



THE OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 2022

Community Letter

Dear New Orleans Community,

The last month of 2022 brought a lot of change to the New Orleans Police Department and the community. There were lasts, like the last day of Chief Ferguson's leadership over the department, and firsts, like the appointment of the first woman of color to be the interim chief of the NOPD. In reflecting on the final month of the year, the OIPM wants to acknowledge the changes, contributions, and opportunities that now exist for all of us in 2023.

In December, Chief Ferguson resigned as Chief of NOPD after leading the department for three years. During his tenure, Chief Ferguson oversaw the NOPD response to the Covid19 Pandemic, protests over the murder of George Floyd, challenges from a changing city council, and crime increases across the city. There were steps forward under his leadership and there were department-wide mistakes.

While the OIPM did not agree with all of Chief Ferguson's decisions, Chief Ferguson was very receptive to oversight, sought to collaborate on projects, kept an open line of communication, and our disagreements were always respectful. The OIPM appreciated the partnership during a challenging tenure and wishes him the best.

The departure of Chief Ferguson set into motion a wave of change within the NOPD. In a historic move, Mayor Cantrell appointed Captain Michelle Woodfork to be the first African American female police interim chief of the NOPD. The OIPM congratulates Captain Woodfork on this significant appointment. OIPM is paying close attention to changes that are taking place within NOPD, including leadership changes, and how these shifts may impact the Consent Decree and police reform. Within a week of her appointment, two tenured deputy chiefs retired as new deputy chiefs were selected, new lieutenants and captains were promoted sworn in. The OIPM looks forward to discussing this new leadership structure with Chief Woodfork and learning more about her vision for the NOPD.

In December, I sent a formal letter to Mayor Cantrell and City Council requesting a "collaborative search and selection process" for the permanent chief. I requested both for my inclusion as oversight in the process and for the community, NOPD employees, and other stakeholders to be given meaningful opportunities to contribute and provide input into the search process. The appointments and departures of police chiefs have left the public and even NOPD employees confused about the appointment process, how chiefs are selected, and what makes an individual an effective chief candidate. In response to the questions that the OIPM received in December around these leadership shifts, the OIPM is preparing an informational tool on police chiefs for the public and partners to learn more about the logistics and criteria considered in these important appointments.

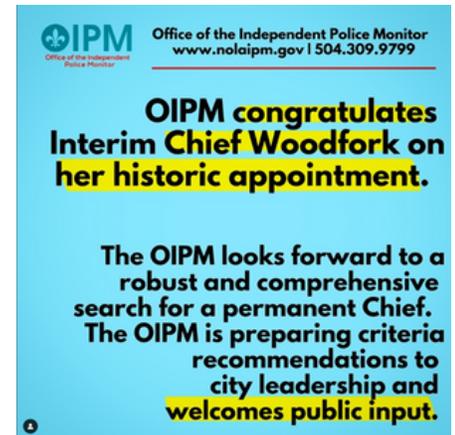
This month, I want to highlight a difficult criminal liaison requiring the Seventh District, Homicide, and the OIPM to work together to better serve a mourning family. A family reached out to the OIPM regarding the death of a loved one that was assessed by the Coroner's Office to be self-inflicted. Though it's not ordinarily NOPD's practice to show video of such actions to families, the OIPM facilitated the viewing of the footage. The family was able to watch the video with officers from the responding district and the homicide unit present to answer questions and a NOPD social worker to provide support. It was a difficult afternoon to say the least, but the OIPM appreciated the effort made by the NOPD to accommodate this request and hold space for this family.

Soon it will be 2023 and with the start of the a new year is a new opportunity to set goals, priorities, and intentions for the year ahead. In January, the OIPM will release the OIPM Work Plan for the coming year and beyond. We look forward to sharing our goals with you and all we will achieve in 2023 together.

Thank you,



MONTHLY REPORT



Above is an OIPM social media post regarding the interim chief appointment. Below is the formal letter submitted to the Mayor and City Council.



