Annual Major Discipline Reporting Form

Internal Affairs Policy & Procedures | Appendix L

Pursuant to IAPP Section 9.11.2, 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, reducation in rank or grade, and/or suspension of more than five days 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. Instructions for completing this form can be found on the "Instructions" tab of the Excel version of this document.

Time period	January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024
County	Essex

<-- Select county from dropdown menu here

	Disciplined Officer			Sanction				Synopsis		
No.	Rank	First Name	Last Name	Terminated?	Demoted?	Suspended?	# Days Susp.	Sustained Charge(s)	Description	
1	Officer	Anthony	Pellegrino			Yes	30	N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(12) Other sufficient cause-Violation of Department Rules and Regulations-3:1.23 Knowledge of Law and Regulations	Specifically Wednesday November 17, 2021 Officer Anthony Pellegrino contacted the shift Commander and informed him that his vehicle had been vandalized during the night while parked in his driveway, and several items had been stolen including his duty issued weapon a Glock 19.	
	Officer	Nahum	Mullin			Yes	90	N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(1) – Incompetency, inefficiency or failure to perform duties N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(6) – Conduct unbecoming a public employee N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(7) – Neglect of Duty N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(12) – Other sufficient cause – Violation of Essex County Departmental Rules and Regulations: 3:1.2 Competence; 3:1.1 Standard of conduct; 3:1.13 N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(1)	On November 29, 2023, At approximately 1800 hours, it was discovered by Officers Mullin and DiBari that Inmate Alvarez had removed his restraints and exited the area of confinement, E-Blue room 211, without the officers becoming aware of the escape. Inmate Alvarez was apprehended and returned to the custody of the ECDOC. On November 29, 2023, At approximately, 1800 hours, it was discovered by Officers Mullin and DiBari, that Inmate Alvarez had removed.	
3	Officer	Joseph	DiBari			Yes	90	Incompetency, inefficiency or failure to perform duties N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(6) — Conduct unbecoming a public employee N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(7) — Neglect of Duty N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(12) — Other sufficient cause — Michigape & Ferre & Schott, 1).	On November 29, 2023,At approximately 1800 hours, it was discovered by Officers Mullin and DiBari that Inmate Alvarez had removed his restraints and exited the area of confinement, E-Blue room 211, without the officers becoming aware of the escape. Inmate Alvarez was apprehended and returned to the custody of the ECDOC.	
	Investigator	Vincent	Conti	Yes				Incompetency, inefficiency or failure to perform duties N.J.A.C. 4Av.2-2.3(a)(3): Inability to perform duties N.J.A.C. 4Av.2-2.3(a)(6): Conduct unbecoming a public employee; N.J.A.C. 4Av.2-2.3(a)(7): Neglect of Duty N.J.A.C. 4Av.2-2.3(a)(8): Misuse of public property, including motor Vehicles N.J.A.C. 4Av.2-2.3(a)(12): Other sufficient cause;	Specifically, on March 23, 2023, An Investigator with the Essex County Department of Corrections noticed the Dodge Durango plate # ZMR19D had damage to the driver side back bumper (which was pushed in) and had a broken tail light. On Wednesday, April 5, 2023 video surveillance for Tuesday, March 21, 2023 [1300-1315 hours] was ordered, obtained, and revelwed by a Investigator. The Investigator's review of this video lead to the findings that Investigator Conti was driving the Dodge Durango on March 21, 2023 at approximately 13:07:22 hours. Investigator Conti failed to report the damage, document the accident and lied about having knowledge of the incident.	
5	Captain	Antonio	Pires	Yes				N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(12) Other sufficient cause; Criminal charge 2C:20-3 a	On Saturday July 1, 2023 Employee was arrested by the Essex County Prosecutors Office Professional Standards Bureau and charged with 2C:20-3 theft. Employee was criminally charged with theft of County property. Forfeiture of and Disqualification of PublicEmployment. PTI program.	

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6	Officer	Charles	Lawson	Yes				On Tuesday May 11, 2021, Correctional Police Officer Charles Lawson was arrested and charged with 2C:24-7.1A (3) and 2C28-7A (1). Officer Lawson was criminally charged by the Essex County Prosecutors Office. Forfeiture of and Disqualification of PublicEmployment. Three (3) years probation.
7	Officer	Melissa	Lespier	Yes			N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(6) Conduct Unbecoming N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(12) Other sufficient cause; Violation of Department Rules and Regulations – 3:1.35 Socialization; 3:1.31 Person and places of bad reputation; 3:1.23 Knowledge of Laws and Regulations; 3:1.1 Standard of Conduct; 3:1.2 Competence; 3:1.9 Performance of Duty; 3:1.13 Obedience to Laws and Regulations Violation of Policy and Procedures: Fraternization with immates PS.ADM.046 Fraternization Directive #06-135	On December 20, 2023 an Investigator with the essex County Department of Corrections completed his investigation into alleged Officer Misconduct by Correctional Police Officer Lespier. Officer Lespier's actions and ongoing communication with an inmate created a significant safety and security risk to the population, officers and civilian staff at the Essex County Correctional Facility. Officer Lespier provided the inmate with personal information regarding other inmates ages, charges and housing locations. Officer Lespier engaged in conversations that were unprofessional and intimate.
8	Officer	Devin	Robinson	Yes			N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(12) Other sufficient cause: N.J.S.A. 2C:28-2a	On Sunday December 26, 2021, Officer Robinson began to empty his pockets and removed Fifty (50) packs of Newport cigarettes and five (5) packs of black and mild cigars. Consent orderof Forfeiture of and Disqualification of Public Employment. PTI program.
9	Officer	Christopher	Ebanks	Yes			N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(6) Conduct unbecoming a public employee N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(12) Other sufficient cause: Violation of Department Rules and Regulations — 3:1.1 Standard of Conduct; 3:1.9 Performance of Duty; 3:1.13 Obedience to Laws and Regulations; 3:1.23 Knowledge of Laws and Regulations; 3:1.32 Withholding information or giving false information; 3:1.33 Reporting Violations of Law, Ordinances, Rules or Orders; 3:1.34 Reporting Unusual Incidents or Occurrences on Duty; 3:10.5 Truthfulness	On April 17, 2023 Officer Ebanks was convicted of an amended charge of domestic violence petty disorderly persons (harassment) in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4c.
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