

OFFICE OF THE POLICE OVERSIGHT MONITOR

Monthly Report
July 2025



Office of the Police
Oversight Monitor

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Fort Worth Community,

July was all about education – and what a month it was. Our big win? Helping different communities across Fort Worth understand why police oversight matters and how it actually works in practice. I believe educating the public about our work is essential – when people are informed and empowered with knowledge about their community, everyone benefits.

We opened our doors wide this month, literally and figuratively. The Dallas Police Oversight team visited our new office, and the conversation was eye-opening for both sides. We compared notes on what works, what doesn't, and how we can all do better for the people we serve. It's always valuable to learn from colleagues facing similar challenges.

Then we tried something new – "Pie and Hi" with our neighbors. A nod to my southern roots, we shared pie and sweet tea while tackling the myths and misconceptions about police oversight head-on. Those honest conversations reminded me that real trust happens one genuine exchange at a time, not through glossy brochures or formal presentations.

We also hosted City Manager's Office interns who wanted to understand how community-police relationships actually improve through transparency and accountability. Meanwhile, our OPOM team visited Unbound to learn about their critical work fighting human trafficking right here in Tarrant County, and how they and FWPd are addressing this issue from different but complementary perspectives. These cross-sector conversations strengthen everyone's work.

Our interns got real-world experience through ride-alongs with Fort Worth Police – seeing public safety from a different angle. And our Next Gen Ambassadors? They absolutely blew me away with their final presentations. Their fresh perspectives and energy remind me why investing in young leaders is so important.

We wrapped up July at District 6's Town Hall at the Como Community Center, where we met newly elected Councilmember Mia Hall and connected with residents about oversight's role in our city. These face-to-face conversations are where the real work happens.

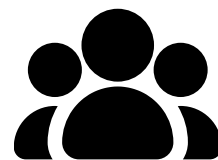
Here's what struck me most this month: education works best when it's a two-way street. Whether someone drops by for pie, we visit a partner organization, or young people share their vision for change – every interaction teaches us something. Each conversation moves Fort Worth closer to the kind of community where trust isn't just an aspiration, but something we build together every day.

Thank you for being part of these important conversations.

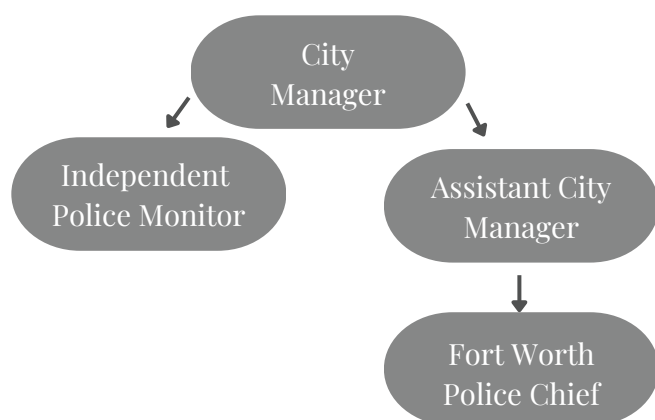


Sincerely,
Bonyale Sokunbi
Independent Police Monitor

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:

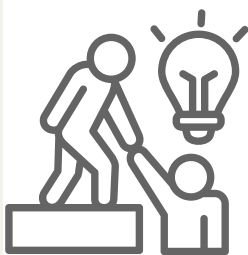
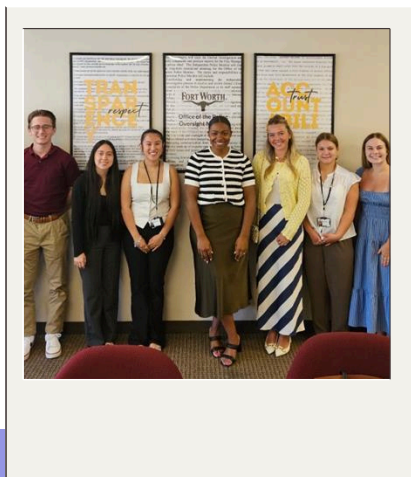
- Use of Force
- Abuse of Authority
- Failure to supervise
- Falsification of records
- Inappropriate language or attitude
- Harassment
- Interference with Constitutional rights
- Neglect of duty
- Discrimination
- Theft
- Retaliation for filing a complaint

Total complaints
received for 2025

56

Total complaints
received this month

11



OPOM hosted **City Manager's Office interns** for a morning of learning about police oversight

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.