Historical Comparison

Year-to-Date Comparison

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	Avg 2017-2021
Civilian Complaint Count	67	59	61	85	32	37	54.8
Police Complaint Count	1	4	5	2	5	3	3.8
Civilian w/in NOPD	0	1	1	0	0	0	0.4
Anonymous Complaint	26	21	28	0	0	0	9.8
Criminal Case Liaison Cou	24	20	40	17	8	7	18.4
Case Monitoring Count	7	4	12	0	10	8	6.8
Case Review Count	4	5	3	8	8	1	5
Contact Only Count	31	17	29	18	2	9	15
Disciplinary Hearing Coun	65	66	64	54	63	33	56
Critical Incident Count	8	8	11	9	7	7	8.4
Firearm Discharge Count	6	7	9	8	4	4	6.4
Lvl 4 Non-Critical	17	9	10	0	0	0	3.8
Mediation Count	23	19	37	35	22	28	28.2
Commendation Count	1	8	3	7	1	2	4.2
Grand Total	280	248	313	243	162	139	221

December Yearly Comparison

	Dec-22	Dec-21	Dec-20	Dec-19	Dec-18	Dec-17	2017-2021 average
Citizen Complaint Count	3	4	4	17	6	6	7.40
Police Complaint Count	0	1	1	0	0	0	0.40
Civilian w/in NOPD	0	0	0	-	-	-	0.00
Anonymous Complaint	1	0	1	-	-	-	0.50
Criminal Case Liaison Count	2	0	3	0	0	0	0.60
Case Monitoring Count	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.20
Case Review Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.20
Contact Only Count	3	0	0	5	0	0	1.00
Disciplinary Hearing Count	2	5	0	7	3	2	3.40
Critical Incident Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.20
Firearm Discharge Count	1	0	0	1	0	0	0.20
Lvl 4 Non-Critical	0	0	2				1.00
Mediation Count	2	2	1	3	1	3	2.00
Commendation Count	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Grand Total	15	13	12	35	10	11	16.2

December Overview

Civilian Complaints Received in December

CC2022-0114 (Received 12/6/22)	The complainant alleged that multiple officers working a specialized unit were committing payroll fraud over the course of several years, and that their ranking supervisor was in neglect of duty for failing to notice such misconduct.
CC2022-0118 (Received 12/21/22)	The complainant alleged that an officer in the 7th district failed to conduct a thorough investigation which led to her being arrested.
CC2022-0117 (Received 12/22/22)	The complainant alleged that an officer in an unknown district failed to properly respond to their call to police when the officer did not arrest or charge an individual for allegedly filming the complainant.

Anonymous Complaints Received in December

AC2022-0115 (Received 12/8/22)	The anonymous complainant alleged that an NOPD Capt. was participating in narcotic activities in a hotel room in the 7th district.
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Contact Only Received in December

CO2022-0030	A member of the public contacted OIPM regarding a possible crime being committed in the 8th District. OIPM informed the member of the public that they must file a police report directly with NOPD, and forwarded the contact information for the 8th District to the member of the public and advised them of how to file a police report.
CO2022-0031	A member of the public submitted an online complaint regarding a possible noise ordinance violation. OIPM forwarded the online complaint to the Health Department of New Orleans.
CO2022-0032	A member of the public contacted OIPM regarding a possible crime being committed in the 2nd District. OIPM informed the member of the public that they must file a police report directly with NOPD, and forwarded the contact information for the 2nd District to the member of the public and advised them of how to file a police report.

December Overview

Firearm Discharge

FD2022-0008	While investigating a trespassing call for service, the officer observed a male laying on the ground, refusing to leave. The individual then stood up, produced a knife, lunged at the officer, and subsequently continued to move towards the officer with the knife. The officer fired one shot, striking the individual in the right arm. The individual was transported to a local hospital. The officer did not report any injuries.
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Criminal Liaison Received in December

CL2022-0025	Two members of the public contacted OIPM about potentially filing a complaint regarding the death investigation of their family member. OIPM facilitated a meeting with Homicide detectives and the members of the public to address their concerns.
CL2022-0026	OIPM received an online complaint regarding the conduct of a member of the Harbor Police Department. OIPM forwarded this complaint in full to the Harbor Police Department.

Disciplinary Proceedings Received in December

DH2022-0066 / PIB2021-0577-R	A Sergeant in the third district is accused of performance of duty violations for failing to follow instructions from an authoritative source when he was not cognizant of his work schedule and worked more than 16 hours and 35 minutes in a 24 hour period multiple times over the course of a three year period.
DH2022-0067 / PIB2022-0249-R	A Sergeant, formerly with Homicide, is accused of a performance of duty violation for failing to ensure her report was reasonably free of errors when she mislabeled the report's exhibits and used the wrong incident number.

