

OFFICE OF THE POLICE OVERSIGHT MONITOR

*Monthly Report
January 2025*



Office of the Police
Oversight Monitor

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Happy
New Year

Dear Fort Worth Community,

As we begin the year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the important events and activities that shaped our work this January. We started the year by honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his commitment to justice and equality. His enduring impact serves as a reminder of the work we continue to do in striving for a more equitable and just community.

This month, our OPOM team had the opportunity to volunteer with Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County. Together, we helped prepare meals for local seniors and homebound individuals. It was a rewarding experience that allowed us to give back to the community and while also connecting amongst one another. We are grateful for Meals on Wheels and their ongoing work in providing nourishment, connection, and support to our neighbors.

I was also honored to participate in the “Black and Blue: Civil Rights Issues in Policing” panel at the SWBLSA Regional Convention, alongside Michele Andre, M.A. CPO, and Fort Worth Police Department’s own Vance Keyes. This panel sparked meaningful conversations about civil rights and police oversight. Reflecting on how this conference played a pivotal role in shaping my own legal journey over a decade ago, I was proud to contribute to a discussion that is critical to ensuring equity and accountability in policing. I am encouraged by the next generation of changemakers and their passion for advancing justice.

Finally, we celebrated the dedication and commitment of our community mediators at our New Year’s celebration and planning dinner. Together, we reflected on the past year’s work and began planning for the exciting initiatives ahead in 2025.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and engage with you, and we look forward to continuing our work together in the year ahead.

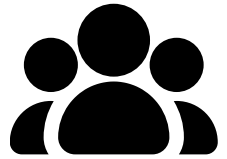
Sincerely,

Bonyale Sokunbi
Independent Police Monitor

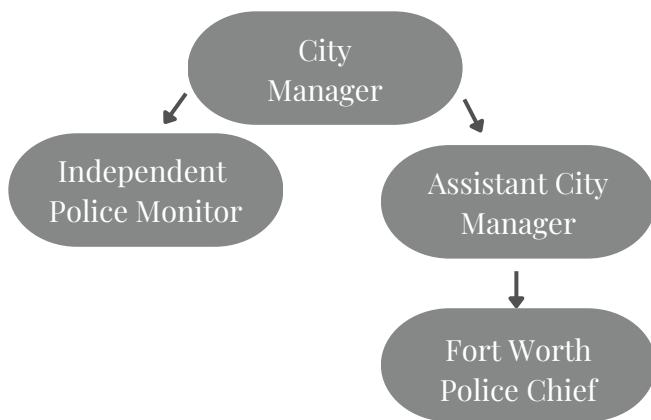
Director Sokunbi participated in a **community listening session** hosted by **Fort Worth Report and Leadership Fort Worth**.



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

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.

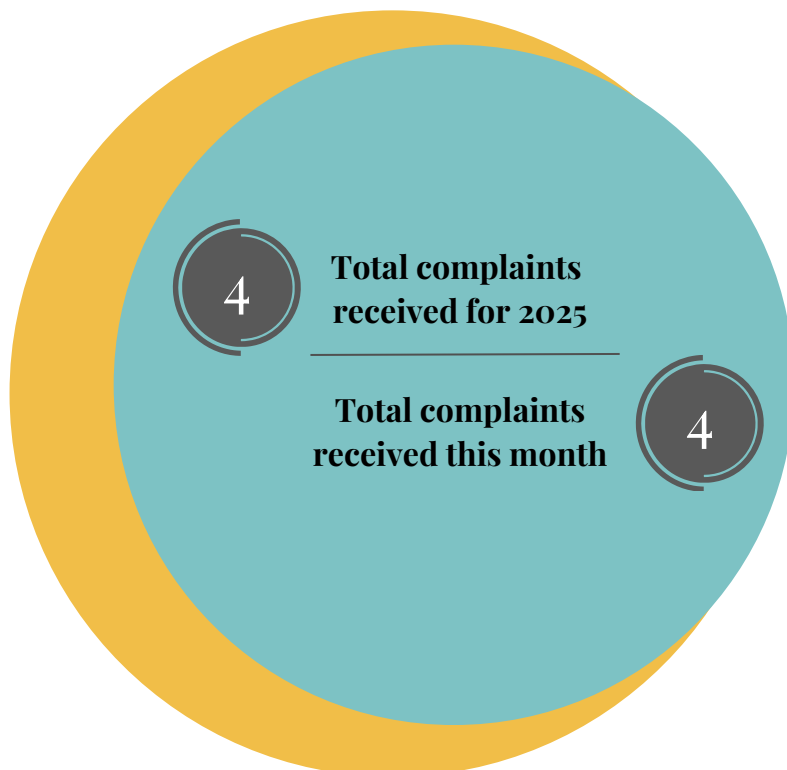
Complainant - the individual who files a complaint against a FWPD officer(s). The complainant doesn't need to be personally affected by the incident.

