

## **CITIZEN COMPLAINT INFORMATION FORM**

It is the policy of the Morris county Park Police to accept and promptly investigate all citizen complaints and/or any allegations of official misconduct or complaints of inappropriate behavior.

The Morris County Park Police recognizes that complaints from the public, whether they are sustained or not, increase our awareness of both actual or potential problems and the community's perceptions and attitudes about police practices and procedures. Citizen complaints serve as one means of determining that this agency is meeting its intended goal in providing professional law enforcement services to our citizens.

The members of the Morris County Police Department are committed to providing law enforcement services that are fair, effective, and impartially applied. It is in the best interest of everyone that your complaint about the performance of an individual officer is resolved fairly and promptly. The Police department has formal procedures for investigating your complaint. These procedures ensure fairness and protective rights of both citizens and law enforcement officers.

This policy conforms with the New Jersey Attorney General Policies and Procedures and all current Attorney General Directives.

- All complaints of officer misconduct shall be accepted from all persons who wish to file a complaint, regardless of the hour or day of the week. This includes reports from anonymous sources, juveniles, and persons under arrest or in custody.

- You can make a complaint to any member of this department. It is recommended that a supervisor or member of the Internal Affairs Unit take your complaint, if available, if not, any officer will accept your complaint.
- Citizens are encouraged to submit their complaints as soon after an incident as possible.
  
- If the citizen cannot personally appear at the agency to file the complaint, a member of the agency's Internal Affairs Unit can visit you at your home, place of business, or other location. However, in most cases, complaints can be accepted over the phone or any other electronic means.
  
- Your complaint will be sent to a superior officer or specifically trained internal affairs officer who will conduct a thorough and objective investigation.
  
- You might be asked to help in the investigation by giving a detailed statement about what happened or providing other important information.
  
- All complaints against law enforcement officers are thoroughly investigated. You will be advised in writing of the outcome of the investigation.
  
- If our investigation shows that a crime might have been committed, the county prosecutor will be notified. You might be asked to testify in court.
  
- If our investigation results in an officer being charged with a violation of department rules, you might be asked to testify in a departmental hearing.
  
- If our investigation shows that the complaint is unfounded or that the officer acted properly, the matter will be closed.

- All disciplinary hearings shall be closed to the public unless the defendant officer requests an open hearing.

***It is unlawful to provide information in this matter, which you do not believe to be true.***

***You may call Lieutenant Steven Ferraioli at 973-326-7634 with any additional information or any questions about the case.***