Complaints

The OIPM serves as an alternative site for civilians and police officers alike to file complaints of misconduct against the NOPD. These complaints and allegations are compiled into referrals by the OIPM and provided to the Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) for them to investigate. The OIPM monitors and reviews the classification and investigation conducted by PIB.

Once the OIPM receives a complaint, the OIPM prepares the complainant's account into a narrative. The OIPM strives to accurately capture the words, emotions, goals and narrative shared by the complainant and selects the policy, practice, or rule that each allegation of behavior / incident could have violated if determined to be true. As part of the letter preparation process, OIPM personnel reviews information in NOPD systems regarding the interaction complained of, including body worn camera video, electronic police reports (EPR) and field interview cards (FIC). The OIPM may include information obtained from NOPD information systems in the complaint referral to PIB to ensure that PIB can fully investigate the complainant's concerns.

The OIPM provides a complaint process that is independent, impartial, transparent, fact-based, timely, and communicates in an understandable manner to all those involved. The OIPM maintains that misconduct investigation must be comprehensive, and the complaint process must be accessible, fair, thorough, and transparent.

3 CIVILIAN COMPLAINTS

1 ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS



Complainant Type

2022



Intake Source

2022



Discipline

The OIPM is responsible for monitoring whether NOPD action taken during disciplinary proceedings are compliant with state and federal law, NOPD policy, the Consent Decree, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the NOPD and the OIPM executed on November 10, 2010. The OIPM will review such proceedings to ensure the NOPD is compliant with Federal Consent Decree Section XVII: Misconduct Complaint Intake, Investigation, and Adjudication.

The OIPM reviews the disciplinary investigation and attends the subsequent disciplinary hearings where the OIPM will provide systemic and individualized findings and recommendations based on NOPD's investigation. The OIPM conducts a thorough review of the proceedings, findings, and recommendations that is available for review by both the NOPD and the New Orleans community.

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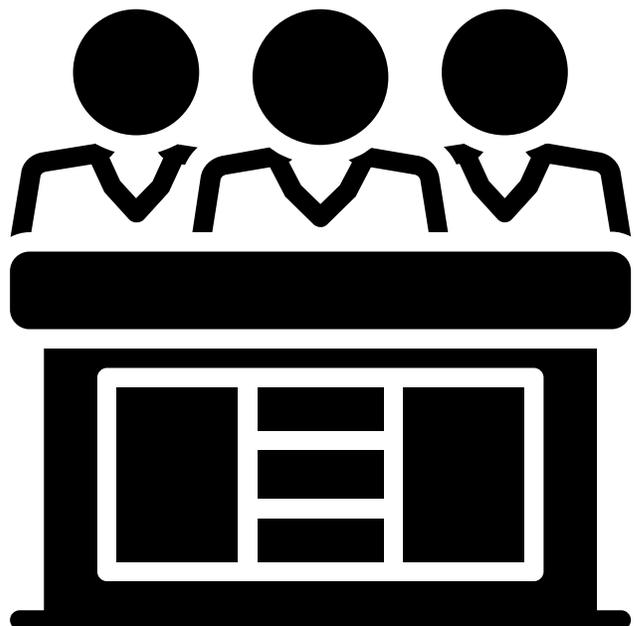
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

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SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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CAPTAIN PANEL PREDISPOSITION AND PENALTY HEARINGS



Community-Police Mediation

Mediation is an alternative to the traditional process of resolving complaints of police officer misconduct. Mediation is a process facilitated by two professionally-trained community mediators to create mutual understanding and allow the civilian and officer to be fully heard and understood in a non-judgmental way.

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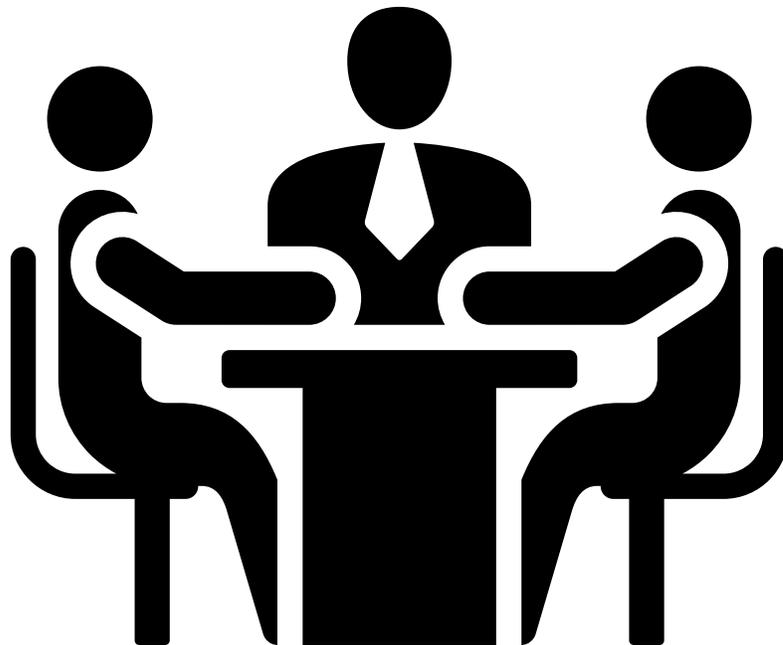
**MEDIATIONS
REFERRED**

