

# OFFICE OF THE POLICE OVERSIGHT MONITOR

*Monthly Report  
October 2024*



Office of the Police  
Oversight Monitor

# LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

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Dear Fort Worth Community,

October was an eventful month for OPOM, and I'm excited to share some updates with you! We started the month with National Night Out, where we joined FWPD and other city departments to engage directly with the community. Events like these are invaluable for building connections and fostering open communication with residents.

Our team also continued participating in ride-alongs throughout the city. These experiences provide me and my team with a firsthand look at the day-to-day work of officers, while also allowing us to share information about OPOM and address common misconceptions about our role.

I had the honor of attending the 2024 NACOLE Conference in Tucson, AZ, along with several team members, as we celebrated 30 years of advancing civilian oversight of law enforcement. A personal highlight was moderating the Executive Leadership Forum and being nominated to the NACOLE Board.

Additionally, OPOM acknowledges the importance of transparency and accountability in policing. This month, the Fort Worth Police Department announced the termination of Officer William Martin. Martin, who was arrested for a road rage incident while off duty, used unlawful force when he shot a driver he alleged struck his car. Martin is currently facing aggravated assault charges for the incident. This decision underscores the critical need for accountability to maintain public trust and community safety.

Finally, I'm thrilled to share the growth of our mediation program. We've seen an increase in cases, and I'm proud to report that we currently have a 100% satisfaction rate among both officers and complainants. This program is a critical tool for fostering understanding and resolving conflicts constructively.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to sharing more updates with you in the months ahead!



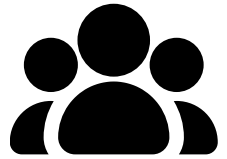
Sincerely,

*Bonycle Sokunbi*  
Independent Police Monitor

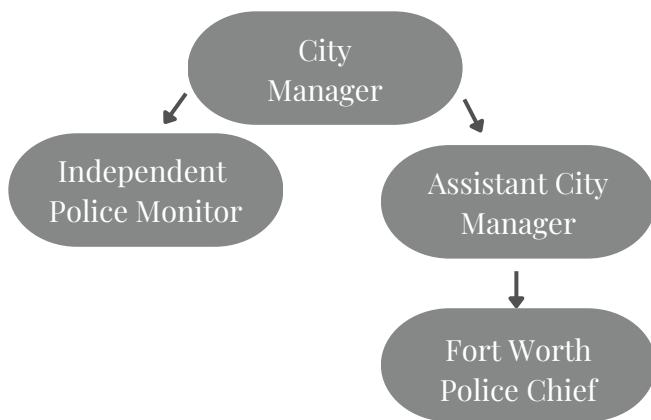
Director Bonycle at **National Night Out** with Dena Ashton, Lake Como NAC president

# 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

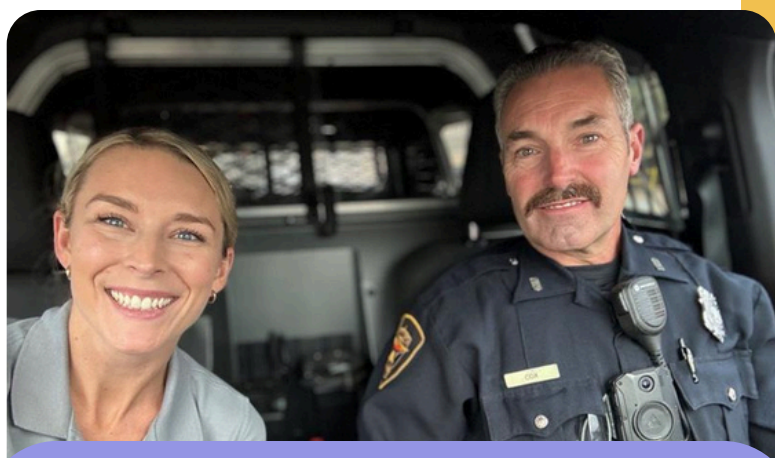


## What is Misconduct?

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



Engagement Coordinator Taylor participating in a **ride along** with Ofc. Cox in the Central Division

94

Total complaints received for 2024

Total complaints received this month

15

## 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.

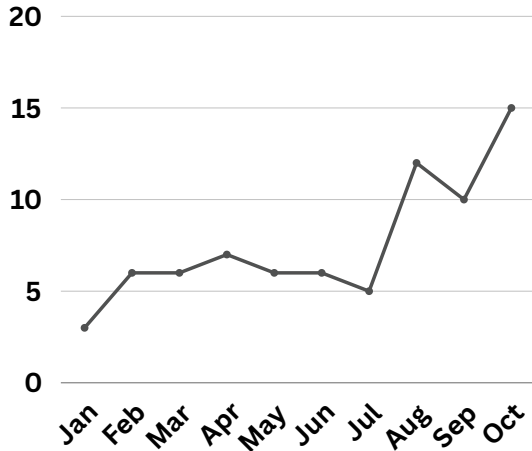
Reviews and forwards complaint/commendation to FWPD's Internal Affairs for review/Investigation.

