

OFFICE OF THE POLICE OVERSIGHT MONITOR

Monthly Report
May 2025



Office of the Police
Oversight Monitor

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Fort Worth Community,

Every month brings new opportunities to listen, reflect, and take meaningful action—and May was no exception. From helping assess the future of policing in Fort Worth to connecting directly with students, families, and advocates across the city, our team continues to show up with purpose and heart.

This month, OPOM leadership participated in FWPDP oral boards to help assess candidates for their readiness to serve Fort Worth with integrity, fairness, and respect for all communities. During these interviews, candidates are evaluated not only on their decision-making and communication skills, but also on their ability to demonstrate empathy, cultural awareness, and a commitment to constitutional policing. Our goal is to ensure the right people are being hired—those who can build trust and uphold public safety with accountability. Together with FWPDP leadership, we bring diverse perspectives to the table to ensure every angle is considered in these critical hiring decisions.

In addition to our internal oversight work, we engaged with the public at eight community events this month. We held community office hours in Central and East Fort Worth, where residents had a chance to speak with us one-on-one. We joined students at Carroll Peak Elementary for Career Day and had the privilege of speaking at LULAC 102's Chorizo and Menudo Breakfast, a monthly event that fosters community awareness and connection.

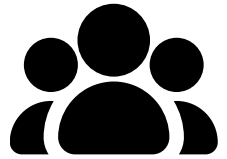
Looking ahead, I invite you to join us for our upcoming Know Your Rights event on Friday, July 12th at the Tarrant County Reentry Coalition – First Stop Center (2300 Circle Dr.). This event is designed to support individuals re-entering our community after incarceration and will provide tools, information, and resources to help navigate that journey. Attendees will also gain a better understanding of their rights—especially as they relate to interactions with police officers—empowering them to advocate for themselves and engage safely and confidently with law enforcement. For more details, please visit our website.

Thank you for staying engaged and helping us build a more informed and accountable Fort Worth.

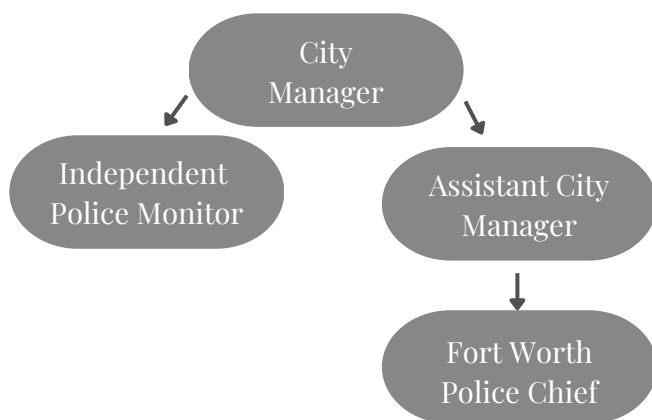


Sincerely,
Banyale Sohunbi
Independent Police Monitor

WHO WE ARE?

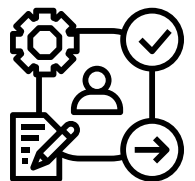


*"Fostering Community Trust
Through Collaboration and Law
Enforcement Accountability and
Transparency."*



In response to a high-profile police incident and protests in 2017, the Fort Worth City Council formed a task force of community leaders. Initially focused on race and culture discussions, it expanded to address disparities in areas like criminal justice, economic development, education, health, housing, and governance. The criminal justice committee concluded its work by advising the city council to establish a monitor for police oversight. In February 2020, Office of the Police Oversight Monitor (OPOM) was established in accordance with city ordinance and commenced operations in March of 2020 to provide oversight and accountability of Fort Worth law enforcement. OPOM reports directly to the City Manager.

WHAT WE DO?