0

**MEDIATIONS
PENDING**

2

**MEDIATIONS
HELD**



Use of Force

The OIPM is required by City Code 2-1121 to monitor the quality and timeliness of NOPD's investigations into use of force and in-custody deaths. If a critical incident occurs, the OIPM is notified and a member of the incident and will report immediately to the scene. The OIPM will stay engaged from the occurrence of the incident, through investigation, and Use of Force Review Board (UFRB) hearings.

The UFRB serves as a quality control mechanism to ensure timely reviews of all serious use of force investigations to determine the appropriateness of the investigative findings, and to quickly appraise use of force incidents from a tactics, training, policy, and agency improvement perspective. The voting members of the UFRB are the Deputy Superintendents of Field Operations Bureau, Public Integrity Bureau, and Investigations and Support Bureau. Other NOPD deputy chiefs serve as non-voting members, and outside groups like OIPM and the Office of the Consent Decree Monitor are present to observe, listen, and participate in discussion.

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CRITICAL INCIDENTS

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FORCE MONITORING

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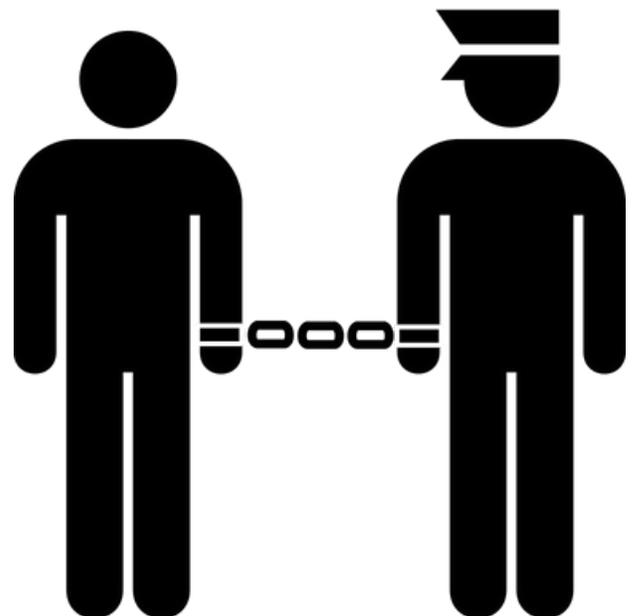
FIREARM DISCHARGE

1

LEVEL 4 NON-CRITICAL INCIDENT

1

CASES HEARD AT USE OF FORCE REVIEW BOARD



Community Outreach

8

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

OIPM leads and participates in community outreach to inform the public of our services, to increase public engagement with policing, raise awareness of local or relevant police practice, and monitor how the NOPD interacts with our community.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HELD COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS IN THE ALGIERS REGIONAL LIBRARY, THE NORD CENTER IN THE CUT-OFF, IN MID-CITY AT THE MID-CITY LIBRARY, AND IN NEW ORLEANS EAST AT THE EAST NEW ORLEANS REGIONAL LIBRARY.

FACILITATED FAMILIES OVERCOMING INJUSTICE MEETING ON 12/3/22 AT OIPM OFFICE.

HELD A VIRTUAL 2-HOUR MEDIATION TRAINING.

CO-TAUGHT WITH THE NOPD A FACIAL RECOGNITION CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION TO ORLEANS PARISH DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

PARTICIPATED IN ALLEN RAY BOLIN HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION IN CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT.



Above is a picture of of volunteers from the Allen Ray Bolin High School Mock Trial Competition, including Deputy IPM, Bonycle Sokunbi.

