

OFFICE OF THE POLICE OVERSIGHT MONITOR

Monthly Report
January 2024



Office of the Police
Oversight Monitor

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Fort Worth Community,

As we embrace the opportunities of a new year, we are thrilled to share exciting developments. In the month of January, we experienced substantial growth by welcoming a new team member and enhancing our mediation program. The addition of fresh perspectives and talents has enriched our collective capabilities, allowing us to better serve and connect with the diverse members of Fort Worth.

Twelve community members and four police ambassadors completed 45-hour police complaint mediation training led by Tracee Ford of Community Mediation Maryland. Rooted in the inclusive mediation model, this approach prioritizes understanding by embracing all participants' ideas and experiences, even in their raw, messy forms. Our trained mediators are prepared to hold space for meaningful dialogue, valuing every perspective for conflict resolution.

We are proud to welcome Lucerito "Lucy" Tarin to our team. With a strong background in urban policy research, As a bilingual policy analyst, fluent in English and Spanish, Lucy brings a unique ability to connect with our Spanish-speaking Fort Worth residents. She will play a crucial role in collecting and analyzing community feedback, managing complaints and commendations, and conducting in-depth case reviews to inform policy recommendations for enhancing the Fort Worth Police Department's operations.

Lucy's addition strengthens our commitment to transparency, accountability, and community engagement. We look forward to a more significant presence in the Hispanic communities of Fort Worth. Feel free to connect with Lucy during our posted office hours or out and about at community events.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to build a safer and more connected Fort Worth.

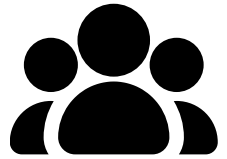
With warmth and optimism,

Sincerely,
Bonyale Sokunbi
Independent Police Monitor

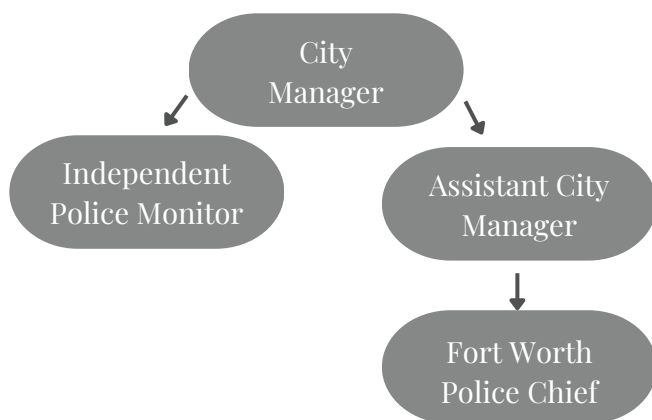


OPOM Team touring MedStar
Mobile Healthcare

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

4

Total complaints received for 2024

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.

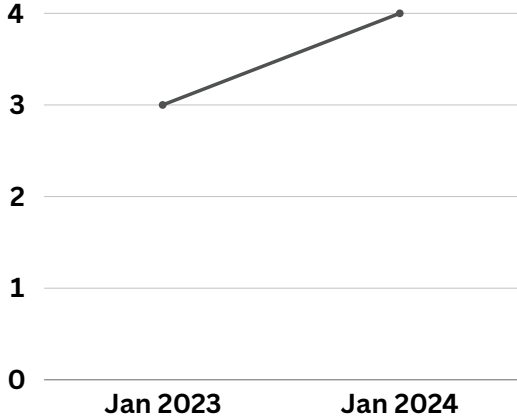
Reviews and forwards complaint/commendation to FWPD's Internal Affairs for review/Investigation.

