

OFFICE OF THE POLICE OVERSIGHT MONITOR

*Monthly Report
December 2023*



Office of the Police
Oversight Monitor

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Fort Worth Community,

I trust this message finds you well amidst the fresh days of January. It brings me great joy to share some heartening highlights from our recent community initiatives.

Our mission to bridge gaps and foster understanding led us to conduct interviews with 25 individuals for potential mediators in our Community-Police Mediation program. From this process, we meticulously selected 13 community members to serve as mediators, along with four officers who will act as program ambassadors. All participants will undergo training in late January, marking a significant stride towards rebuilding trust and fostering cooperation.

In our unwavering commitment to inclusivity, we actively engaged with the Mayor's Council on Disabilities. Here, we shared valuable insights about our office and participated in meaningful conversations focused on creating an environment that caters to the diverse needs of our community. This led to fruitful and productive conversations about the opportunities for growth in policing individuals with disabilities.

Celebrating the richness of diversity and unity, we proudly participated in the LGBTQ Police and Fire Chief Social, standing shoulder to shoulder with the community we serve. This event served as a reaffirmation of our dedication to supporting every facet of our diverse community. Additionally, our team had the privilege of volunteering at the Tarrant Area Food Bank, uniting as a cohesive force to contribute to the noble cause of alleviating hunger in our community.

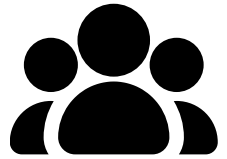
As we step into the new year, these endeavors serve as poignant reminders of the strength derived from unity, diversity, and the indomitable spirit of community. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for being an integral part of our shared journey towards positive change.

With warmth and optimism,

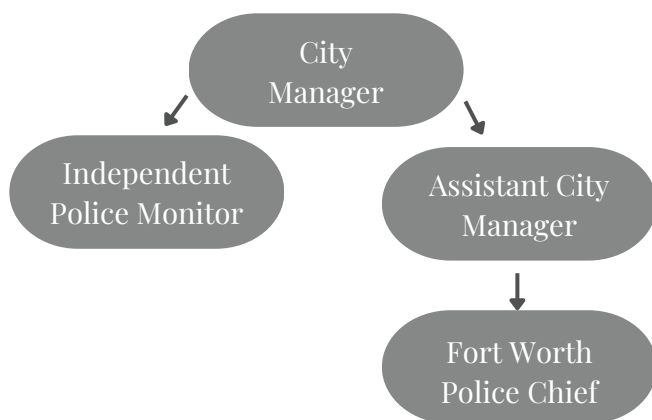
Sincerely,
Bonyale Sokunbi
Independent Police Monitor



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 such as unlawful searches and seizures, premises enter and search, no warrant, threat to notify child services, threats to damage of property, etc., refusal to take complaint, refusal to identify themselves, damages to property seized.
- 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

4

**Total complaints
received this
month**

40

**Total complaints
received for
2023**

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.

Possible Complaint - inquiry under review to determine if it is a formal complaint or if a complaint form has not been received.

Complaint Process

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

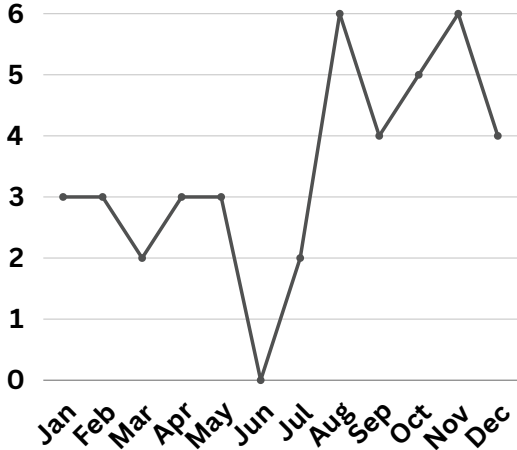
Reviews and forwards complaint/commendation to FWPD's Internal Affairs for review/Investigation.

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

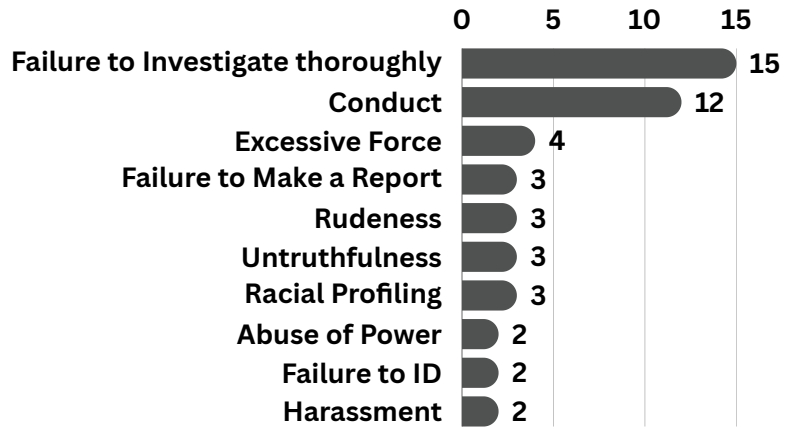
Reviews the complete FWPD complaint investigation and provides feedback and recommendations to the FWPD as appropriate.

