

# OFFICE OF THE POLICE OVERSIGHT MONITOR

*Monthly Report  
September 2024*



Office of the Police  
Oversight Monitor

# LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Fort Worth Community,

I hope this message finds you well and embracing the transition into fall.

I'm thrilled to introduce Hannah Burleson, the newest member of our team. Hannah serves as the Senior Management Analyst for OPOM and brings over a decade of experience in nonprofit management, compliance, and data analysis. Her passion for using insights to foster transparency and trust has already made a significant impact as we work to advance OPOM's mission to enhance accountability.

This month, OPOM leadership had the opportunity to participate in the Fort Worth Police Department's Oral Boards interview panel. During these interviews, prospective officers are evaluated for hiring and academy placement. Our role on the panel allows us to address potential areas of concern and ensure that candidates are well-suited not only for the department but also for serving our community. This is just one of the many ways we are committed to protecting the interests of both residents and law enforcement.

Another way we connect with the community is through Coffee with OPOM, a casual and open conversation space where residents can meet our team, ask questions, and share their thoughts on policing and oversight in Fort Worth. These gatherings allow us to listen, learn, and strengthen our relationships with the people we serve. We invite you to join us at our next event to engage in meaningful dialogue over a cup of coffee.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you a wonderful start to the fall season, filled with new opportunities and meaningful connections.

Sincerely,

*Bonycle Sokunbi*  
Independent Police Monitor

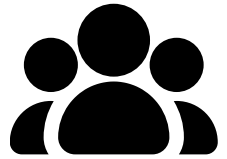


Director Sokunbi  
at **Coffee with  
OPOM** hosted at  
Casa Azul in  
Northside Fort  
Worth



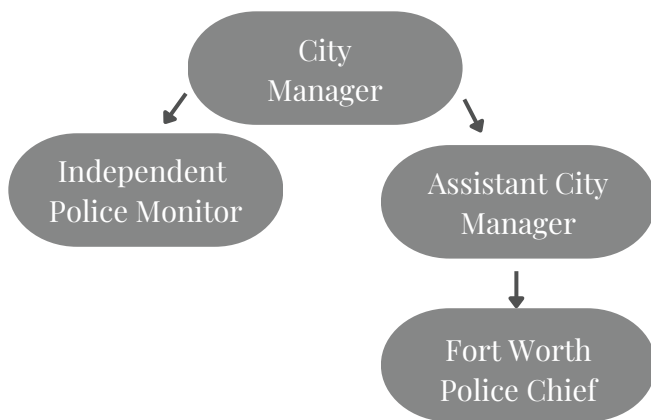
# WHO WE ARE?

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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.

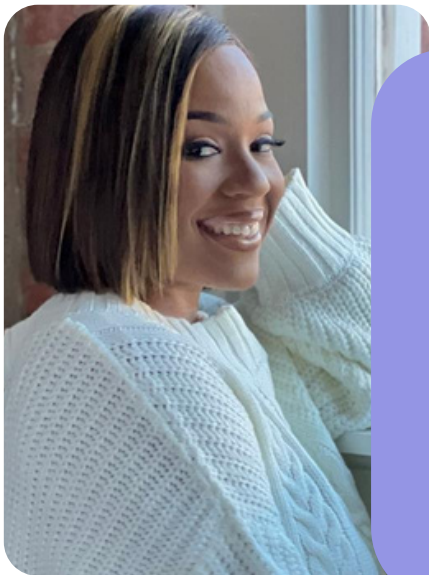
**Complainant** - the individual who files a complaint against a FWPD officer(s). The complainant doesn't need to be personally affected by the incident.

