

The Somerville Police Department is dedicated to providing the best police service possible to all citizens. Employees are carefully selected and trained to provide service to the community. This web page gives an overview of the ways to commend exemplary performance or file a complaint against a Police Department employee.

Commendations

If you see a Police Department employee exhibit outstanding behavior, tell the employee – or us – about it. Following are suggestions for commending an employee.

How to commend a Police Department employee:

- Write a letter to the City Manager or the Police Chief at:
Somerville Police Department

150 8th Street, P.O. Box 159

Somerville, TX 77879

Commendation letters are logged and placed in the employee's permanent personnel file.

- Call the Police Department at 979-596-1633 and ask to speak with the employee's supervisor.
- If you are unsure of the employee's name, describe the employee and list the specific actions or demeanor that impressed you. Mention the location, date and time the incident occurred.

Complaints

When a citizen has a complaint against a Police Department employee the complaint is directed to the Chief of Police.

Texas law requires that all complaints against police officers be in writing and signed by the person making the complaint. Complaints must be made within 30 days of the incident unless special circumstances exist. The person who was wronged must file the complaint; other persons may give statements as witnesses.

The Chief of Police will ensure that a thorough investigation of your complaint is conducted. Just as citizens who are arrested must be told the charges against them, a police employee must be given a copy of the complaint before any disciplinary action is taken. When the investigation is completed, you will be notified of the results and action taken.

False Complaints

Filing a false complaint against a police employee is a violation of the Texas Penal Code, Section 37.02. If a person knowingly and intentionally makes a false statement under oath or swears to the truth of a false statement previously made under oath, a person may be found guilty and punished by a fine up to \$4,000, confinement in jail up to one year, or by both fine and imprisonment.

What happens when a complaint is upheld?

When the investigation finds that the charges against a police employee are true, the Police Chief notifies the employee and may take one of the following actions:

- (1) reprimand the employee verbally or in writing;
- (2) suspend the employee without pay;
- (3) demote the employee; or
- (4) discharge the employee.

Employees can appeal the department's decision to uphold a complaint and the decision to discipline the employee.

What happens when a complaint is not upheld?

Complaints must be supported by sufficient evidence. When the investigation cannot find the degree of evidence necessary to prove the employee acted improperly, the employee and the citizen are both notified in writing.

Racial Profiling Complaints

CCP Art. 2.132 Law Enforcement Policy on Racial Profiling requires the department to provide public education on the racial profiling complaint process. For the Somerville Police Department, this process is the same as the department's complaint process, as described on this web site.

The Somerville Police Department is vitally interested in taking action when its employees are derelict in their duties or are guilty of wrongdoing. Your complaint will be given a fair and thorough investigation.
Somerville Police Department

150 8th Street, P.O. Box 159
Somerville, Tx. 77897
979-596-1633

Somervilletx.gov