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

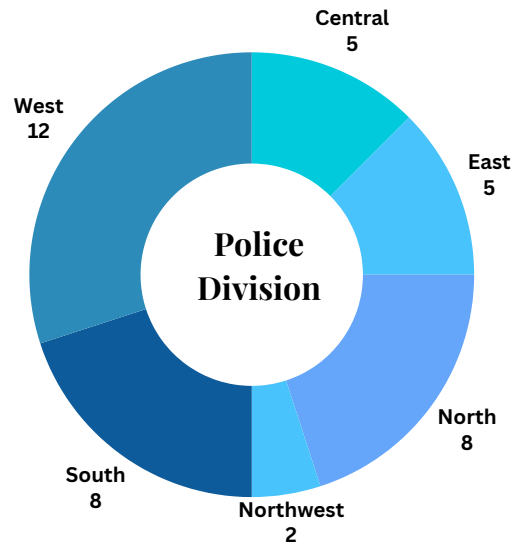
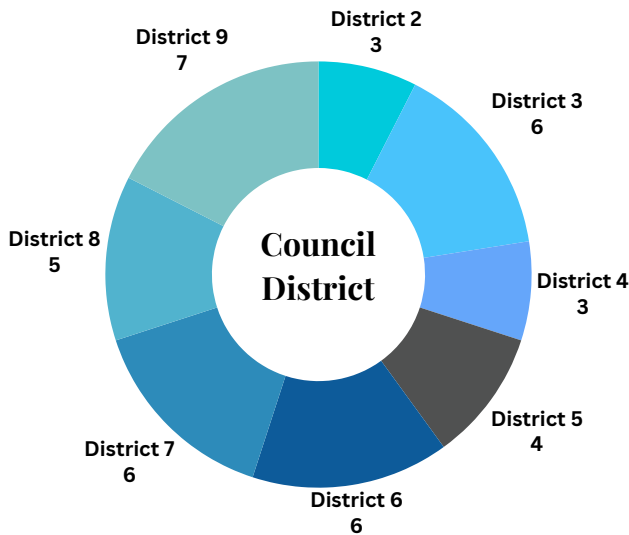
Formal Complaints by Month