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

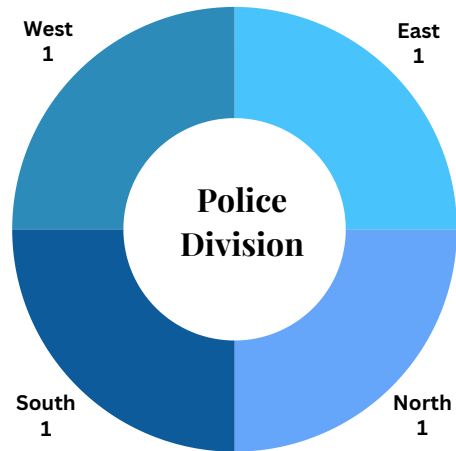
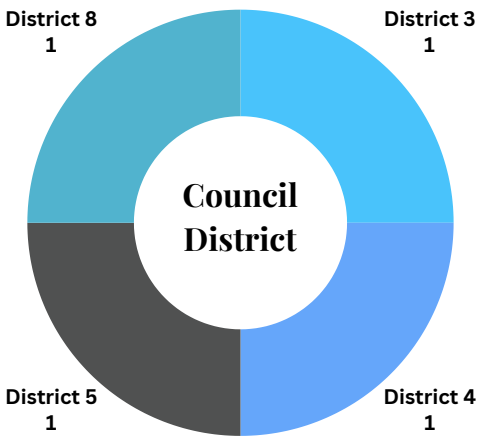