In order to achieve its mission, the OPOM engages in the following primary functions:

- Receives civilian complaints and refers them to Fort Worth Police Department Internal Affairs.
- Audit FWPD training sessions, body-worn camera footage, and use of force reports to ensure adherence to departmental policies.
- Engage with the community regularly to gather input, identify solutions, and improve relations.
- Collect and analyze data related to citizen complaints, uses of force, critical incidents, and other reviews.
- Create a citizen-police mediation program for conflict resolution and improving perceptions.
- Monitor FWPD contact and complaint investigations, identify patterns, and recommend changes.
- Serve as a civilian oversight agency to ensure greater accountability and public trust in the FWPD.
- Provide periodic public reports documenting findings, analysis, and recommendations.
- Review policies and procedures to meet or exceed best practices and address emerging trends.

MISCONDUCT WORK



What is Misconduct?

Police misconduct is the action or lack thereof of an officer that violates any rule, police procedure, order, verbal or written instruction of the FWPD or is a violation of any city ordinance, state or federal criminal law. Misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Use of Force
- Abuse of Authority
- Failure to supervise
- Falsification of records
- Inappropriate language or attitude
- Harassment
- Interference with Constitutional rights
- Neglect of duty
- Discrimination
- Theft
- Retaliation for filing a complaint

Total complaints
received for 2025

39

Total complaints
received this month

11

Behind the scenes:



Putting our training into action! Our team is following up and collaborating on case planning using our newly updated case review matrix. Continuous improvement at work.

Definitions

Complaint - an allegation of misconduct filed against a FWPD officer(s) by a community member. A complaint may concern an action or lack of action taken by an officer(s), an interaction with an officer, or a witnessed interaction with an officer.

Complainant - the individual who files a complaint against a FWPD officer(s). The complainant doesn't need to be personally affected by the incident.

Complaint form - used to file a formal complaint concerning a police encounter via the OPOM online interactive portal.

Formal Complaints - inquiries confirmed as formal complaints and are currently being reviewed. A complaint form has been received.

Inquiry - any and all contacts received by OPOM.

Complaint Process

Receives your complaint/commendation and sends a receipt of acknowledgment.

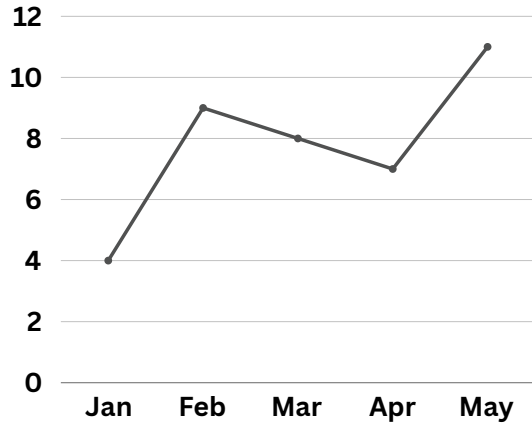
Reviews and forwards complaint/commendation to FWPD's Internal Affairs for review/Investigation.

Monitors the FWPD compliant investigation. The investigation can take up to 90 days.

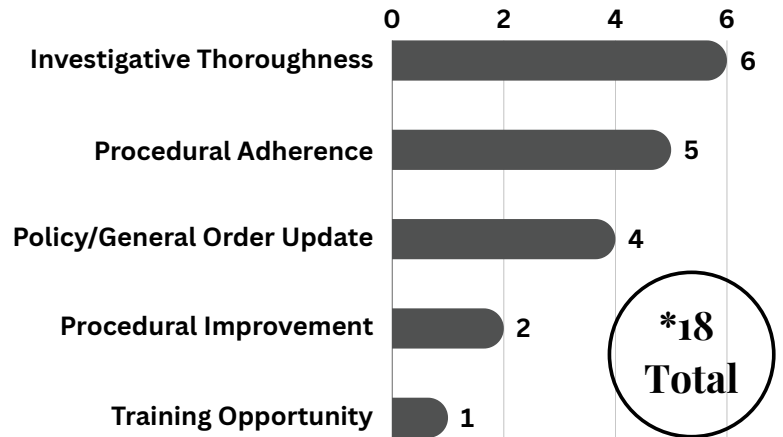
Reviews the complete FWPD complaint investigation and provides feedback and recommendations to the FWPD as appropriate.