Below is a picture of Daphne Cross with families and participants of the organization Families Overcoming Injustice during a luncheon at OIPM.

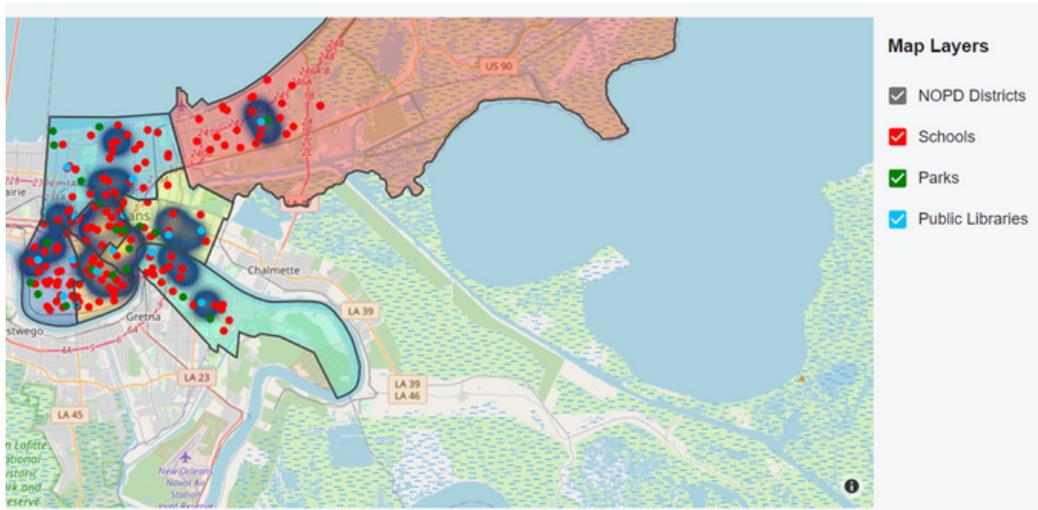


Budget

OIPM Budget Description	Amount
Personnel	\$732,488.00
Operating	\$308,926.00
2022 Total OIPM Budget	\$1,041,414.00
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Amounts Spent to Date:	(\$801,058.00)
Unexpended funds	\$240,356.00

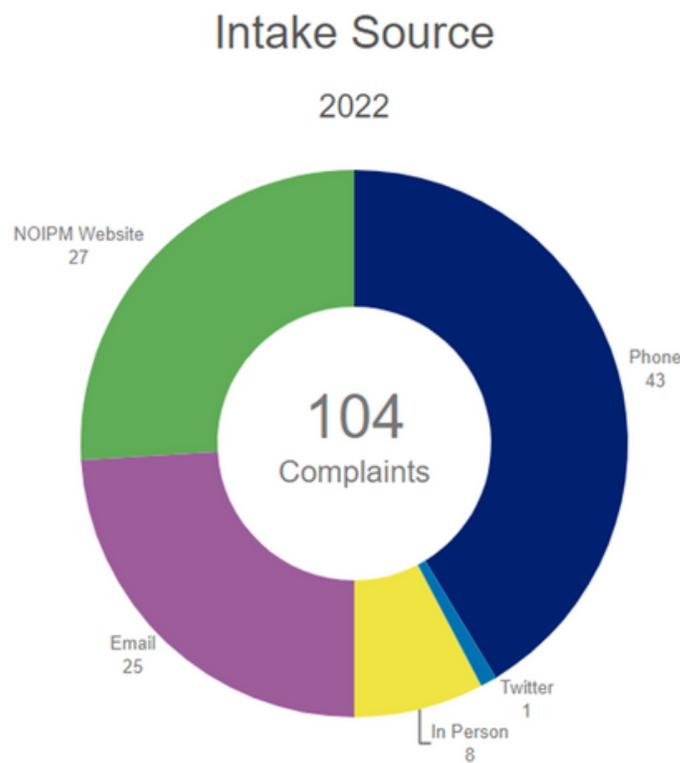
Additional Internally Generated Data for City Council - January 1, 2023