2024 Formal Complaints Allegations

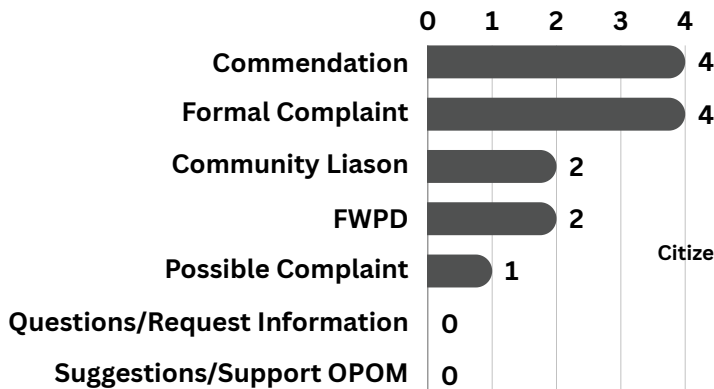


*8 allegations assigned to 4 complaints

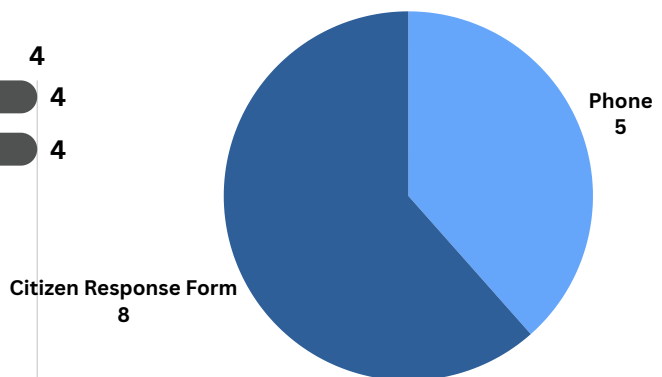
2024 Formal Complaints by Location



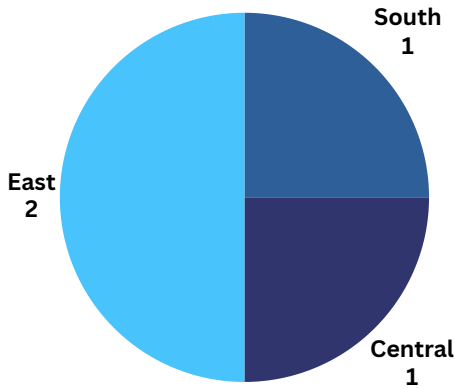
2024 Inquiries Defined



2024 Inquiries Contact Methods



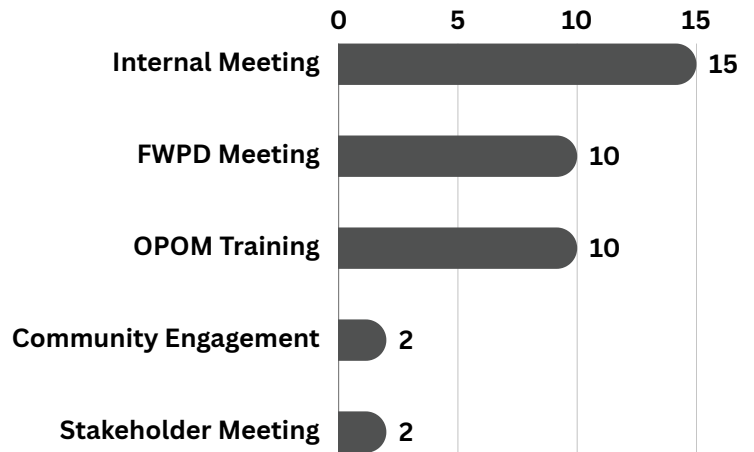
2024 Commendations



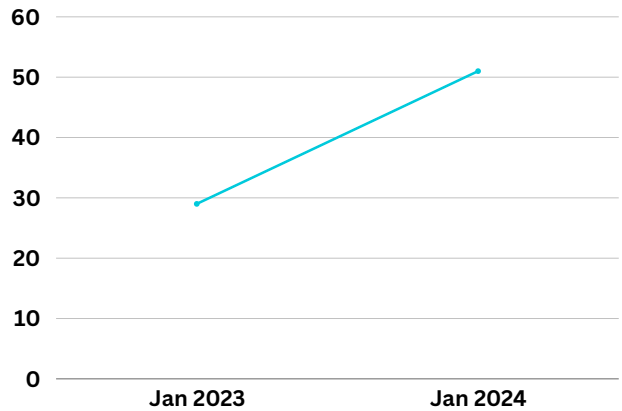
Complaints can also be received directly by FWPD Internal Affairs. After Internal Affairs conducts their investigations, they send the completed reports to OPOM. OPOM's role is to review these investigations to ensure they are comprehensive, thorough, and unbiased.

This is to maintain accountability and fairness in the process.

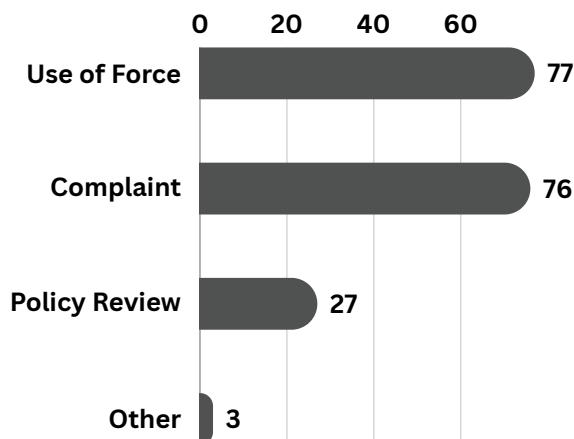
January Activity Tracking



IA Complaints Received



OPOM Recommendations (2020 - Present)



OPOM Team

touring MedStar Mobile Healthcare to better understand how FWPD receives communication from 911 services.



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

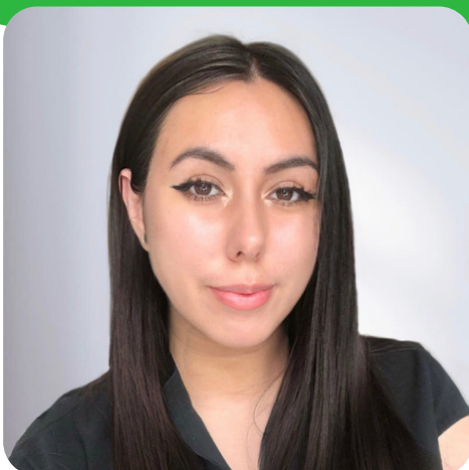
Community Conversations

Police Roll Calls

Educational Presentations



Please help us welcome **Lucerito "Lucy" Tarin** - OPOM's newest Policy Analyst. Lucy is bilingual and will assist OPOM in serving our Spanish speaking Fort Worthians!



Lucy and Taylor have plans to team up to do outreach! Do you know of any community events coming up?



COMMUNITY-POLICE MEDIATION



Community-mediator training is complete!

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.

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

What qualifies for mediation?

- Rudeness/Discourteousness
- Neglect of Duty
- Unprofessionalism

"My hopes for CPMP is that it becomes a safe place for both members of the community and law enforcement to exchange dialogue and work on building bridges and tearing down walls.."

-Rose

"I see the program restoring trust that has diminished overtime, build lasting bonds between the unlikeliest of pairs, encouraging open and honest communication channels between community members and law enforcement, and foster a culture of community policing practices around the City of Fort Worth.."

- Shureka

CPMP graduated 12 community members as trained mediators in Police-Complaint Mediation, along with 4 FWPD Officer Ambassadors.



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



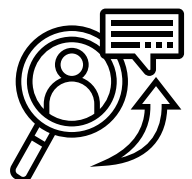
FWPoliceMonitor



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