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.

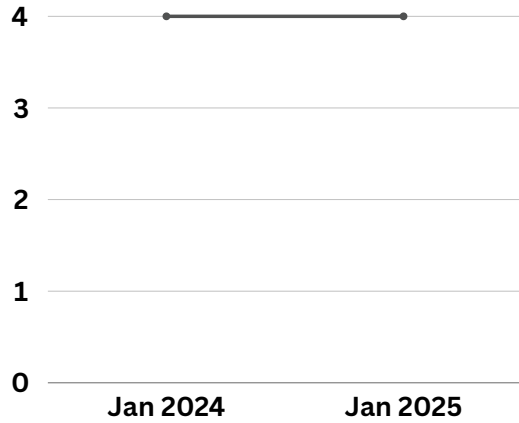
Reviews and forwards complaint/commendation to FWPD's Internal Affairs for review/Investigation.

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

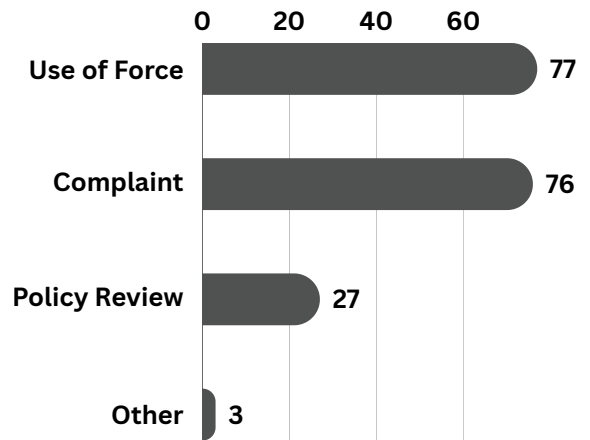
Reviews the complete FWPD complaint investigation and provides feedback and recommendations to the FWPD as appropriate.

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

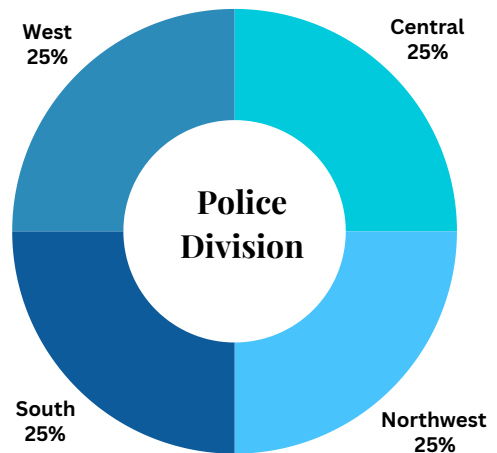
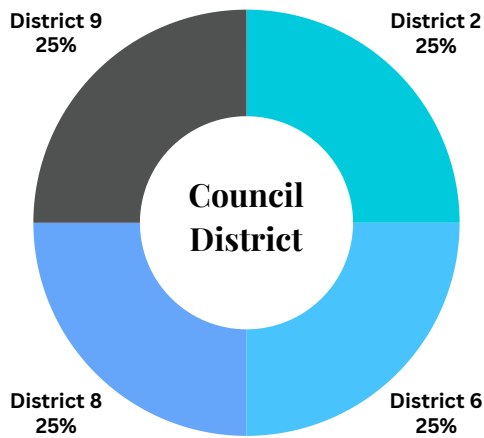
Formal Complaints by Month



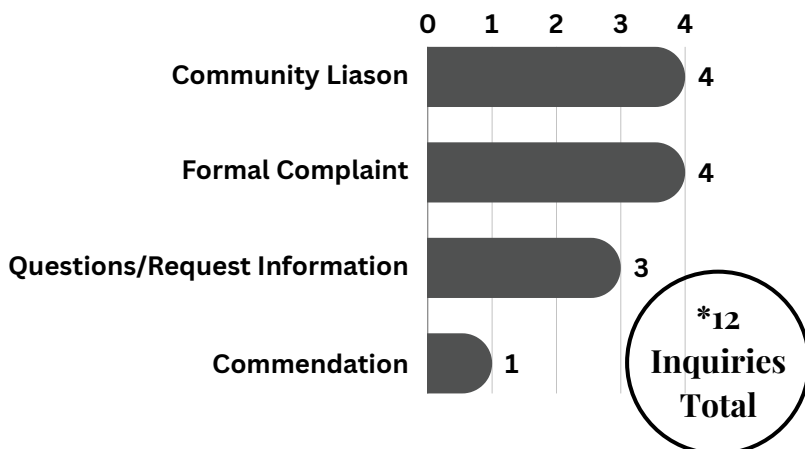
OPOM Recommendations (2020 - Present)