Notifies you once OPOM's review of FWPD's investigation is complete.

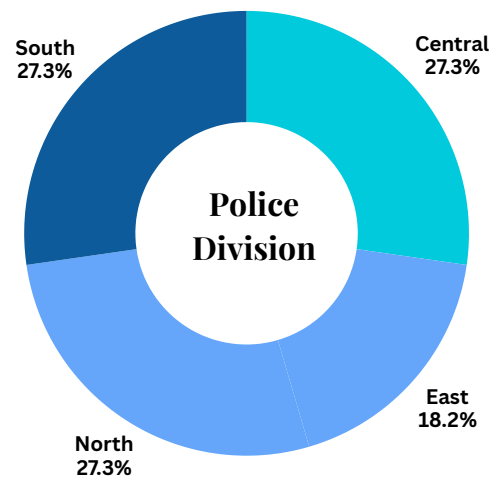
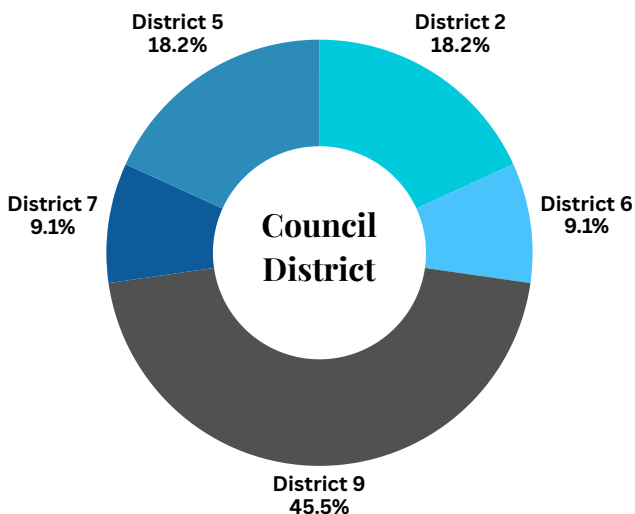
Formal Complaints by Month



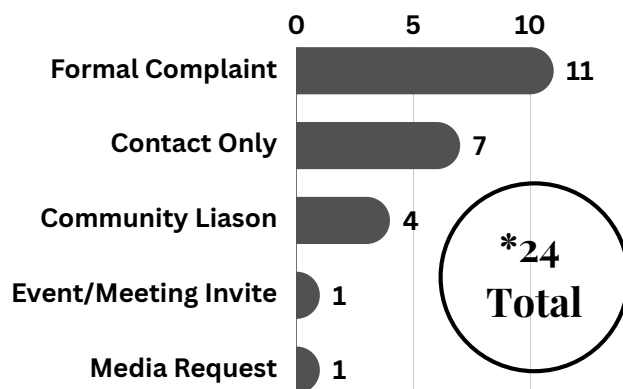
OPOM Recommendations (January 2025 - Present)



