

OFFICE OF THE POLICE OVERSIGHT MONITOR

Monthly Report
August 2025



Office of the Police
Oversight Monitor

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Fort Worth Community,

What a busy August we've had! Our team was out in the community connecting with residents at local events, moving forward with our mediation program, and celebrating important milestones with FWPD—all while working toward the accountability and collaboration Fort Worth deserves.

This month, we brought together our amazing volunteers for the 2025 Mediator + Ambassador Mid-Year Update and Role Play Session. It was inspiring to see everyone reflect on our progress, sharpen their mediation skills, and gear up for more meaningful community-police conversations ahead. Our dedicated interns also attended FWPD's Lateral Class #11 Graduation—these moments matter, and we believe in showing up when our city's police force reaches important milestones.

Community Office Hours continue to be one of our favorite ways to meet you where you are. This month, we had the opportunity to connect with residents at Betsy Price Community Center. There's something powerful about bringing our office directly into neighborhoods across the city, making oversight truly accessible.

We also had the opportunity to train alongside FWPD's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), learning firsthand how officers and MHMR liaisons respond to mental health crises. This kind of collaboration helps us better understand and monitor police practices, especially in these complex and sensitive situations.

In other Fort Worth developments, the city selected Eddie Garcia as our new Chief of Police following an extensive process, including a community forum where residents like you had the chance to provide input on this crucial decision. Chief Garcia will be officially sworn in mid-September, and we're looking forward to working with him as he takes on this important role.

We were also honored to host visitors from Colorado, who came to Fort Worth to learn about our oversight model as they build their own police oversight office. It's incredibly meaningful to share what we've learned and help other cities strengthen accountability and trust between law enforcement and their communities.

Looking ahead to September, we have two exciting opportunities for you to engage with us: Coffee with OPOM at Enduro Coffee and our Community Forum in Spanish. Both events are designed to make oversight more accessible and ensure every voice in our diverse community can be heard.

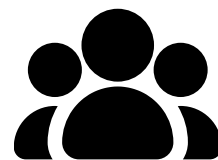
Thank you for continuing this important work with us. Fort Worth is stronger when we all have a seat at the table.

Sincerely,

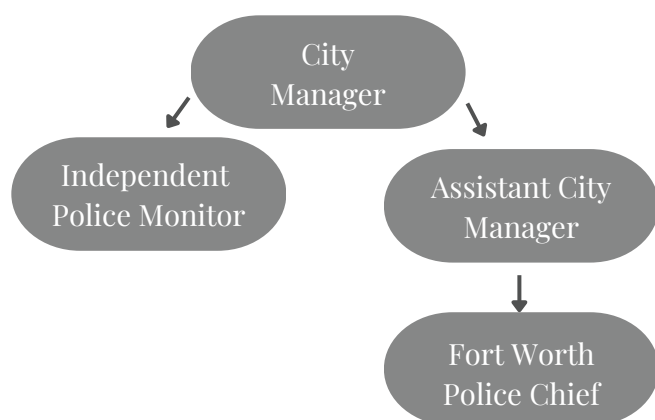
Banyole Sokunbi
Independent Police Monitor



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

64

Total complaints
received this month

8



OPOM interns supported FWPD's recent police promotional ceremony.

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.

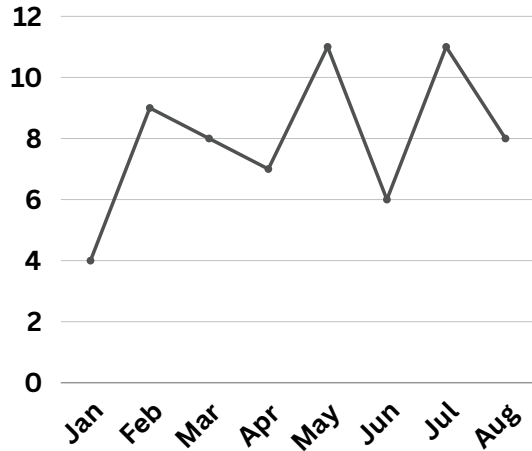
Reviews and forwards complaint/commendation to FWPD's Internal Affairs for review/Investigation.