**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.



Welcome our newest member of the team, Sr. Data Management Analyst, **Hannah Burleson**

79

Total complaints received for 2024

Total complaints received this month

10

## 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.

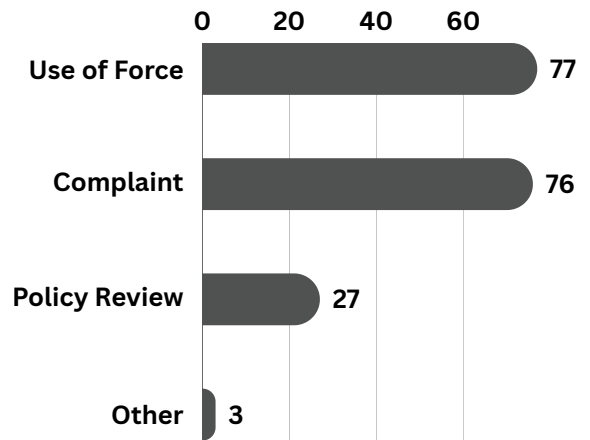
Reviews the complete FWPD complaint investigation and provides feedback and recommendations to the FWPD as appropriate.

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

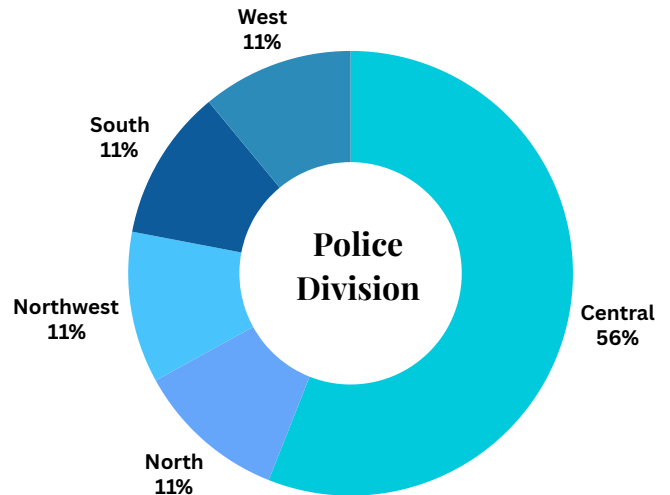
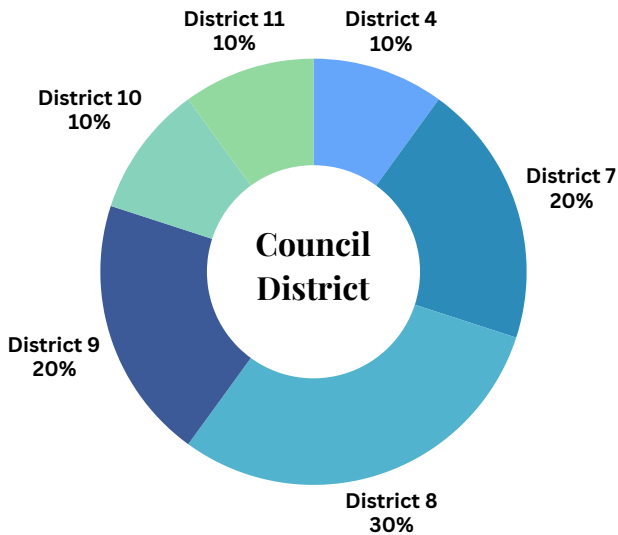
## Formal Complaints by Month



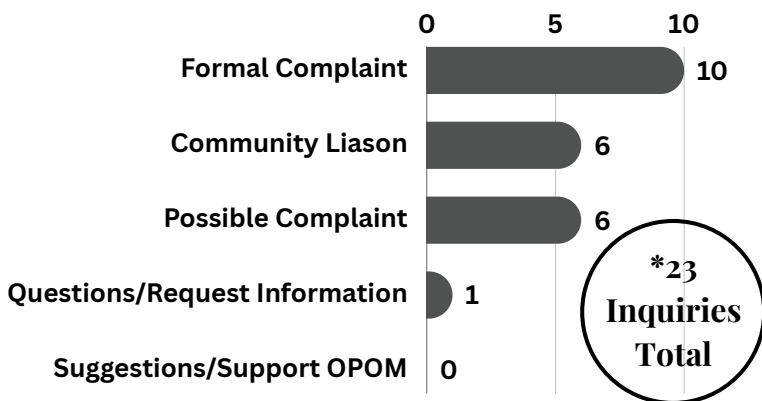
## OPOM Recommendations (2020 - Present)



