

OFFICE OF THE POLICE OVERSIGHT MONITOR

Monthly Report
October 2023



Office of the Police
Oversight Monitor

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Fort Worth Community,

I am thrilled and honored to be appointed as the Police Monitor for the Office of the Police Oversight Monitor. My name is Bonycle Sokunbi, and I want to express my gratitude to the City of Fort Worth for entrusting me with this vital role. I am wholeheartedly committed to police oversight through transparency and open dialogue. I believe the community's voice is crucial in this endeavor. I am eager to hear from you on the challenges, strengths, and concerns that currently shape our community's relationship with the police. It is my goal to understand the history that built the culture and operations our police department including the roots of pain that exists within the community of Fort Worth, and then work collaboratively to develop a plan forward together. I will work alongside you to build and sustain positive relationships between our community and law enforcement.

I come to this role with a wealth of experience of working within courtrooms, public forums, city hall to police districts. I grew up in a military family that instilled in me the importance of community and the need for empathy in diverse environments. Prior to moving to Fort Worth, I lived in New Orleans for nearly 15 years where I attended law school, prosecuted crime in Criminal District Court, and worked towards police accountability as the Deputy Police Monitor. In New Orleans I learned the skills I now bring to Fort Worth to be the fair and collaborative police monitor I am now.

I am genuinely excited about the opportunity to create a space for healthy dialogue within our community. My commitment is to sit, listen, and learn from each of you. Together, we will build and mend relationships, facilitating positive change. I am confident that, collectively, we will create a Fort Worth where transparency, accountability, and community trust are the norm.

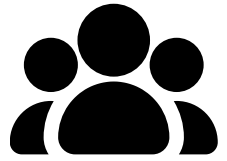
Thank you for welcoming me into your community. I look forward to the journey ahead and the positive impact we will make together.

Sincerely,
Bonycle Sokunbi
Director
Independent Police Monitor

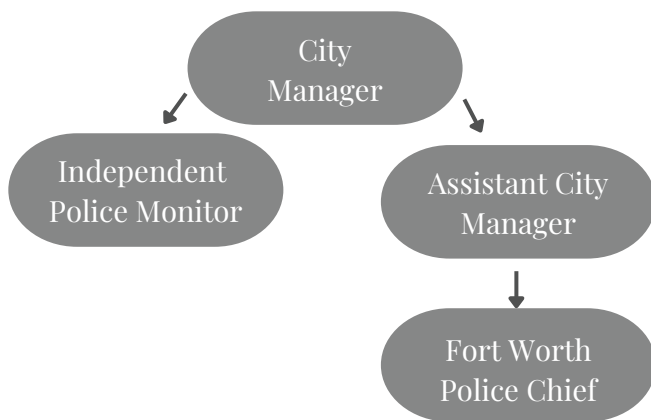
Bonycle Sokunbi



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

5

**Total complaints
received this
month**

31

**Total complaints
received for
2023**

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.

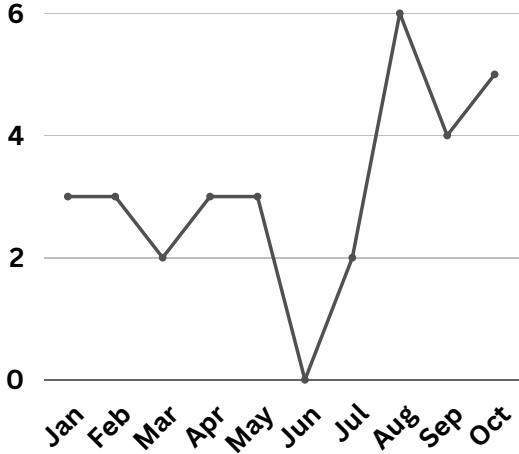
Reviews and forwards complaint/commendation to FWPD's Internal Affairs for review/Investigation.

