

Officer and Community Perception Surveys: Key Results

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About the Surveys

- Two Surveys
 - Officer Perceptions
 - Community Perceptions
- Surveys were posted from July 23rd through August 7th, 2020
- The Surveys allowed OPOM to evaluate officer and community member perceptions of community-police relations, Fort Worth Police departmental policies and procedures, and community oversight of law enforcement.

Response to the Surveys

- Officer Perception Survey
 - 890 Responses
 - Over 51% of the total number of sworn officers in FWPD
- Community Perception Survey
 - 3,991 Responses
 - Approximately .5% of the total population of the City of Fort Worth

Respondent Demographics: Officers

- 30% of respondents have more than 20 years tenure
- 60.8% of respondents were officers
- More than 70% of respondents were over the age of 36
- Just under 80% of respondents were male
- Over 60% of the respondents were White; race/ethnicity of respondents closely represented the demographics of the department

Respondent Demographics: Community

- 62% of respondents noted their gender identity as Female
- Over 66% of the respondents were White (non-Hispanic)
- 77% of respondents stated they own their residence
- 10 neighborhoods accounted for 33.7% of the respondents (pg. 32)
- 10 zip codes accounted for 53.1% of the respondents (pg. 33)

Key Results: Officers

- 68.5% believe that ongoing de-escalation training is necessary.
- 66.1% of respondents strongly disagree and somewhat disagree with the statement that police officers have reason to distrust most citizens.
- Many noted the need for increased transparency, participation by the community in outreach and engagement efforts, increased understanding in the role and actions of the police, and establishing partnerships to address problems to improve police-community relationships.

Key Results: Officers (cont.)

- Note the need for more support from leadership and city officials, improved recruiting efforts, and efforts to improve diversity within specialized units.
- Although most respondents offer constructive responses, some responses depict issues with morale and disconnect in the perceptions of the community-police relationships.
- Sample Response to “suggestions for assuring the public that police are held accountable:”

“This will never be accomplished until a mode of talking is established. Real-time information, podcasts, long form conversation. Until Police and public can dialog like co-citizens, there will never be true trust on police. Bad ideas and misinformation MUST be addressed and challenged on both sides.”