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

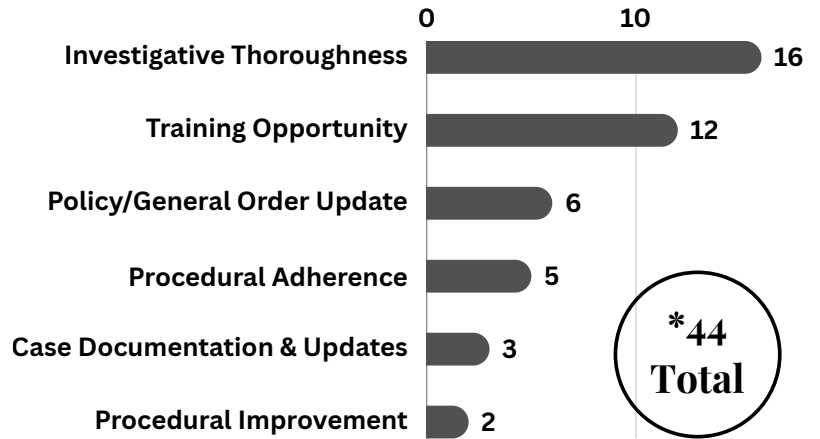
Reviews the complete FWPD complaint investigation and provides feedback and recommendations to the FWPD as appropriate.

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

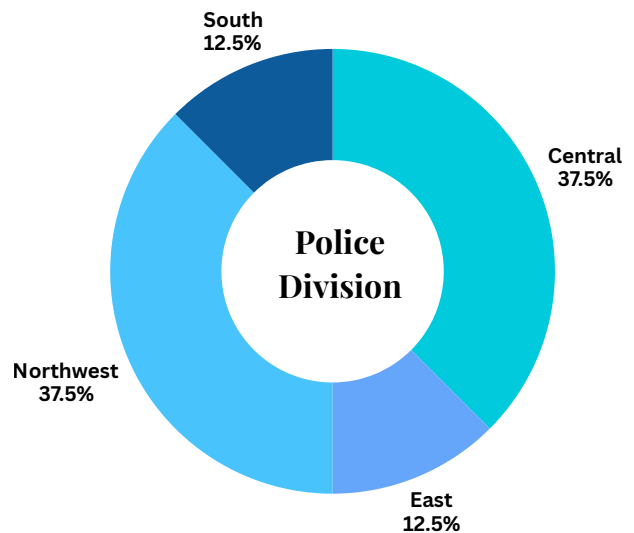
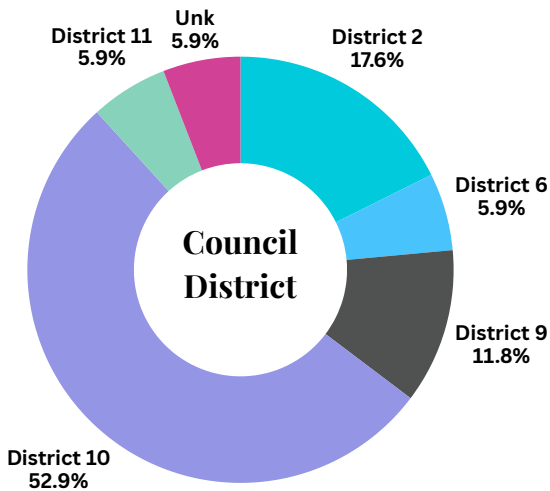
Formal Complaints by Month



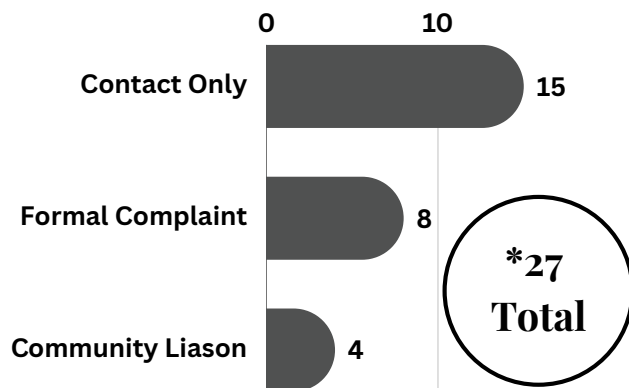
OPOM Recommendations (January 2025 - Present)



