Union City PD				

<-Select County from dropdown menu here

<- Select Agency from dropdown menu here

No.	Rank	First Name	Last Name	Sanction			Specify other sanction type, if applicable	Synopsis	
				Terminated?	Demoted?	Suspended?		Sustained Charge	Description
1	OFFICER	MAURICIO	GARCES	No	No	Yes	180	No	DUI / intoxication off-duty, not in uniform and arrested, Conduct unbecoming a public employee
									On July 2nd, 2023, Officer Mauricio Garces was arrested by the Secaucus Police Department for driving under the influence after being found asleep in his car while the car was in drive at an intersection. On January 9, 2024, Officer Garces pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of liquor or drugs. P.O. Mauricio Garces settled on a 180-Day suspension.
2	OFFICER	DAVID	TAFUR	No	No	Yes	5	No	Neglect of Duty, Knowingly and willfully making a false entry in any department report or record
									On July 7, 2023, P.O. Tafur called the UCPD to advise that he was calling out sick from his scheduled shift on 07/08/2024. On 07/08/2024, P.O. Tafur was not home when the physical convalescence check was conducted. After being contacted by the road supervisor, P.O. Tafur admitted to not being home, and in fact, being out of the country. Investigation was sustained determining that P.O. Tafur's misconduct was bearing upon P.O. Tafur's truthfulness, with one of the sustained charges being "Knowingly and willfully making a false entry in any departmental report or record.
3	OFFICER	DAVID	TAFUR	No	No	Yes	8	No	Neglect of Duty, Knowingly and willfully making a false entry in any department report or record
									On November 3, 2024, Officer Tafur was assigned to off-duty extra employment detail. Throughout his assignment, Officer Tafur violated a number of Rules & Regulations, as well as General Orders. Officer Tafur initially failed to report to the Police Desk to sign in for his detail and failed to report late to a supervisor. During his assignment, Officer Tafur failed to use radio transmissions to advise of his calls for service, instead text messaging a dispatcher to enter the calls for service for him. While at a precinct, Officer Tafur was observed falling in and out of sleep during his extra duty detail. When Officer Tafur's supervisors questioned him about his reporting procedure, he refused to provide the requested information multiple times. While Officer Tafur ultimately provided the information to Internal Affairs investigators, the information he provided could not be corroborated.
4	OFFICER	CARLOS	PINA	No	No	Yes	35	No	Conduct Unbecoming, Knowingly and willfully making a false entry in any department report or record
									On August 28, 2021, P.O. Pina was involved in an altercation with a member of the public. Investigation revealed that P.O. Pina used profane language, threatened the citizen and failed to provide his name/badge number when requested. In addition, P.O. Pina was determined to be untruthful in his official report of the incident and during his formal statement to Internal Affairs. 35-Day suspension was appealed. Final decision to sustain the 35-Day suspension was issued on June 11, 2025.
5	SERGEANT	RUBEN	RODRIGUEZ	No	No	Yes	123	No	Neglect of Duty
									On August 8, 2024, Sgt. Rodriguez was involved in executing an arrest, during which time he reported that the arrestee assaulted him. Upon further investigation, it was determined the information Sgt. Rodriguez put in the official report was false.
6	SERGEANT	PATRICIA	LAZZARINI	No	No	Yes	180	No	Conduct unbecoming a public employee, Repeated Violations of Rules and Regulations
									On January 30, 2021, Sgt. Lazzarini was arrested by the Branchburg Police Department and subsequently received summonses for DWI, Refusal to submit to breath test and failure to maintain lane. On 02/13/2023, Sgt. Lazzarini was found guilty of Operating Under the Influence of Liquor or Drugs and Traffic on Marked Lanes. Sgt. Lazzarini subsequently settled on a 180-Day suspension on December 16, 2025.
7	SERGEANT	PATRICIA	LAZZARINI	No	No	Yes	180	No	Conduct unbecoming a public employee, Repeated Violations of Rules and Regulations
									On June 2, 2024 and while on indefinite un-paid suspension since 2021, Sgt. Lazzarini was involved in an altercation at a nightclub in Asbury Park, N.J. and determined to be one of the aggressors. Having been required to surrender her credentials, Sgt. Lazzarini identified herself as a sergeant and displayed a Police ID card to the officer on scene. Sgt. Lazzarini subsequently settled on a 180-Day suspension on December 16, 2025.
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For Sustained Charge(s), regardless of the type or severity of discipline imposed, please use A SHORT HAND description like the below, rather than a statute or ordinance:

-Discrimination or bias: Discrimination or Bias against any person b/c of the individual's actual or perceived race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, affectional or sexual orientation, genetic information, sex, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality, familial status, or any other protected characteristic under N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.

-Excessive Force: Officer utilized excessive force

-Untruthful/Candor: Officer was untruthful or has demonstrated a lack of candor

-False Report: Officer has filed a false report or submitted a false certification in any criminal, administrative, employment, financial, or insurance matter in their professional or personal life

-Improper Search, Seizure, Arrest: Officer intentionally conducted an improper search, seizure or arrest

-Evidence Mishandling: Officer intentionally mishandled or destroyed evidence

-Domestic Violence: Domestic violence, as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:25-19

-Indictable Offense: Officer was charged with any indictable crime under New Jersey or an equivalent offense under federal law or the law of another jurisdiction related to the complaint

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