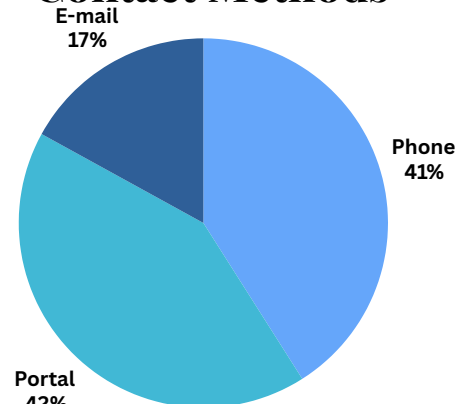
January Formal Complaints by Location



January Inquiries Defined*

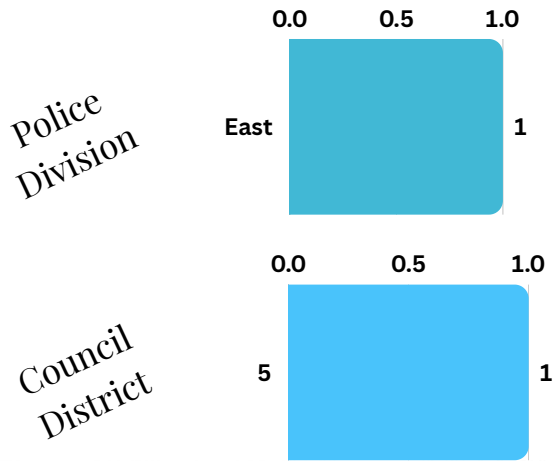


January Inquiries Contact Methods

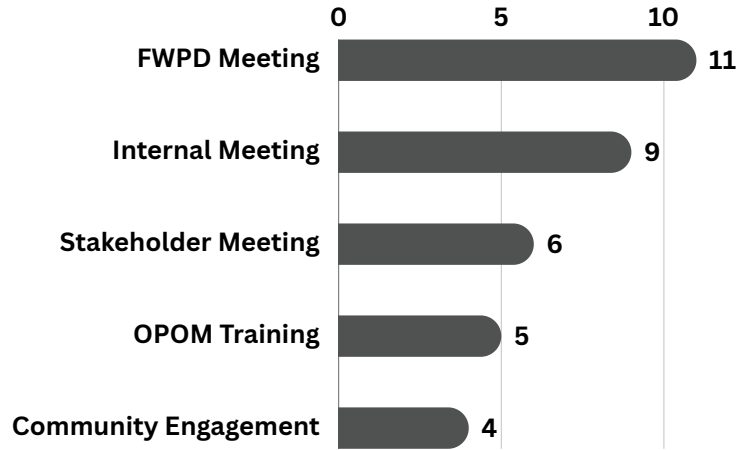


*Data shown above is based on complaints received directly by OPOM

2025 YTD Commendations

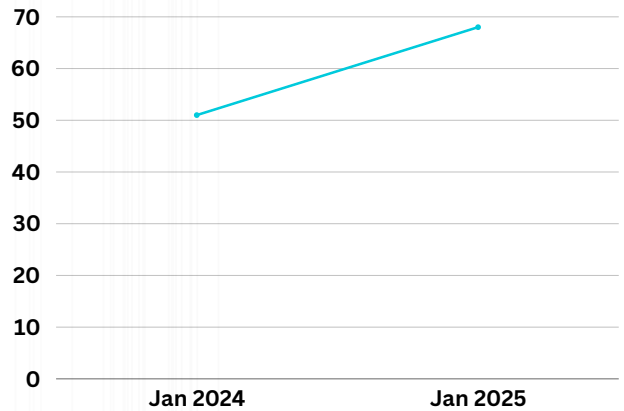


January Activity Tracking



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



January Formal Complaints Allegations

- Accident Investigation
- Body Worn Camera
- Professional Conduct

*Based on complaints received from IA



Welcome our new Policy Analyst **Nicole!**

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



Police Monitor Sokunbi joined the '**Black and Blue: Civil Rights Issues in Policing**' panel at the SWBLSA Regional Convention, reflecting on her journey and discussing equity and accountability in policing



OPOM volunteered with **Meals on Wheels** to serve and connect with our community.



COMMUNITY-POLICE MEDIATION



Taking referrals from FWPD IA

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.

Mediation is -

- Non-judgmental
- Confidential
- Voluntary

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

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.



OPOM hosted a New Year's gathering for our dedicated **community mediators**. This meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the past year, review mediation statistics, and discuss strategies for the year ahead.

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



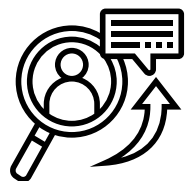
FWPoliceMonitor



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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 IT'S ANNUAL REPORT