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

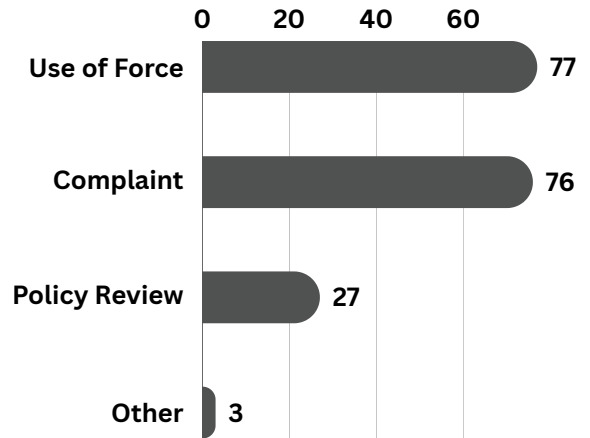
Reviews the complete FWPD complaint investigation and provides feedback and recommendations to the FWPD as appropriate.

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

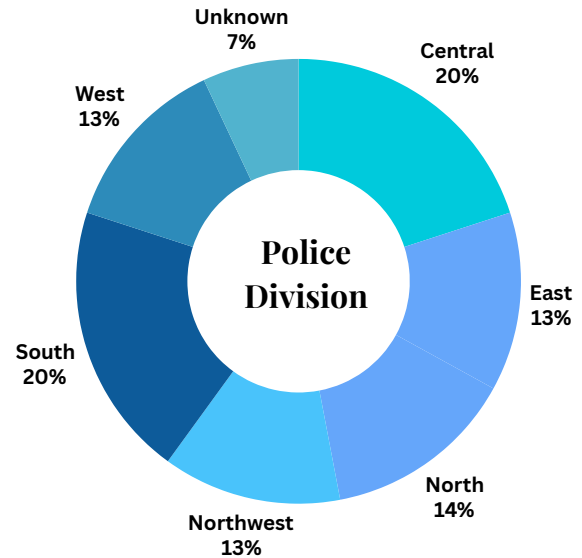
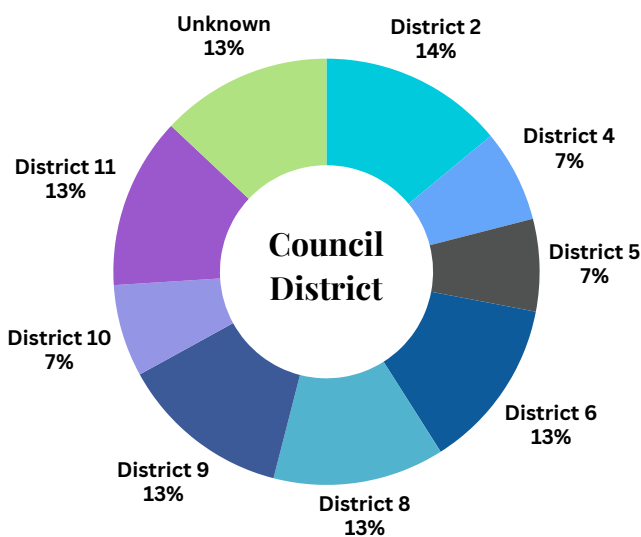
## Formal Complaints by Month



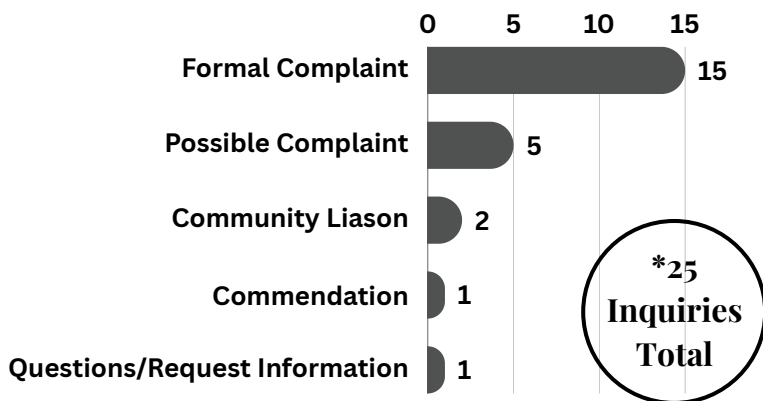
## OPOM Recommendations (2020 - Present)