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

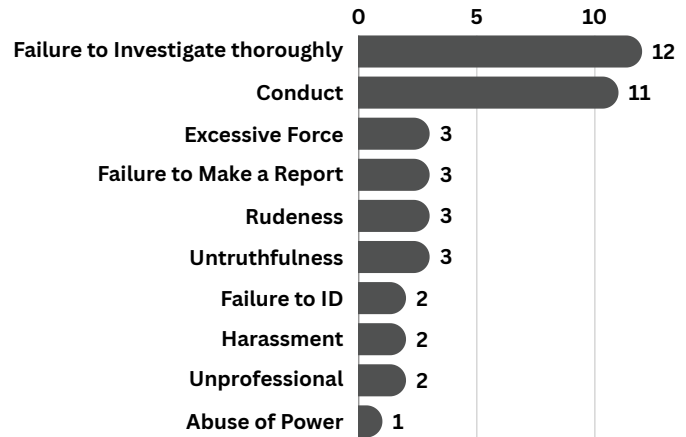
Reviews the complete FWPD complaint investigation and provides feedback and recommendations to the FWPD as appropriate.

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

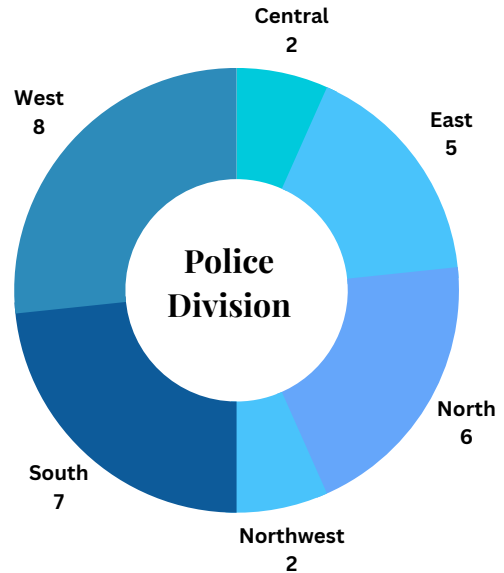
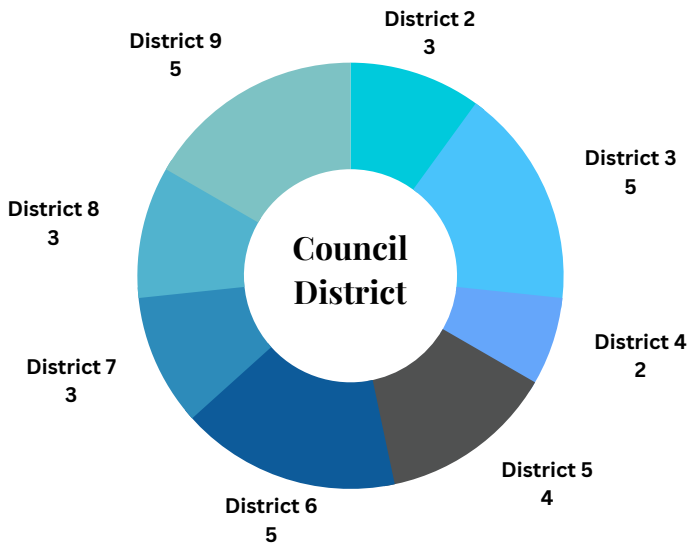
Formal Complaints by Month



