

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR

MONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT

March 2025



Above, the IPM walks the “Public Safety” walk with NOPD leadership prior to the Mardi Gras parades to identify public safety risks, gaps in law enforcement coverage, check on prior locations of force, and engage with the community.

Transparency. Accountability. Respect.



LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear New Orleans Community,

After years of vendor issues, contract negotiation, RFPs, and building and planning, the **OIPM's 24 hour hotline is finally live**. This is such an exciting month for us - both as an organization and for me personally. The service allows for callers to text, call, or online submit complaints of officer misconduct any hour of the day, any day of the week, all year long in the language of your preference (English, Spanish, or Vietnamese). This month the OIPM is testing the service, catching bugs, addressing call wait times, and improving the interface on the online submission function before doing a hard launch with billboards and a public informational campaign. It took a lot of work and energy to get here - thank you for all your support during this process.

Mardi Gras came to a close in March. During Mardi Gras, the OIPM participated in a public safety walk with department leadership to monitor how NOPD leadership identifies safety risks, checks police coverage, engages with the community, and looks for potential quality of life challenges. You can learn more about this monitoring process in this report. During Mardi Gras, the OIPM was also tagged in videos that had officer interactions that the community wanted the office to review. The OIPM looked into those concerns and thanks the community for their vigilance and engagement.

In this month's report, the OIPM also discussed how our office monitored **Super Sunday and St. Joseph's Night** in March. This was another opportunity for the OIPM to monitor police engagement with the community and public safety strategies on culturally significant events.

In March, the OIPM watched from afar as another state considered legislation to **ban civilian oversight over the police**. The OIPM will continue to watch as these political strategies to limit or prohibit oversight to ensure the OIPM is learning from these efforts. While some states are seeking to limit accountability of the police, in Louisiana, the **OIPM joined with the ACLU and the Justice Lab as they taught a "Self Empowerment" clinic for those who experienced police misconduct** - in order to increase accountability and awareness of the options that are available to those impacted. This clinic was held in the Lower 9th Ward. The OIPM provided feedback to our partners and discuss how to ensure that the public feels supported and informed when they file complaints against law enforcement.

The OIPM is excited to announce that our office is hiring! We are currently seeking a **Community Engagement Specialist** to join our team. This position will plan and execute community engagement programming, work with stakeholders and police leadership, and assist with OIPM projects while serving on the on-call calendar and writing misconduct referrals. We want the community to feel empowered and informed about policing issues - you can be a part of making that goal a reality. So if you want to work with the community, talk to the police department about public input, and take complaints of misconduct and accounts of positive policing - this might be the job for you. Learn more about the position and apply here: <https://bit.ly/CommunityEngagementSpecialistJobPosting>

Finally, please continue to tune in to the **Monitor's Mic on Fridays at noon on WBOK 1230AM** to learn more about oversight, policing, and community issues.

Thank you,

Stella Ciment



Below, Deputy IPM, Kirschelle Williams takes a photo with assistant U.S. Attorney and author, Jared Fishmen at a facilitated discussion regarding his book chronicling the prosecution of police misconduct in New Orleans.



ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, & WORK



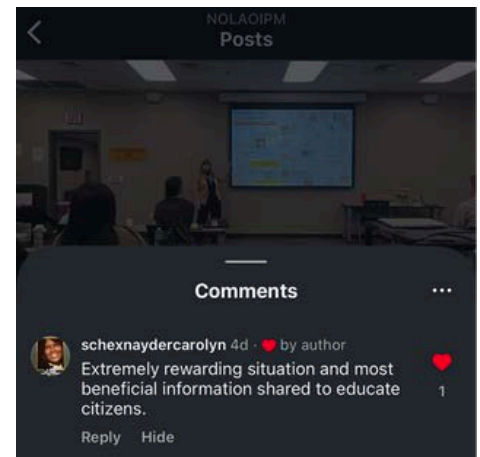
To the left is a mockup of what the billboard for the 24 hour hotline can look like. The OIPM is producing multiple mockups in order to make the most of the upcoming public campaign regarding the hotline.

Soft Launch and Testing of the 24 Hour Hotline System

After years of planning, this month the OIPM did a soft launch of the 24 hour hotline. This soft launch included incorporating the submission process into our website so the online complaints went through our new hotline staff routing system and case management software. We also started calling the number and releasing the number to test call wait times and the intake process. We are using this period to slowly release the service so we can catch bugs and improve the process to ensure accessibility, clarity, and functionality. We have had a few hiccups and had to send feedback to the vendors regarding call wait times and change the home screen to ensure that online submission is as easy as possible. The OIPM looks forward to our public campaign and is starting to create billboard mockups.