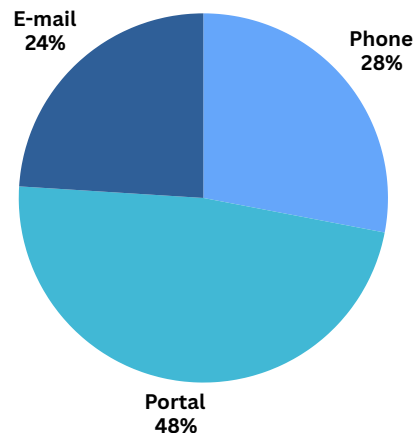
## October Formal Complaints by Location



## October Inquiries Defined



## October Inquiries Contact Methods

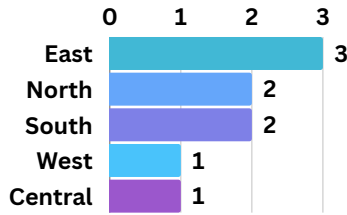


\*Data shown above is based on complaints received directly by OPOM

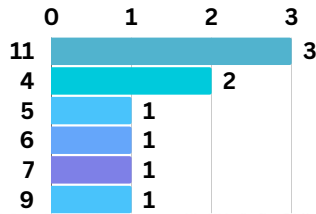


## 2024 YTD Commendations

Police Division



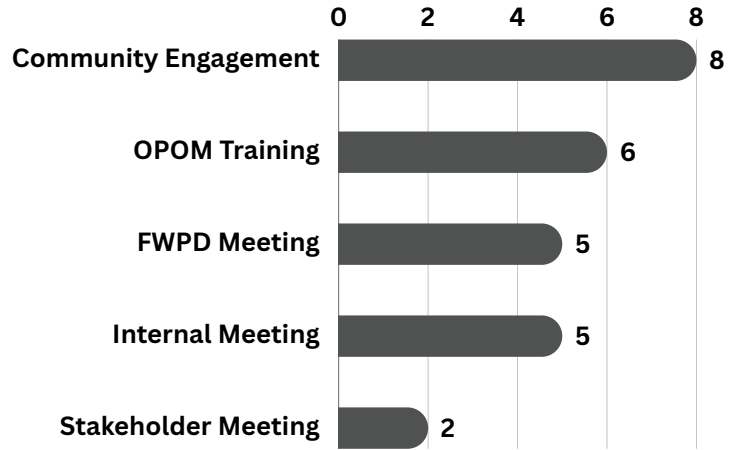
Council District



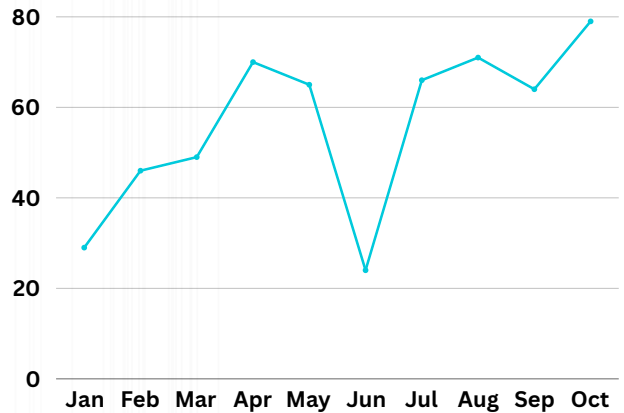
Complaints can also be received directly by FWPDP Internal Affairs. After Internal Affairs conducts their investigations, they send the completed reports to OPOM. OPOM's role is to review these investigations to ensure they are comprehensive, thorough, and unbiased.

This is to maintain accountability and fairness in the process.

## October Activity Tracking



## IA Complaints Received by OPOM



## October Formal Complaints Allegations

- Professional Conduct
- Pursuit Violation
- Body Worn Camera

\*Based on complaints received from IA



Director Bonycle moderated the Executive Leadership Forum at NACOLE and was nominated to the Board!

# 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

Director Bonycle presenting to Polytechnic Heights South Neighborhood Association



Eric, Lucy, and Taylor at National Night Out with FWPD Code Blue and the Code Department



# 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.

### 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



**“It’s a great program. Can’t think of much more to add except maybe offer coffee!”**

*-Community Member*

5

Total Complaints Mediated YTD

Satisfaction Rate by Complainants:

100%

Satisfaction Rate by Officers:

100%

### Testimonials

**“The mediation process allowed me to gain an “outside the uniform” perspective on the situation and how my police service affects others.”**

*-FWPD Officer*



# 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



FortWorthPoliceOversight



FortWorthPoliceOversight



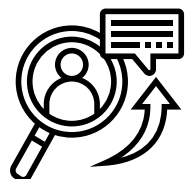
FWPoliceMonitor



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