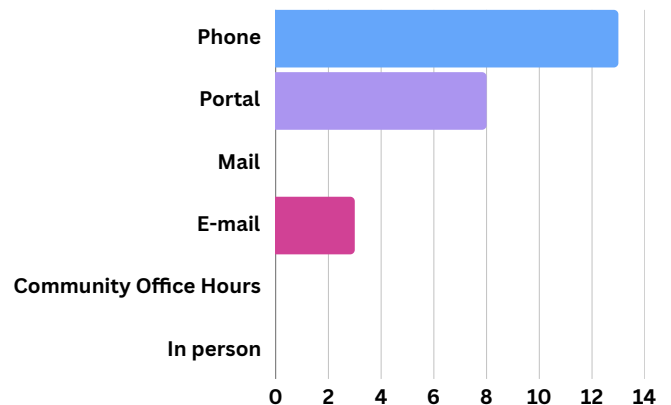
May Formal Complaints by Location



May Inquiries Defined

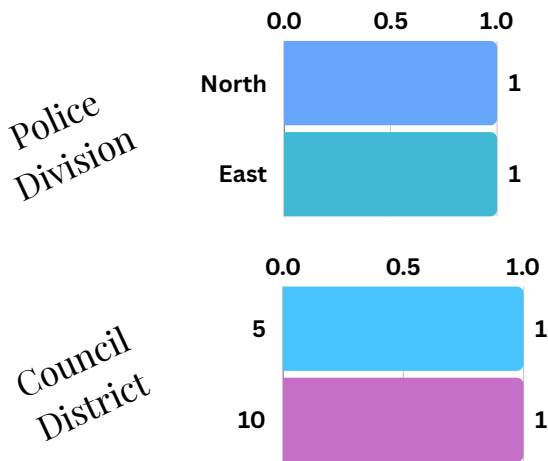


May Inquiries Contact Methods



*Data shown above is based on complaints received directly by OPOM

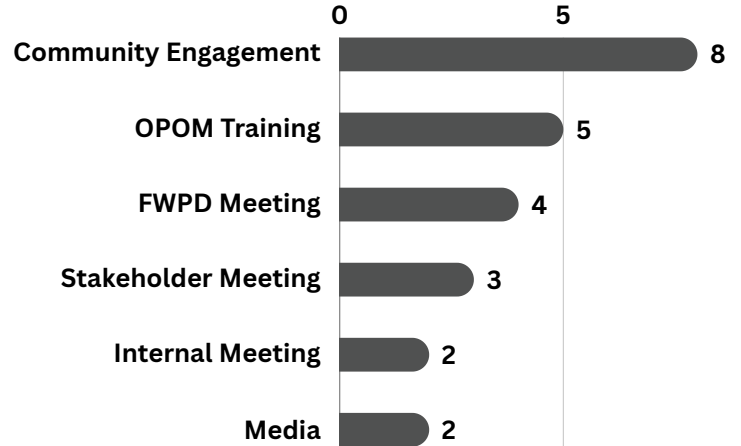
2025 YTD Commendations



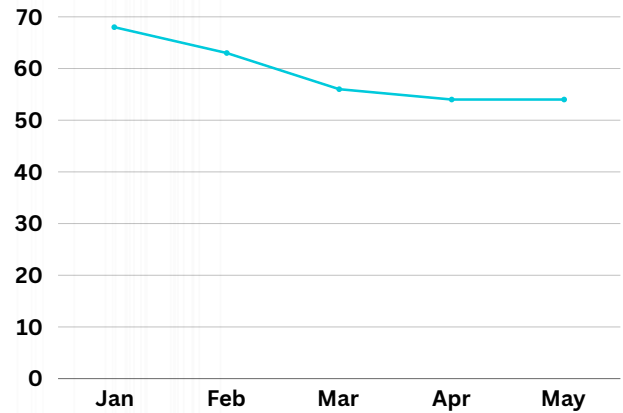
Complaints can also be received directly by FWPDP Internal Affairs. After Internal Affairs conducts their investigations, they send the completed reports to OPOM. OPOM's role is to review these investigations to ensure they are comprehensive, thorough, and unbiased.

This is to maintain accountability and fairness in the process.

May Activity Tracking



IA Complaints Received by OPOM



April Top Formal Complaints Allegations

- Weapon Violation
- Professional Conduct
- Police Pursuit Violation

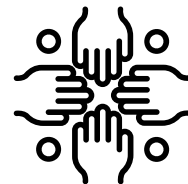
*Based on complaints received from IA

Never stop learning!



Great insights and connections at the Communicators Conference at TCU! Always learning, always growing. Go Frogs!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Your insights, questions, and feedback are essential in shaping a more transparent and accountable law enforcement system. We want to hear from you!