"Heat Mapping" Misconduct Complaints



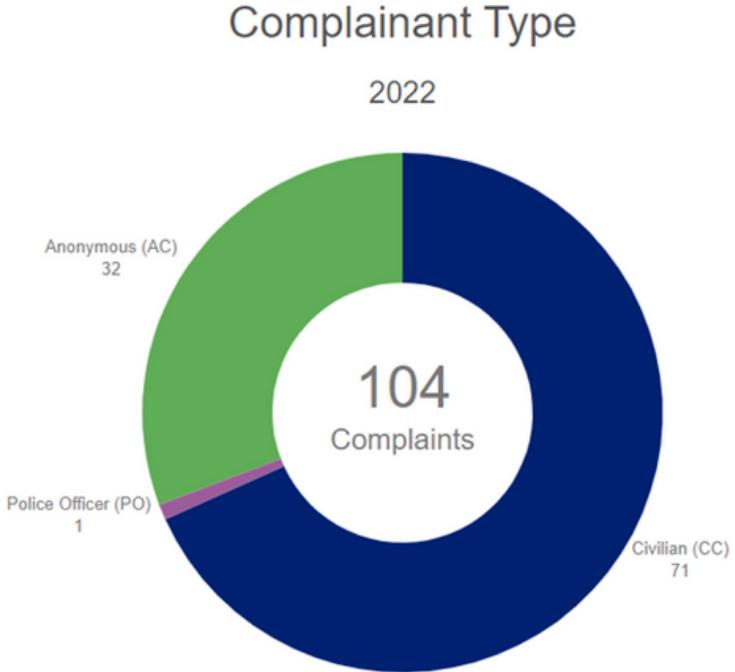
This chart gives an overview of where there may be concentrations of allegations of misconduct occurring in the city. The map layer option enables the viewer to see the allegations of misconduct in context of police districts and where parks, schools, libraries are located.

Misconduct Complaints by Intake Source



Additional Internally Generated Data for City Council - January 1, 2023

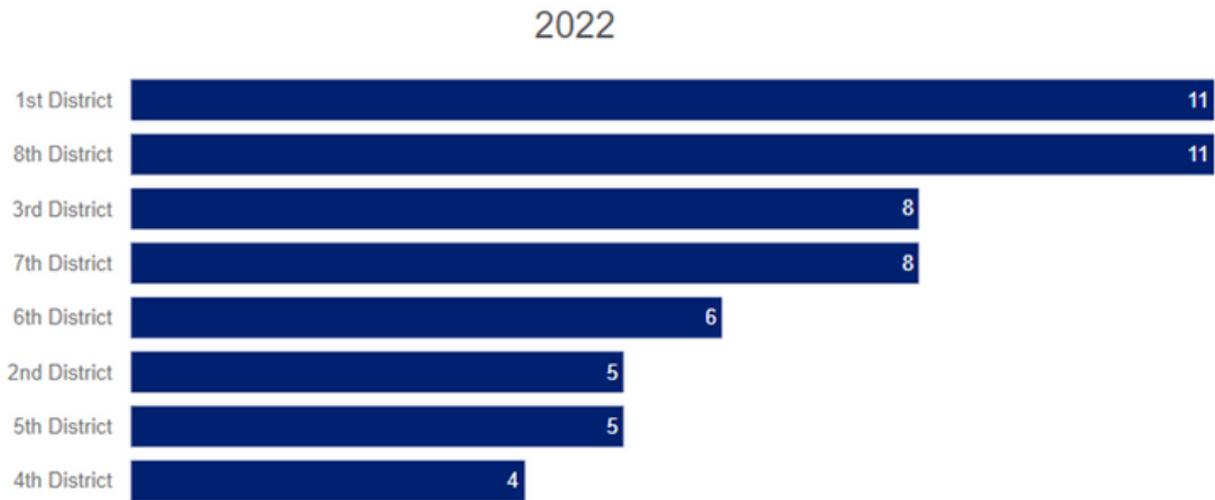
Misconduct Complaints by Complainant Type



Additional Internally Generated Data for City Council - January 1, 2023

Misconduct Complaints by District

This chart communicates where the alleged misconduct occurred by police district. This requires the misconduct to occur in a physical space (instead of an incident that occurs over the phone or internet for example). This is based on complainant disclosure and the OIPM tries to verify this information through electronic police reports, body worn camera footage, and field identification cards.



Top Allegations Proposed by OIPM

This chart captures the top allegations are proposed by the OIPM in the referral letters submitted to the Public Integrity Bureau. This chart is limited since it will only include the allegations that the OIPM entered into our database and has not yet been updated. The OIPM hopes to work on this issue with the NOPD in order to ensure accuracy in the proposed allegations.

