

Citizen Complaint Form

Menands Police Department Professional Standards and Conduct

The importance of your complaint:

The Menands Police Department recognizes that its employees are responsible for their conduct and accountable to the public. The Department also acknowledges that sometimes conflicts arise between citizens and employees. It is essential to the safety of our community that the relationship between the police and citizens is built on confidence and trust. Law enforcement cannot be effective without this vital relationship.

Police Officers have the authority by law to initiate proper action in a reasonable, lawful, and impartial manner without fear of reprisal. At the same time, they must observe the rights of all people. The complaint process and appropriate disciplinary procedures not only subject agency members to corrective action when they conduct themselves improperly, the guidelines also protect them from unwarranted criticism when they discharge their duties properly.

The complaint process is designed to deal with each case factually and fairly. Citizens who file complaints are treated respectfully, and their accusations are taken seriously. All complaints are investigated thoroughly, and all findings are based on impartial evidence gained during the investigation.

Complaint Procedures:

Many complaints can be explained satisfactorily by a visit or telephone call to the police employee's supervisor. The supervisor will talk to you about your complaint and try to resolve it. A disagreement over the validity of a traffic infraction is not a complaint, and should be directed to the appropriate court having jurisdiction over the matter.

Complaints may be initiated in person, over the phone or in writing. However, for the complaint to be considered by the Chief of Police, it must be in writing and signed by the person making the complaint. Complaints will not be accepted more than 30 days after the alleged incident occurred. A copy of the signed complaint will be provided to the involved officer before an investigation or disciplinary action may be taken.

Dispositions:

After a thorough investigation, the complaint will be classified in one of the following ways:

Unfounded: The incident did not occur, or the affected employee was not involved.

Exonerated: The action complained of was determined to be lawful, proper and in accordance with department rules and procedures.

Not Sustained: There is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation.

Cancelled: The investigation cannot be completed because the employee no longer works for the Menands Police Department, or the complainant refused to cooperate.

Sustained: The allegation is true and the action of the employee was inconsistent with Department rules and procedures.

