The mission of the San José Independent Police Auditor is to provide independent oversight of the citizen complaint process to ensure its fairness, thoroughness, and objectivity.
INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR

The Independent Police Auditor (IPA) provides the public with an objective review of police misconduct investigations in order to instill confidence in the complaint process and to provide independent oversight. In addition, the IPA conducts outreach to the San José community, proposes recommendations to improve San José Police Department (SJPD) policies and procedures, prepares annual public reports about complaint trends, and works to strengthen the relationship between the SJPD and the community it serves.

In 2017-18, the operating expenditures for the IPA totaled $1.3 million, which includes personal and non-personal expenditures. In addition, the IPA was responsible for $54,000 in Citywide expenses, which was spent on the Silicon Valley Foundation Strengthening Community Relations Project. The IPA authorized positions remained unchanged from the prior year—six in 2017-18.

In 2017-18, the IPA received 255 complaints from the public regarding SJPD officers, 13 percent more than the previous year. There were 45 percent fewer complaints than ten years ago. The number of people receiving IPA outreach services at community events or meetings totaled 6,379 in 2017-18.

Note: The IPA audits only those complaints classified as “conduct complaints” or “policy complaints”. In general, the SJPD must complete its complaint investigation within one year from the date that the complaint was received. Thus, complaints received in one fiscal year may not be closed and audited until the following fiscal year.