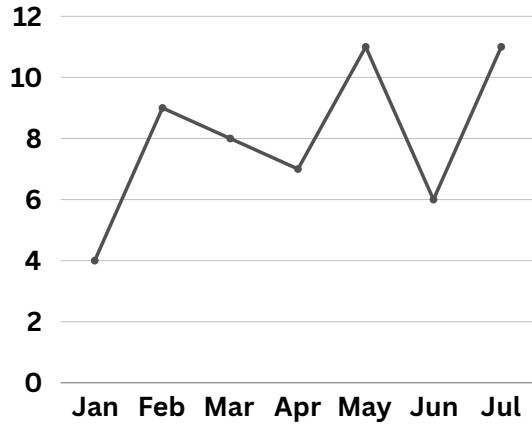
Reviews and forwards complaint/commendation to FWPD's Internal Affairs for review/Investigation.

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

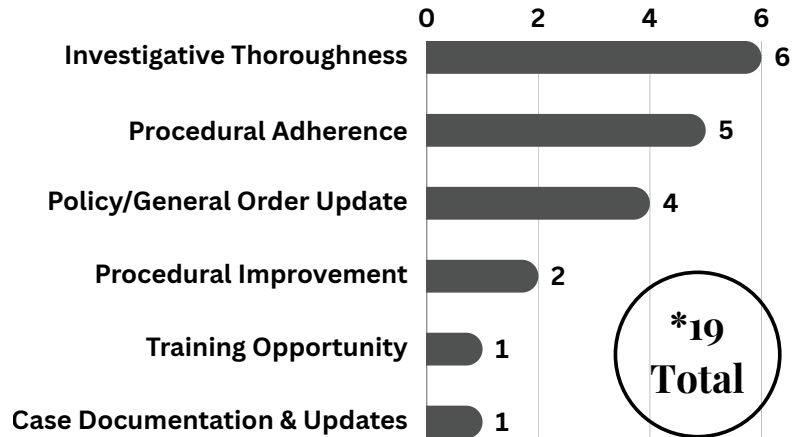
Reviews the complete FWPD complaint investigation and provides feedback and recommendations to the FWPD as appropriate.

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

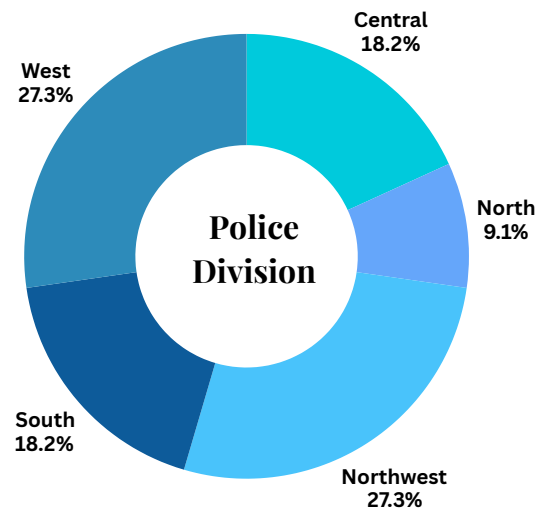
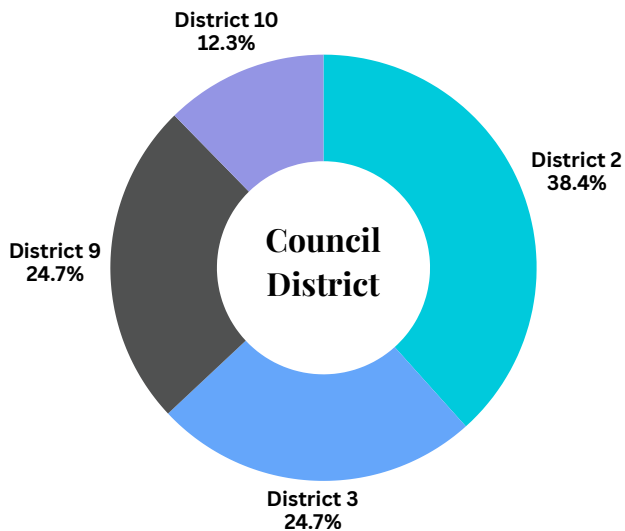
Formal Complaints by Month