Key Results: Community

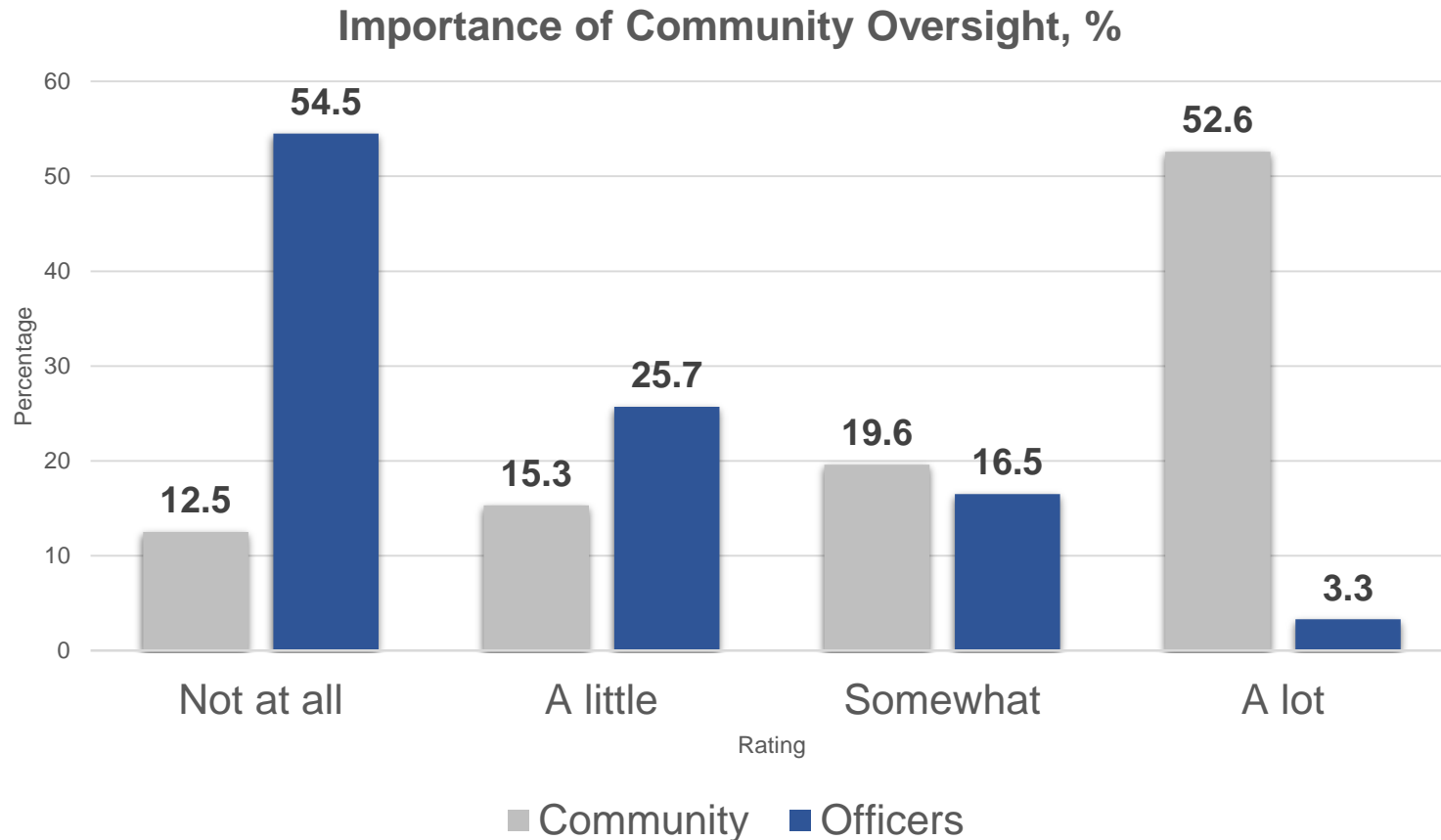
- 62% have a positive view of FWPD performance.
- Majority of all racial groups note that they were treated fairly by FWPD except Black/African Americans (41.2%).
- Most respondents somewhat and strongly agree that the FWPD were legitimate authorities (68.6%), should do what FWPD tells them to do (61.7%), have confidence that FWPD officers can do their job well (65.2%).
- Majority of respondents (52.6%) note that community oversight of the FWPD is very important.

Key Results: Community (cont.)

- While many respondents remain hopeful that relations between community and police will improve, they offer caveats that suggest things will not change unless the police do.
- Respondents cite the need for additional community and recreational programs, mental health resources, and more funding for schools and after-school programs in order to reduce and prevent crime.
- Sample Response to “hopeful that Fort Worth community-police relations will be better in the future:”

“While I remain hopeful that anything is possible, I believe that we must begin to be TOTALLY transparent and fair of the policing done in communities of color. This must start by putting those who look like the communities they serve. Relations will not improve until there is a shift in truly engaging in the communities when there is no crime. But learning and understanding the communities and cultures.”

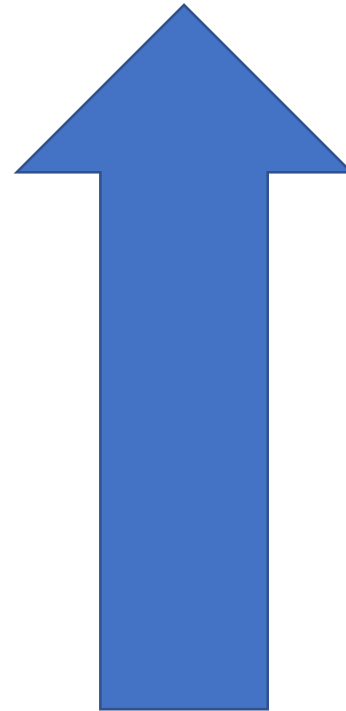
Perceptions about Community Oversight



Perceptions about Community Oversight

Community Members
1. Advance fair and professional policing that is responsive to community needs.
4. Review complaint investigation summaries and provide feedback.
8. Represent the Office of Police Oversight Monitor (OPOM) as a public speaker and disseminate information about OPOM and FWPD.