OIPM Presents at the NOPD's Citizen's Academy

This month, the OIPM presented to the NOPD's Citizen's Academy class about the role and work of police oversight and how it affects the police department and the public. The NOPD's Citizen's Academy is a program designed to educate and involve the public in the operations and procedures of the NOPD and explain how the department works with different stakeholders. Everyone present was very informed and engaged in civic issues and as a result, asked very interesting questions about the logistics of oversight and how our work impacts policing strategy and public safety. The OIPM received this feedback from a follower regarding the presentation at the Citizen's Academy. The OIPM thanks all the participants for the great questions about community policing, the consent decree, and oversight



City Council Criminal Justice Committee Presentation

On Monday, March 31st, the OIPM participated in the quarterly Criminal Justice Committee Stakeholder presentation as required by Ordinance Cal. No. 33,724.

During this presentation, the OIPM presented relevant data regarding critical incidents and use of force the office monitored during the first quarter of 2025. The OIPM also presented data on the number of misconduct complaints submitted, community-police mediations conducted, the number of community liaisons facilitated, the public outreach completed, and other data regarding the work product completed by the office. The OIPM provided updates on the projects highlighted in the OIPM budget presentation and 2025 work plan including the public facing database, the public archives, and the 24 hour hotline. Finally, the OIPM provided a brief overview of the Consent Decree / Sustainment status and some updates on political changes affecting oversight. The OIPM fielded questions from the Council and the public.



ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, & WORK

Monitoring Mardi Gras

In February through March, the city of New Orleans joined together in the celebration of Mardi Gras. This was the second SEAR 1 Rated event in New Orleans in the month of February. SEAR means Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) and 1 is the highest rating. If an event receives a 1 rating, that means the host site receives additional federal support and funding for the event. This was the first year that Mardi Gras was considered a "SEAR 1" event. As a result of the rating, the NOPD worked in conjunction with additional federal, state, and local partners and law enforcement to ensure public safety - while the OIPM monitored and informed the public of all related law enforcement actions being taken.

The Thursday before "big weekend" of Mardi Gras, the IPM joined the NOPD leadership team for the public safety walk prior to the start of the parades to monitor and observe the safety protocols put into place. During this walk, the IPM observed how the NOPD leadership identifies safety risks, checks police coverage, engages with the community, and looks for potential quality of life challenges. After walking the route, the IPM joined leadership as to check on areas where there was historically use of force and / or high numbers of gun arrests to see how the NOPD was covering those areas through officers, partner agencies, drones, and equipment.

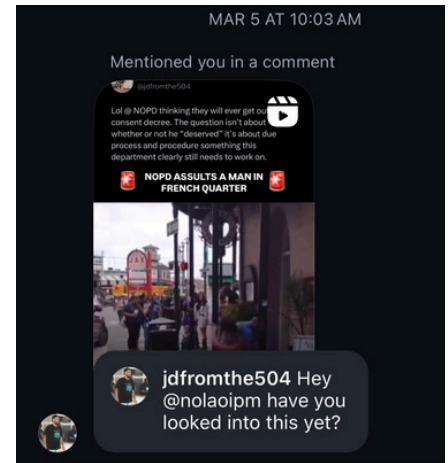
Additionally, the IPM checked in on Bourbon Street, then checked in with 8th District leadership at the station. Next, the IPM went to the Emergency Operations Command (EOC) to speak with the Louisiana State Trooper and NOPD officer assigned to the EOC. Finally, the IPM stopped by Frenchmen to see how the traffic barricades were working and watched as leadership coordinated with the Department of Homeland Security to address traffic flow issues with the barricades that were implemented.

A question that the OIPM received during Mardi Gras was why ICE was at the parade routes. The OIPM cannot comment on the role of ICE beyond what our understanding of their presence to be: ICE was touched as a component of the SEAR 1 support and was there as a support entity with the equipment and manpower and they were not in their ordinary compacity.

Again, the OIPM thanks partners and the community for tagging the OIPM in videos and posts on social media with police encounters that they found concerning over Mardi Gras. The OIPM is aware of a use of force incident in the French Quarter and it is being investigated.