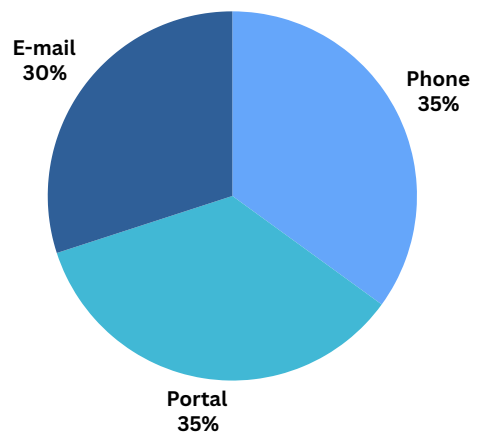
## September Formal Complaints by Location



## September Inquiries Defined



## September Inquiries Contact Methods



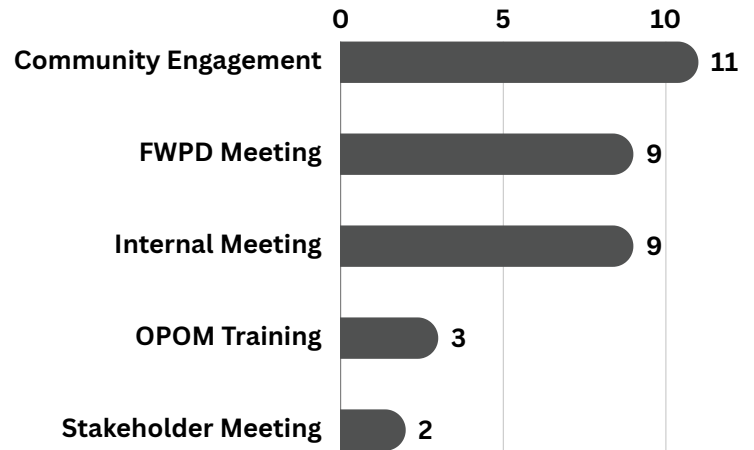
\*Data shown above is based on complaints received directly by OPOM



## 2024 YTD Commendations

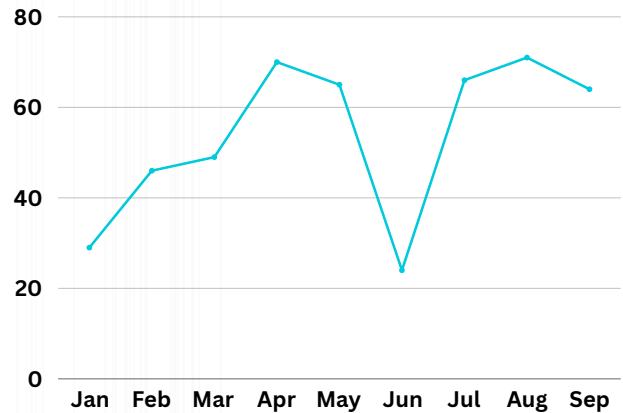


## September Activity Tracking



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



## September Formal Complaints Allegations

- Failure to Investigate Thoroughly
- Excessive Use of Force
- False Arrest

\*Based on complaints received from IA



Councilperson Beck and FWPD representatives District 9 Community Conversation



# 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



Branigan, Office Manager, prepping for **Community Hours at ACJ @ Hillside Community Center**

Hannah, Sr. Data Analyst at **District 9 Community Conversation**

OPPORTUNITIES <i>to engage</i>	
FORT WORTH Office of the Police Oversight Monitor	
THIS WEEK	
WED 18	DISTRICT 9 BECK & OPOM COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
THU 19	OPOM COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS
FRI 20	COFFEE WITH OPOM
SAT 21	2024 TARRANT CO. HEART WALK



# 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



**Meet Greg**  
-Community Mediator



**“..I’ve noticed a disconnect between most citizens and the organizations and governments that exist to serve them. I believe the CPMP can build trust between citizens and our police, and I am very grateful to be a part of it. Being a mediator is a new way for me to serve my community while also gaining experience in conflict resolution”**



# 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



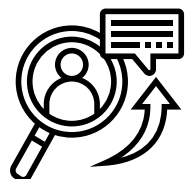
FWPoliceMonitor



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