From: Natalie N. Bailey
To: David Forbes
Subject: RE: Inquiry about citizen BCSO complaints
Date: Friday, March 13, 2015 11:10:00 AM

You are correct, there were 16 complaints in 2014. Thanks for your patience, and have a good weekend. nnb

From: David Forbes [mailto:thebreakingtime@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 11:09 AM
To: Natalie N. Bailey
Subject: Re: Inquiry about citizen BCSO complaints

No worries, thank you for your help on this. I appreciate the prompt reply to our open records request and I look forward to talking further Monday. I'm guessing the 16, not the 1, is the number of investigations for 2014.

Also, to make sure I understand this correctly: BCSO tracks numbers of investigations without dividing them down further (by type or results of complaint, etc). Just want to ensure that I convey this to readers accurately.

Thanks,

David Forbes
828-335-2529

On Fri, Mar 13, 2015 at 11:02 AM, Natalie N. Bailey <Natalie.Bailey@buncombecounty.org> wrote:
David,

Sorry about leaving out the 2014 numbers; you can find them below. I'll work on getting you a phone interview. nnb

2014	16	1

From: David Forbes [mailto:thebreakingtime@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 11:01 AM
To: Natalie N. Bailey
Subject: Re: Inquiry about citizen BCSO complaints

Natalie,

Thank you so much for this information, this is incredibly useful. Just to clarify: are numbers for 2014 not available yet? I'd love to do a brief phone interview Monday to get a little more information on this process and the BCSO's education efforts. My schedule is, at this point, fairly open.

Best,

David

On Fri, Mar 13, 2015 at 10:34 AM, Natalie N. Bailey <Natalie.Bailey@buncombecounty.org> wrote:

David,

The Buncombe County Sheriff's Office does keep data on the number of complaints; the complaints by year are listed by year below. As part of our programming efforts this year, the Sheriff's Office will be conducting a public education initiative on the complaint process, and will work with several advocacy groups and organizations in this effort.

The Buncombe County Sheriff's Office investigates each complaint we receive fully, and always makes contact with the complaining party. We work with organizations to take third-party complaints should the complaint feel more comfortable. Let me know what your availability is, and I'll get you set up with an interview. nnb

YEAR	INVESTIGATIONS:
2010	28
2011	22
2012	20
2013	24

From: David Forbes [mailto:thebreakingtime@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 1:38 PM
To: Natalie N. Bailey
Subject: Inquiry about citizen BCSO complaints

Hello and hope you're well.

I'm researching a story for Carolina Public Press and if possible, I'd like to know a few things about citizen complaints about the conduct of BCSO officers or employees:

1) While specific complaints are generally not public record under open records law, does the BCSO keep an annual tally of the number and type of complaints?

If so, please provide those numbers (and breakdown by type of complaint, if any) for 2012-14. As those numbers should not specifically identify any officer or BCSO employee, they are public record.

2) If the BCSO does not keep a tally of such complaints, why not? Has tracking such been considered before?

3) In the next few days, I'd like to talk briefly with you or another BCSO official about the process for citizen complaints and how the sheriff's office handles and assesses those.

Sincerely,

David Forbes

828-335-2529