

# OFFICE OF THE POLICE OVERSIGHT MONITOR

*Monthly Report*  
*April 2024*



Office of the Police  
Oversight Monitor

# LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Fort Worth Community,

We are excited to share the latest updates from the Office of Police Oversight Monitors (OPOM) as we continue to work towards fostering transparency, accountability, and trust within our community.

A significant milestone has been achieved with the signing of the Community Police Mediation Directive by Chief Noakes. The Community Police Mediation Program (CPMP) is now officially accepting mediation referrals from the Fort Worth Police Department's Internal Affairs. This program aims to provide a constructive platform for resolving conflicts and improving police-community relations.

In our ongoing effort to better serve all members of our community, we recently participated in LGBTQ training presented by Journalist and LGBTQ historian Todd Camp of YesterQueer and Jonah Murray, board president of Finn's Place, an LGBTQ community center in Fort Worth. These sessions were invaluable in enhancing our understanding and ability to serve the LGBTQ community effectively. We are grateful for these relationships and the knowledge they bring to our work.

OPOM has been actively engaging with the community through various events. We participated in nine community event tablings and conducted two presentations, sharing information about our mission and services. These interactions are crucial in building trust and ensuring that our efforts are aligned with the community's needs.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We look forward to continuing our work together to create a safer and more just community for all.

Sincerely,

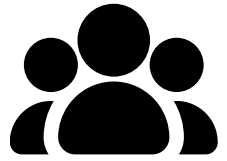
*Banyale Sokunbi*  
Independent Police Monitor



**Our team took a moment to celebrate the solar eclipse together, donning protective glasses to safely enjoy this celestial event.**

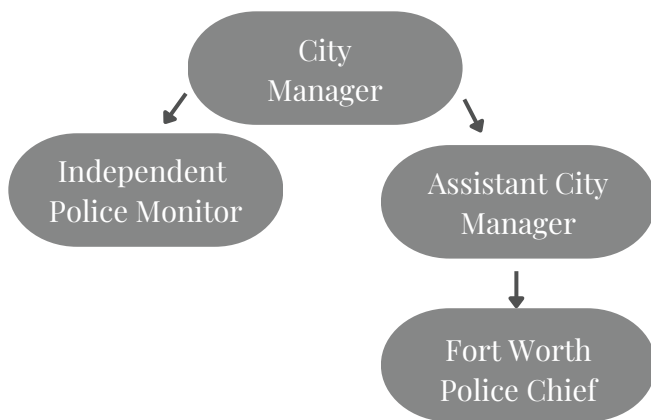
# WHO WE ARE?

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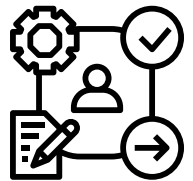
*"Fostering Community Trust Through Collaboration and Law Enforcement Accountability and Transparency."*

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?

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**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.



OPOM attending LGBTQ training at Finn's Place.

23

Total complaints received for 2024

Total complaints received this month

7

## 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.

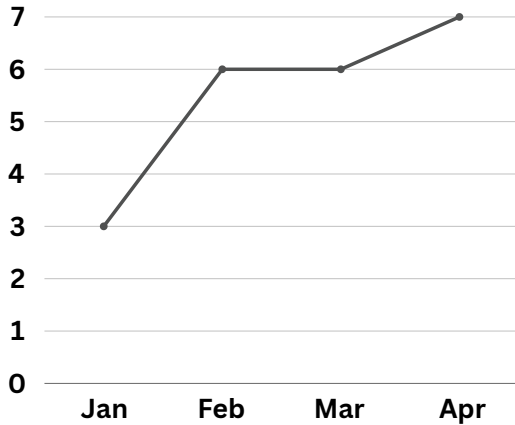
Reviews the complete FWPD complaint investigation and provides feedback and recommendations to the FWPD as appropriate.