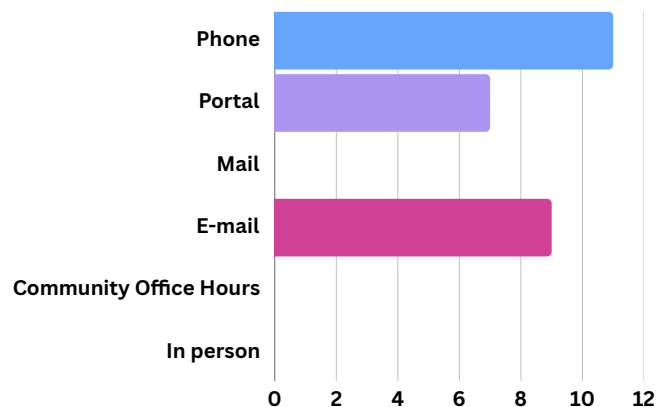
August Formal Complaints by Location



August Inquiries Defined

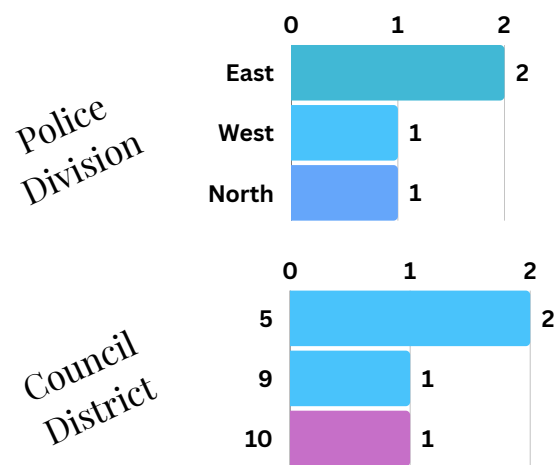


August Inquiries Contact Methods

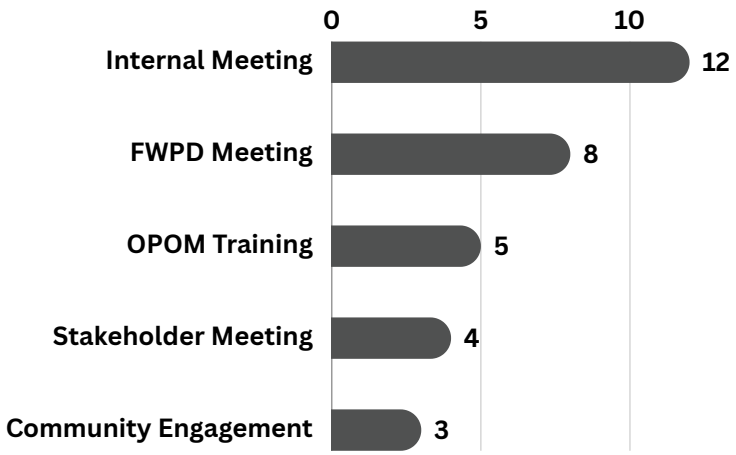


*Data shown above is based on complaints received directly by OPOM

2025 YTD Commendations

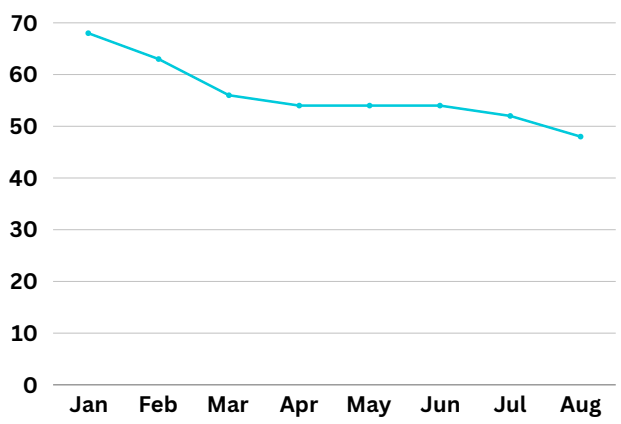


August Activity Tracking



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



August Top Formal Complaints Allegations

- Harassment
- Unprofessionalism
- Civil Rights Violation

*Based on complaints received from IA



OPOM met with FWPD's Crisis Intervention Team to learn about their mental health crisis response work.

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



Upcoming Events

COMMUNITY FORUM

YOUR VOICE MATTERS. JOIN THE CONVERSATION.

SEPT 18TH, 2025 - 6PM
RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER
3700 E BELKNAP ST

Share your experiences, concerns, and questions about public safety and police oversight in Fort Worth.

SESSION IN SPANISH • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FORT WORTH Office of the Police Oversight Monitor

Learn More here

COFFEE WITH OPOM

OPEN DISCUSSION ON POLICE OVERSIGHT

**SEPT 18TH, 2025
8:30 - 10AM**

ENDURO COFFEE
400 OAKHURST
SCENIC DR

Hosted by **ENDURO COFFEE ROASTERS**

FORT WORTH Office of the Police Oversight Monitor

Bonyale Schumbi
INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR

LEARN MORE HERE



Police Chief Search Forum

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

“What I liked best about mediation was.. having the chance to explain how the enforcement process works.”

-FWPD Officer

“I enjoyed the mediation process; it helps a lot and leaves you feeling better.”

*-Community Member,
Michael*

8

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