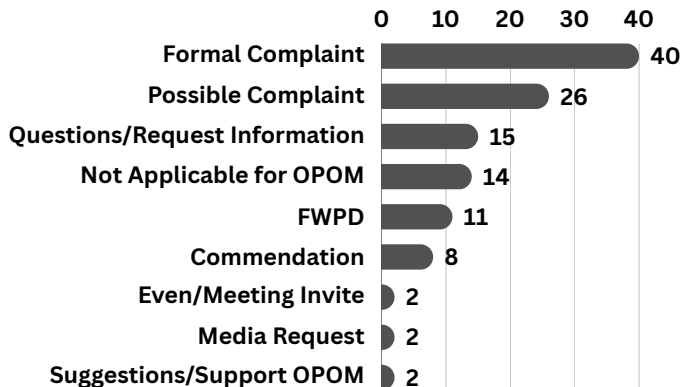
2023 Formal Complaints Allegations



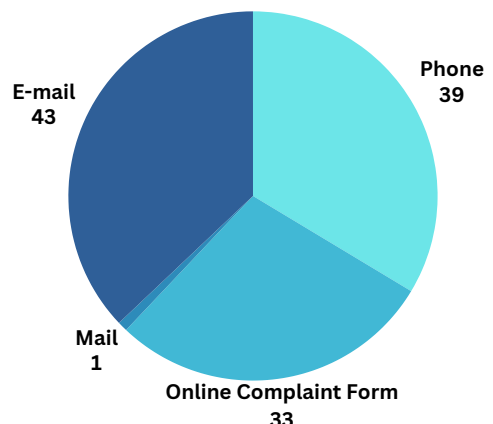
2023 Formal Complaints by Location



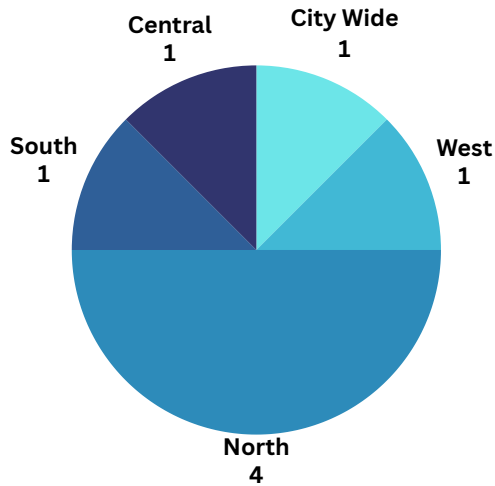
2023 Inquiries Defined



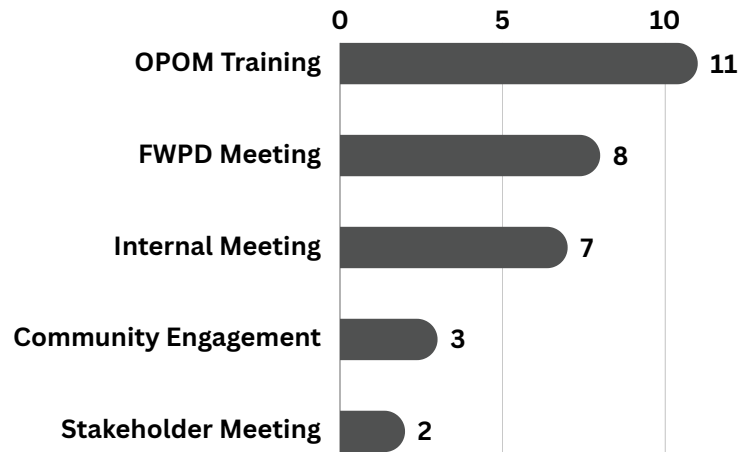
2023 Inquiries Contact Methods



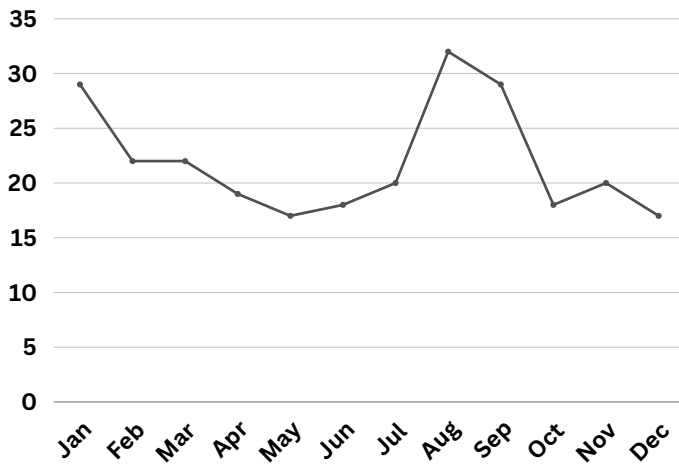
2023 Commendations



December Activity Tracking



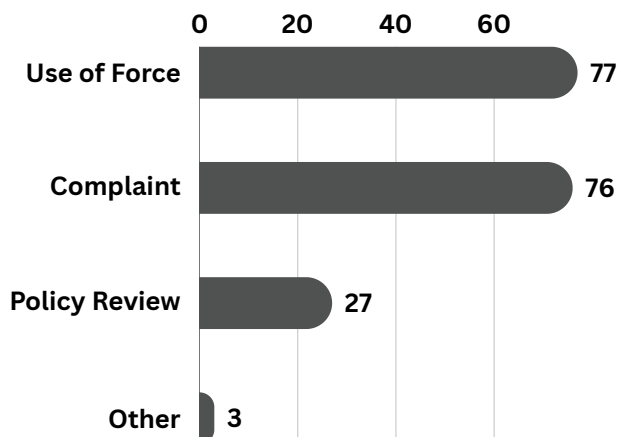
2023 IA Complaints Received



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.

OPOM Recommendations (2020 - Present)



OPOM Team attending the LGBTQ Police and Fire Chief Social!



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



OPOM Team
volunteering at the
Tarrant Area Food
Bank.



Director **Bonycle Sokunbi**
presenting to the Mayor's
Committee on Persons with
Disabilities (MCPD).



COMMUNITY-POLICE MEDIATION



Community-mediator training begins January 20th!

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.**

Mediator

A neutral and impartial third party who facilitates communication between conflicting parties. They don't impose decisions but instead encourage open dialogue and understanding. Mediators are recruited and trained by OPOM.

Consent

All parties must voluntarily agree to participate in mediation and give consent. The consent process involves communication between the participants and the Mediation Director or program staff about the mediation process, what to expect, and clarification of any questions.

What qualifies for mediation?

- Rudeness/Discourteousness
- Neglect of Duty
- Unprofessionalism

Want to keep up with CPMP?

Follow us on social media to keep up with our training journey and the roll-out of the CPMP Program!

CLICK HERE



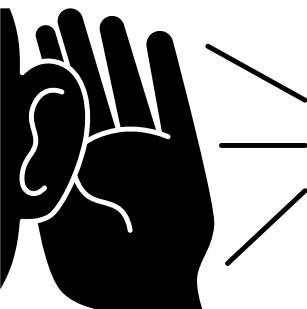
Voluntary

All participants engage in mediation at their own free will. They can end the process at anytime and are not forced to come to any agreement.

Mediation is –

- Non-judgmental
- Confidential
- Voluntary

Sokunbi interviewing with WFAA to recruit community mediators!



Collaborate &
LISTEN

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



FortWorthPoliceOversight



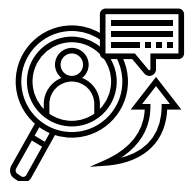
FWPoliceMonitor



FortWorthPoliceOversight

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 IT'S ANNUAL REPORT