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

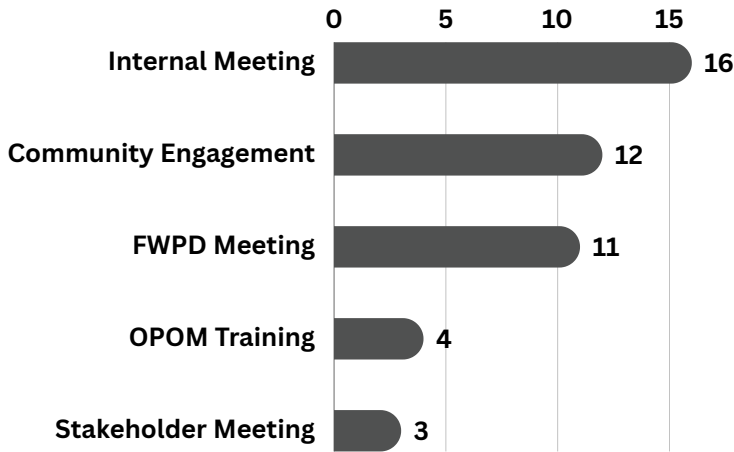
# 2024 Formal Complaints Allegations



# Formal Complaints by Month



# April Activity Tracking

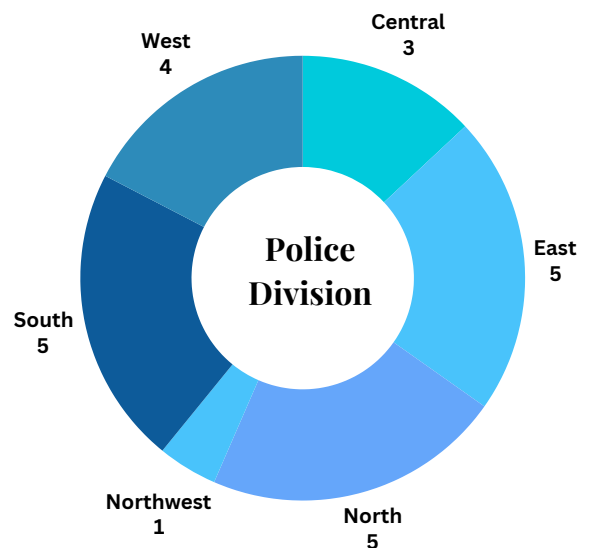
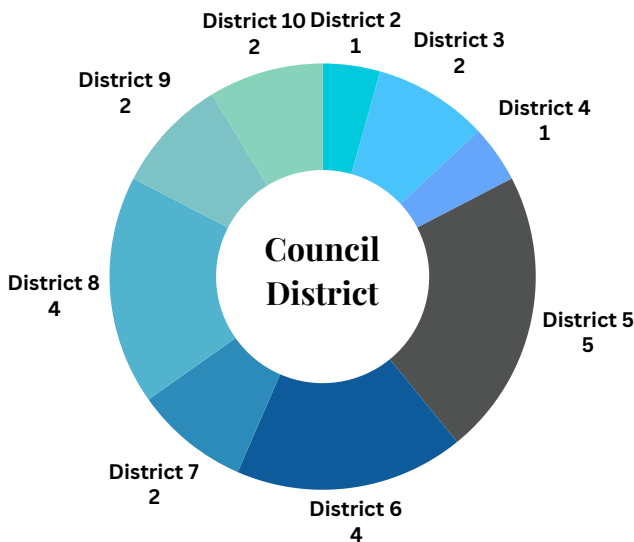