Invite Us to Your Community Events:

Have a gathering, town hall, or community event coming up? We'd love to be a part of it! Our team is available to attend and participate, sharing information about our office, answering questions, and fostering open dialogue.

Share Your Feedback:

Your thoughts matter. Whether you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, we want to hear them. Reach out to us to share your experiences, offer feedback, or discuss any aspect of police-community relations.

How to Connect:

For event invitations, presentations, or general inquiries, feel free to contact us at 817.392.6518. Your proactive engagement strengthens the bond between our office and the community we serve.

Types of Events

Tabling Events

Neighborhood Meetings

Community Conversations

Police Roll Calls

Educational Presentations



Things are better when we come together!

Police Monitor Bonycle Sokunbi had the honor of speaking at **LULAC 102's Chorizo and Menudo Breakfast**—a monthly event held every first Saturday, free and open to the public.



Honored to support youth at the **OCOK PAL Graduation** as they transition into adulthood. Celebrating resilience, growth, and new beginnings!



COMMUNITY-POLICE MEDIATION

Referrals are on the rise!

What is Mediation?

Community-Police Mediation is a voluntary process that brings together professionally trained community mediators to facilitate a dialogue between community members and law enforcement. It provides a space for open, two-way dialogue, allowing both parties to express their concerns, perceptions, and expectations in a confidential and non-judgmental way. It aims to address conflicts, build understanding, and improve relations between the police and the community they serve. **The goal is to foster a more positive and collaborative relationship between the police and the community.**

What is a referral?

OPOM receives referrals for mediation directly from Internal Affairs after they review the complaint and determine the officer is eligible. OPOM review it to see if the case is suitable for mediation. This includes checking the officer's history and the nature of the complaint. If it qualifies and both parties agree, a mediation session may be offered as an alternative to a formal investigation.

Mediation is -

- Non-judgmental
- Confidential
- Voluntary

What qualifies for mediation?

- Rudeness/Discourteousness
- Neglect of Duty
- Unprofessionalism

Some common scenarios:

- A community member feels disrespected during a traffic stop and wants to explain their experience directly to the officer.
- A misunderstanding during a welfare check led to fear or frustration, and both parties want a chance to talk it through.
- A resident is upset about the tone or language used by an officer and wants clarity and accountability.
- An officer wants the opportunity to explain their intent and listen to a resident's concerns without the formal tone of an investigation.

6

Total Complaints
Mediated

Satisfaction Rate by
Complainants:

100%

Satisfaction Rate by
Officers:

100%

GET INVOLVED



Attend Events

Join us for discussions to share your experiences and thoughts. The more diverse voices we hear, the richer our understanding becomes.

Stay Informed

Follow us on social media for updates on the upcoming events, report releases, and helpful information. Subscribe to our Monthly Newsletter.

Spread the Word

Let your friends, family, and neighbors know that OPOM is a safe place to voice concerns.

Reasons to reach out:

- Concerns of misconduct
- To report positive interactions
- Concerns regarding transparency and accountability
- Policy and procedure inquiries
- Feedback and suggestions

Ways to reach out:

- **Online:** <https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/opom>
- **Email:** PoliceOversight@fortworthtexas.gov
- **In person:** Call 817.392.6535 to make an appointment or stop by anytime between 8-5pm
- **By Mail:** Office of the Police Oversight Monitor
200 Texas St
Fort worth, TX 76102



FortWorthPoliceOversight



FWPoliceMonitor



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REFERENCES



Data Source:

This report uses data from the following data sources, which are updated daily for tracking purposes:

- FWPD IA Complaint Notifications
- OPOM Inquiry Complaint Tracking spreadsheet
- OPOM Recommendations Tracking spreadsheet

DATA IS NOT CONSIDERED FINALIZED UNTIL OPOM ISSUES ITS ANNUAL REPORT