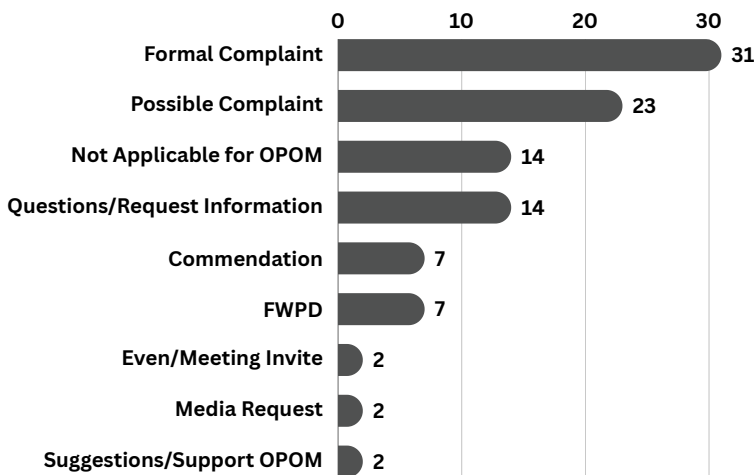
2023 Formal Complaints Allegations



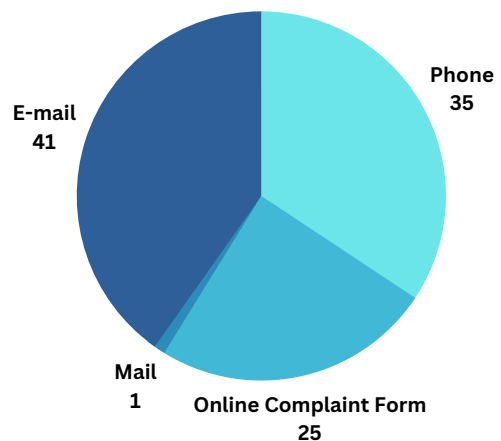
2023 Formal Complaints by Location



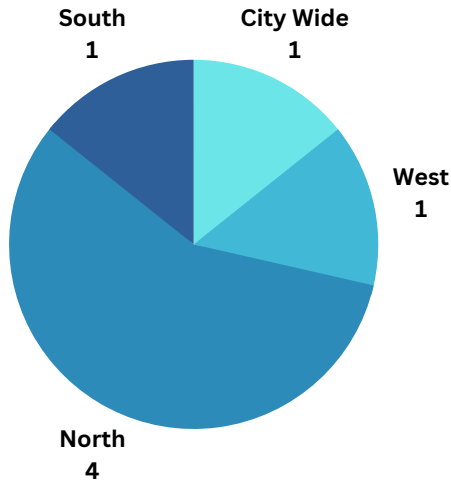
2023 Inquiries Defined



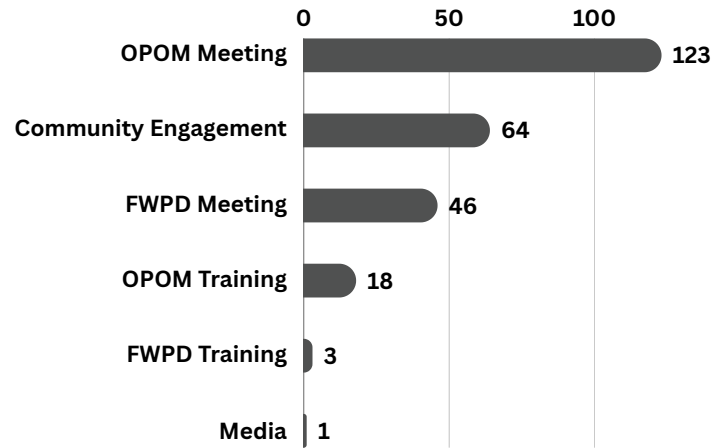
2023 Inquiries Contact Methods



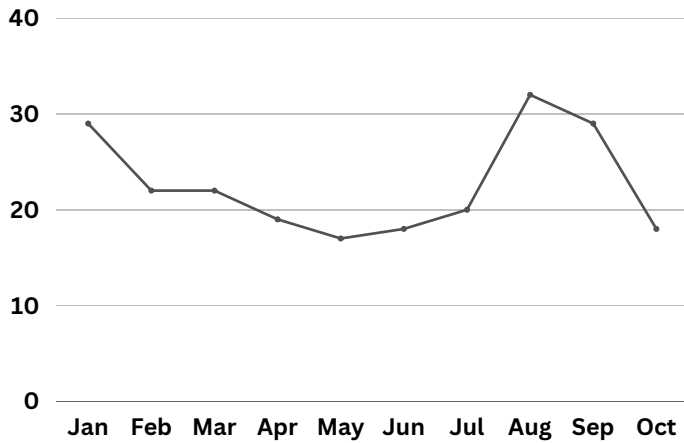
2023 Commendations



2023 Activity Tracking



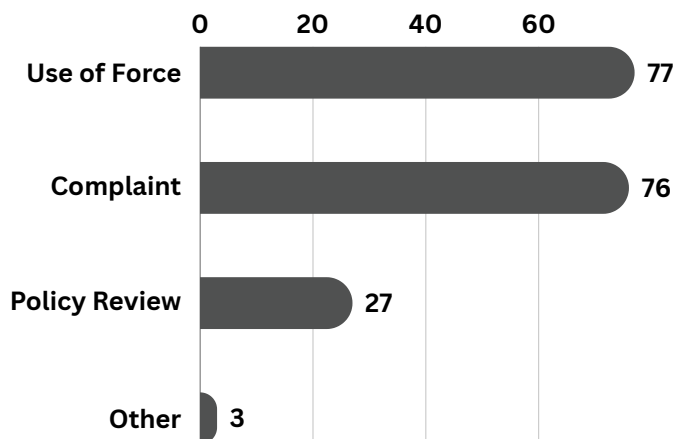
2023 IA Complaints Received



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.

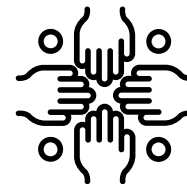
OPOM Recommendations (2020 - Present)



Erin Ragsdale
Senior Management
Analyst



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



One of our primary objectives is to create open channels of communication between our office and the community we serve. We aim to provide a platform for honest conversations through regular community forums and outreach events. This two-way dialogue ensures that your voices are not only heard but actively contribute to the decisions and policies that shape our community. We encourage you to actively participate in our community engagement events, share your thoughts, and stay informed about our ongoing initiatives.

Look forward to an invite to a Community Conversation near you beginning in January!

What are Community Conversations? These are structured gatherings where community members, leaders, and law enforcement representatives come together to share their thoughts, experiences, and ideas on police and community relations. It's an opportunity for us to listen, learn, and collaboratively work towards building a safer and more connected Fort Worth.