\*33 allegations assigned to 23 complaints

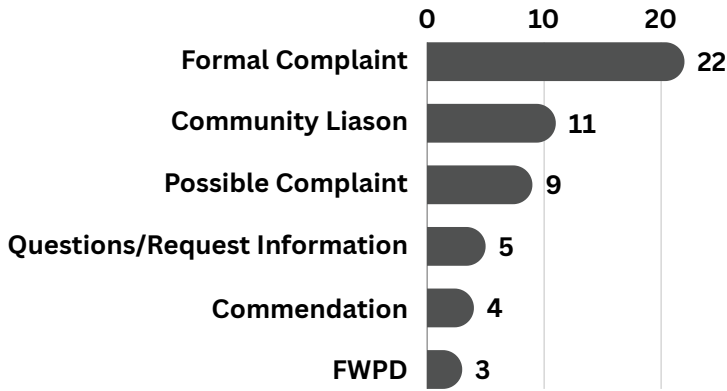
# 2024 Commendations



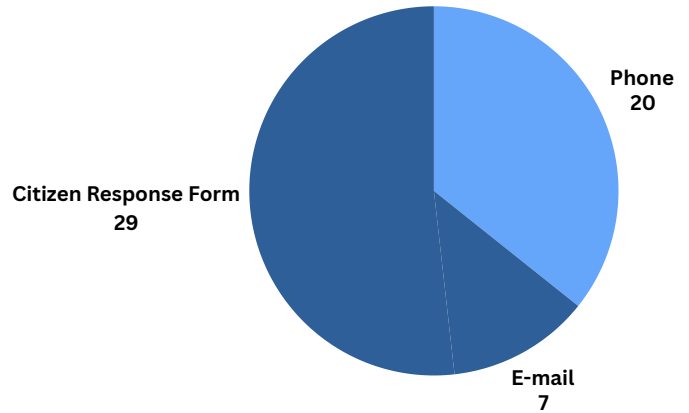
# 2024 Formal Complaints by Location



## 2024 Inquiries Defined

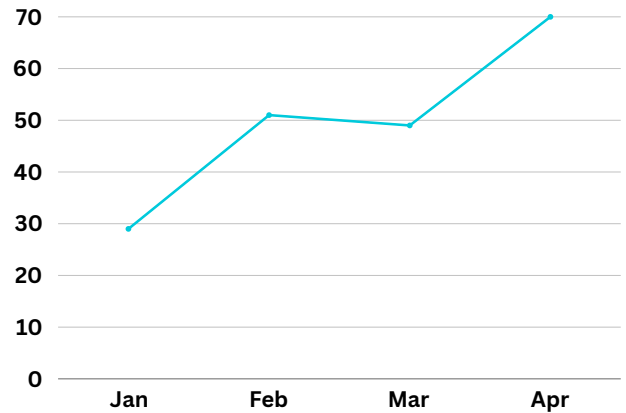


## 2024 Inquiries Contact Methods

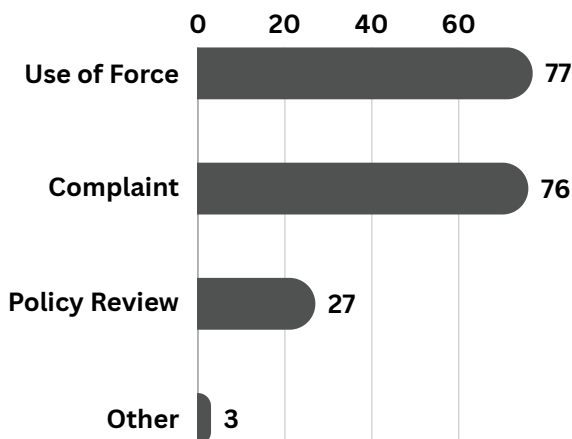


Complaints can also be received directly by FWPD Internal Affairs. After Internal Affairs conducts their investigations, they send the completed reports to OPOM. OPOM's role is to review these investigations to ensure they are comprehensive, thorough, and unbiased. This is to maintain accountability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

## 2024 IA Complaints Received



## OPOM Recommendations (2020 - Present)



Policy Analyst Janae Dotson at the NAACP hosted "Know Your Rights" event.



# 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 continue to keep up with us on our socials!



Open House in District 6 at Vivian J. Lincoln Library

# COMMUNITY-POLICE MEDIATION



## It's Official!

### 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

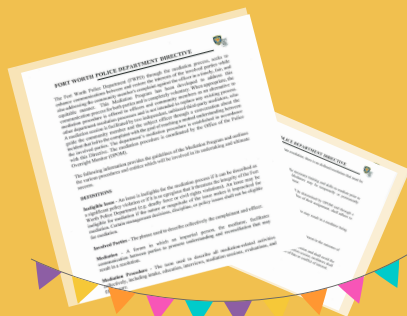
All participants engage in mediation at their own free will. They can end the process at anytime and are not forced to come to any agreement.

### Mediation is -

- Non-judgmental
- Confidential
- Voluntary

### What qualifies for mediation?

- Rudeness/Discourteousness
- Neglect of Duty
- Unprofessionalism



**OPOM is now taking referrals from FWPD Internal Affairs for cases appropriate for mediation.**



**FWPD Directive** has been signed and CPMP is official!



**Did you know our community mediators also volunteer in other ways such as event prepping and tabling at community events!**



# 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](mailto: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



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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