



Whistleblower Program Annual Newsletter

FY 2007-08

Whistleblower Hotline
3-1-1 / TTY: 415-701-2323

Outside of area code 415:
415-701-2311 /
TTY: 415-701-2323

Online
www.sfgov.org/whistleblower

E-mail
whistleblower@sfgov.org

Postal mail
Whistleblower Program
c/o Controller
City Hall – Room 316
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.
San Francisco, CA 94102

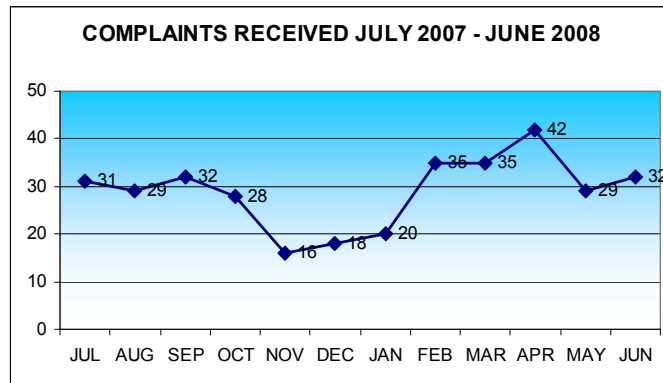
Tips for Submitting a Whistleblower Complaint

There are a few things you can do to assist the Controller’s Whistleblower Program investigator when you file a complaint such as providing your contact information and including as much detail as possible. Too many complaints are closed because of insufficient detail and no way for the investigator to ask follow-up questions. Contact information will remain confidential and will only be available to the investigators. If you provide an email address, make sure to adjust your spam settings to accept emails from whistleblower@sfgov.org.



Complaints Received in Fiscal Year 2007-08

The Whistleblower Program received 347 complaints July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, and closed 330 complaints during the same period.



Below are examples of complaint allegations and investigation results from some of the 188 complaints closed during the period January 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008. (See the 2007-08 Mid-Year Report on our website for examples from the first half of Fiscal Year 2007-08.)

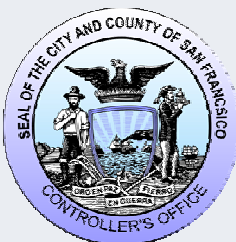
Complaint Allegation

Allegation that a City worker exaggerated their education and employment history to qualify for a position.



Resolution

The complaint was found to have merit. An investigation into the employee’s background by the Department of Human Resources revealed a questionable college degree, limited work experience, and a potentially counterfeit letter of recommendation. The employee was given time to respond to the allegation but chose to resign instead.



Complaint Allegation

Resolution



Allegation that during work hours a City employee was double parking their City vehicle outside of a bar, going inside to imbibe, and then returning to drive their vehicle.

This complaint was found to have merit. Surveillance was performed and the employee's department used their global positioning system to track the employees driving history and determined that they had stopped at the bar's location many times in the past. The employee was confronted and the department pursued disciplinary action.

Allegation that a resident filed a claim against the City to recoup funds when their home was damaged in a fire after already being fully reimbursed by their homeowners insurance.

This complaint was found to have merit. The City Attorney's claim division was able to determine that the claimant had already been reimbursed by their insurance company and was ineligible for City reimbursement. The claim was rejected.



Allegation that the restroom windows at Margaret S. Hayward playground were constructed in a way that allows people to see inside.



This complaint was found to have merit. The Recreation and Park Department inspected the windows and determined people using the tennis courts could see in to the ladies restroom. The Department of Public Works quickly installed frosted glass to prevent people from being able to see inside.

Allegation that the Director of the Animal Care and Control bypassed civil service rules to create a special manager position for a favorite employee.

This complaint was found to have no merit. A detailed review of the steps taken to establish the position, the selection process, as well as the manager's background was performed by the Civil Service Commission with no violation found.



3-1-1 is not just for whistleblower complaints. When you dial 3-1-1 (or 415-701-2311 if you are outside of area code 415), you will be connected with a representative who will take complaints and requests for information regarding general City services, and will assist with non-emergency City and County of San Francisco government matters. 3-1-1 is available in over 175 languages and offers TTY access. Visit www.sfgov.org/311 for more information.

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