Branigan Contreras
Sr. Administrative
Assistant



FORT WORTH
The Office of the Police Oversight Monitor
www.FortWorthTexas.gov/OPOM

Types of Events

Tabling Events

Neighborhood Meetings

Community Conversations

Police Roll calls

Educational Presentations

Recent Events

Sep 29

La Gran Fiesta
@ Clayton Community Center

Oct 3

National Night Out
@ Ridglea North Association

Oct 13

Fall Festival
@ Victory Forest Comm Center

Oct 14

4th Annual Pull up for TAY
@ ACJ Hillside Comm Center

Oct 15

3rd Annual Atatiana Project Gala
@ Ashton Depot



COMMUNITY-POLICE MEDIATION

Coming soon - 2024

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.

What qualifies for mediation?

- Rudeness/Discourteousness
- Neglect of Duty
- Unprofessionalism

Mediation is -

- Non-judgmental
- Confidential
- Voluntary



Give the gift of
DIALOGUE

Community volunteers are needed.
That means YOU! Click below to learn
how you can become a trained
mediator

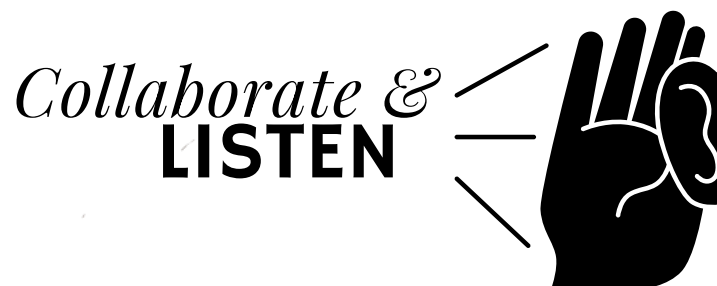
CLICK HERE

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.



Taylor Davis
Program Education
Coordinator



Collaborate &
LISTEN

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



FWPoliceMonitor

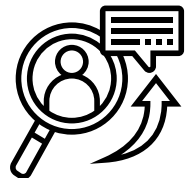


FortWorthPoliceOversight



FortWorthPoliceOversight

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