AUDIT HIGHLIGHTS

Crime Reporting Statistics

April 14, 2022   Audit No. 2007

WHAT WE FOUND

The department can improve its processes to ensure data submitted to and reported by DPS is complete and accurate.

Based on our review of incident data and the department's quality review process, crime statistics were generally reported accurately, though some quality control processes could be improved. We found:

- Inconsistencies in coding incident dispositions resulted in minor errors in the number of crimes and clearances reported. Inconsistencies may also affect the accuracy of internal department data on clearances.
- Because of the transition to the new reporting method, crimes that occurred in the past but were reported to SPD in 2021 are not included in crime statistics.
- Errors and outdated information in the statute mapping table may impact the accuracy of crime reporting.
- Overrides to UCR codes are not routinely documented and reviewed.

Some aspects of crime reporting could be improved.

Specifically, we found:

- Written procedures would help promote consistency in the quality review process, and review of duplicate clearances may no longer be needed.
- A change review and approval process is needed for modifications to the statute mapping.
- 2021 crime statistics are not currently available on the SPD website.

WHAT WE RECOMMEND

We recommend the Police Chief require staff to:

- Clarify reporting procedures to ensure consistency in coding and establish processes to verify the completeness of data submitted to DPS/NIBRS.
- Ensure the statute mapping review is completed and establish a process for managing changes.
- Establish written procedures for the monthly quality review, require override reasons to be documented and reviewed, and evaluate whether the review of duplicate clearances can be eliminated.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The department agreed with the recommendations and plans to complete implementation by the end of calendar year 2022.