Most Important



Least Important

Officers
1. Advance fair and professional policing that is responsive to community needs.
4. Review and provide feedback on FWPD policies and procedures.
8. Investigate complaints and provide recommended findings.

The Way Forward

Sample Recommendations

- OPOM should engage the police and community in more positive and constructive methods in order to improve relations and understanding among both sides in order to eliminate assumptions, as well as unfair biases.
- The City should ensure that communities have the tools and information they need to address community issues and concerns in order to limit police interaction.
- FWPD should include diverse community members' input in its problem-solving projects, community policing efforts and its development and changes to policies and procedures.

The Way Forward (cont.)

- OPOM will use the information gathered from these surveys to:
 - Identify specific problem-solving measures and other implications related to FWPD policies, procedures, practices and training.
 - Conduct focus driven Community-Police Collaboration engagements.
 - Provide a recommendation to City leaders on Community Oversight of FWPD.
 - Further develop and enhance the OPOM.

Real engagement is more than just conversation. It means giving the public a voice in how their communities are policed.

Source: Beyond the Conversation: Ensuring Meaningful Police-Community Engagement, 2018. NYU School of Law Policing Project, National Policing Foundation, the National Urban League, and Latham and Watkins Law Firm.

Building a Stronger Community-Police Relationship Together



Summer 2020 Virtual Collaborative Conversation

Join the Office of the Police Oversight Monitor for a discussion with neighbors, community leaders, criminal justice professionals and advocates to discuss how to build stronger community-police relationships. All discussions will also include a bilingual breakout session.

NORTH DIVISION
Sept. 18, 2020
6 - 8 p.m.

WEST DIVISION
Sept. 26, 2020
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

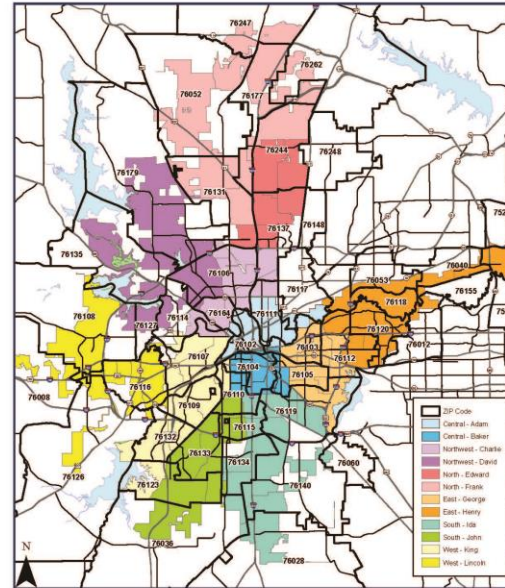
SOUTH DIVISION
Sept. 19, 2020
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

EAST DIVISION
Sept. 29, 2020
6 - 8 p.m.

NORTHWEST DIVISION
Sept. 22, 2020
6 - 8 p.m.

CENTRAL DIVISION
Sept. 30, 2020
6 - 8 p.m.

Register online for this virtual event by visiting:
www.FortWorthTexas.gov/OPOM



Locate your Neighborhood Division by Zip Code on the map

WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPACT
SUSTAINABLE CHANGE IN FORT WORTH

Thank you!

- ✓ Fort Worth Community Members
- ✓ Fort Worth Community Partners
- ✓ City Leaders
- ✓ Fort Worth Police Department
- ✓ Fort Worth Community and Public Engagement Department
- ✓ Staff of Office of the Police Monitor



Thank you!

Office of the Police Oversight Monitor

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