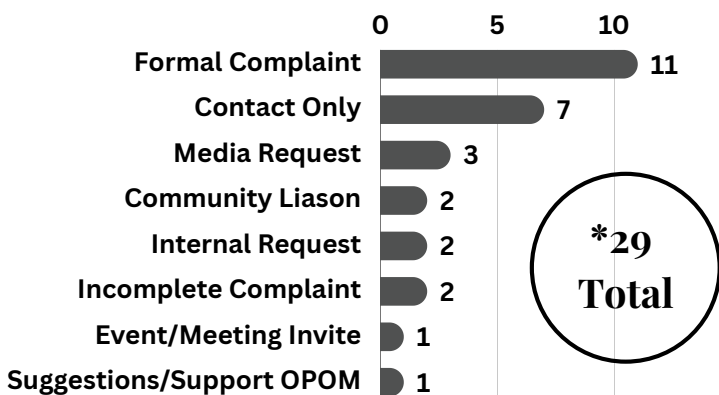
OPOM Recommendations (January 2025 - Present)



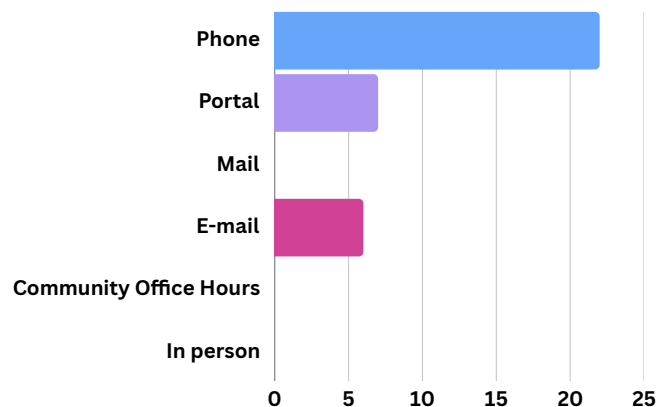
July Formal Complaints by Location



July Inquiries Defined



July Inquiries Contact Methods

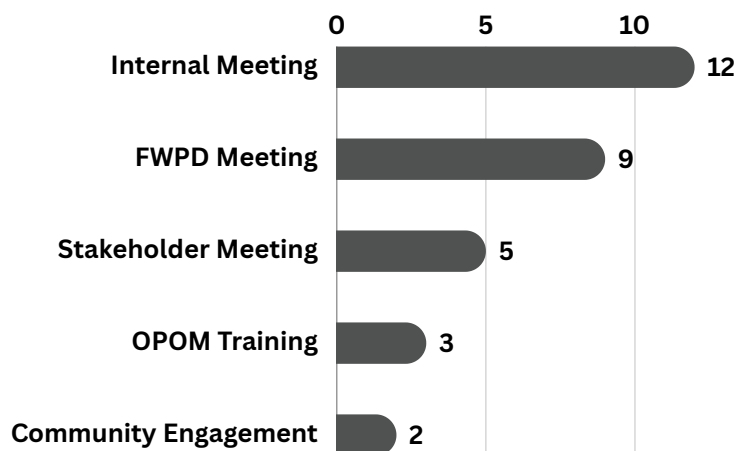


*Data shown above is based on complaints received directly by OPOM

2025 YTD Commendations



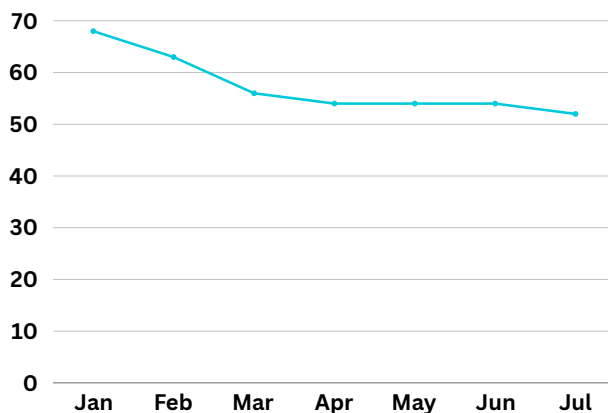
July Activity Tracking



Complaints can also be received directly by FWPD 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.

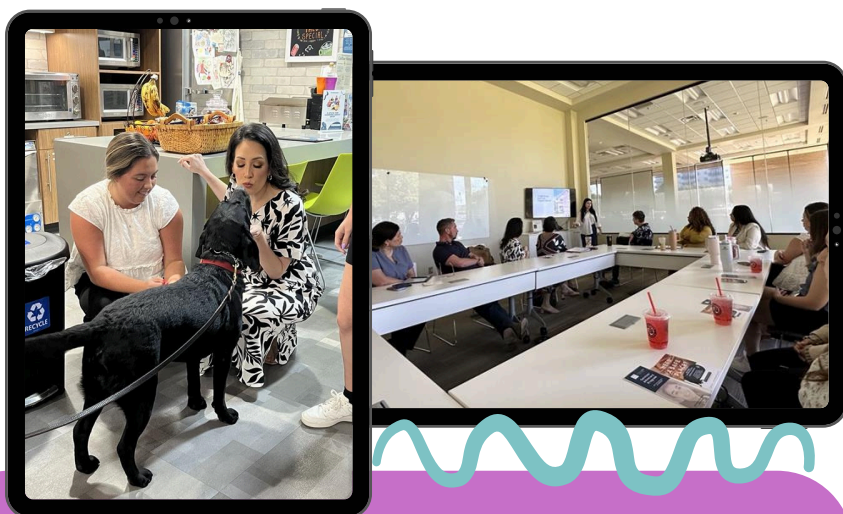
IA Complaints Received by OPOM



July Top Formal Complaints Allegations

- Harassment
- Unprofessionalism
- Civil Rights Violation

*Based on complaints received from IA



OPOM met Theo the therapy dog while learning about **Unbound's** work to combat human trafficking in Fort Worth.

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

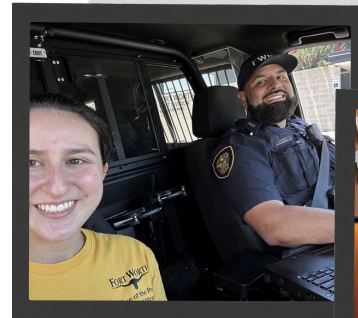
Community Conversations

Police Roll Calls

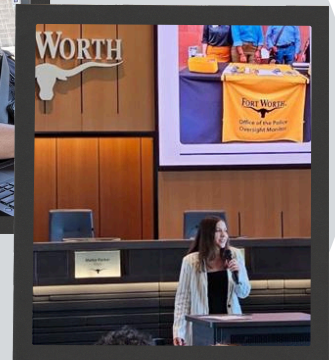
Educational Presentations



Interns Engaged!



Ride-a-longs



Next Gen Graduation



Pie-n-Hi



District Six Update



Meet with Dallas Oversight

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 happens during mediation?

During a mediation session, a community member and an officer meet face-to-face with two trained, neutral mediators. The conversation takes place in a private setting and allows both parties to share their perspectives, listen to each other, and work toward understanding. Mediators guide the dialogue but do not take sides or issue decisions.

The goal is not to determine who is right or wrong. It is to create a space where both voices can be heard, misunderstandings can be addressed, and mutual respect can begin to grow.

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.

7

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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Click or scan the QR code to visit our Linktree and follow our socials

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