Here is some of the arrest and crime data the NOPD has shared regarding Mardi Gras:

- **338 Arrests Citywide**
 - 28 arrests regarding "person" crimes
 - 61 arrests regarding "property" crimes
 - 27 arrests regarding weapon related offenses
 - 25 illegal carrying of a gun arrests (25 of the 27 weapon related)
 - 222 other classified arrests
 - 59 simple battery arrest (largest out of the 222 other)
- **Parade Route Arrests**
 - 86
 - 23 - Felony
 - 31 - Misdemeanor
 - 30 - Municipal
 - 2 - Traffic
 - Tuesday, February 25th - Parade Make-up Day had the largest amount of arrests city wide - 40 arrests



Above the IPM participates in the public safety walk prior to parades during Mardi Gras and the OIPM is tagged in a video a French Quarter encounter during Mardi Gras.

493

2025 Reported Crimes During Mardi Gras

48% Decrease in Reported Crimes

951

2024 Reported Crimes During Mardi Gras

86

Parade Route Arrests

18

Guns Confiscated from Parade Route Resulting in 17 Arrests

ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, & WORK

Monitoring Super Sunday & St. Joseph's Night

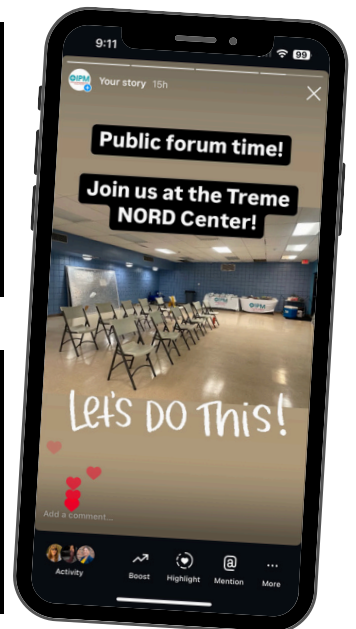
St. Joseph's Night and Super Sunday are annual community gatherings of Mardi Gras Indian tribes. Both events are an opportunity to celebrate heritage and culture through the meetings of tribes, displays of hand-sewn suits, singing, dancing, and chanting. The OIPM monitors the police presence at these events to ensure the NOPD honors the Ten Agreements Between NOPD and New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Chiefs that came out of the March 15, 2011, and facilitate mediation between various Mardi Gras Indian chiefs and NOPD police chiefs and commanders. The OIPM monitors these events to make sure the police give space and respect for these culturally significant events. The OIPM assesses how the police prepare during Roll Call, where the police stand, if sirens or lights are flashing, what roads are blocked, how the NOPD responds to incidents that may arise, and the interactions that occur between the NOPD and the Mardi Gras Indian tribes and community.



Public Forum in the Treme

In March, the OIPM hosted a public forum in the Treme. The theme of the public forum was "Let's Debrief Together" and it was a chance for the community to unpack the events of the first quarter of the year. From the NYE terrorist attack, to the Super Bowl and Mardi Gras, to political changes - we wanted to give space for the public to ask questions and talk about their experiences with the police during these events. It was a small turn out due to multiple other public forums happening simultaneously particularly with the Police Community Advisory Boards, but the OIPM did appreciate the those who came and engaged with our office on the things that mattered to them.

Please stay posted for our next public forum and if you are on a Police Community Advisory Board and would like the OIPM to attend to speak or engage with your attendees, please let us know.



ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, & WORK

March on the Monitor's Mic

This month on the Monitor's Mic, the OIPM interviewed different stakeholders in policing and the criminal legal field.

These conversations gave us the chance to dive into important issues in our community, such as the connection between public defense and police oversight, the role of incarceration on public trust of the police, and how the crime lab fits in the policing and criminal legal system. The talks not only informed the public but also allowed experts and community leaders to share their thoughts and work toward making society more representative, fairer, and stronger.

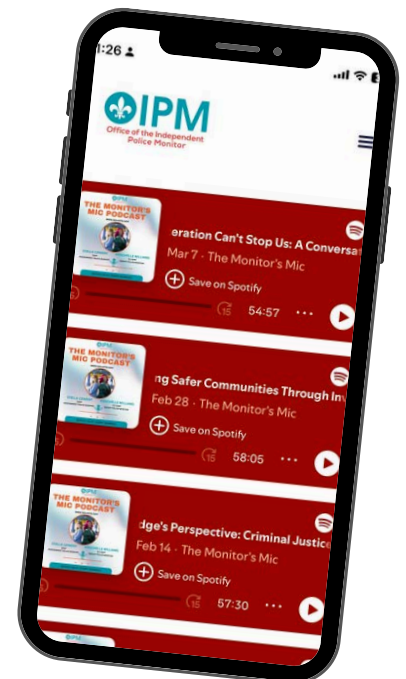
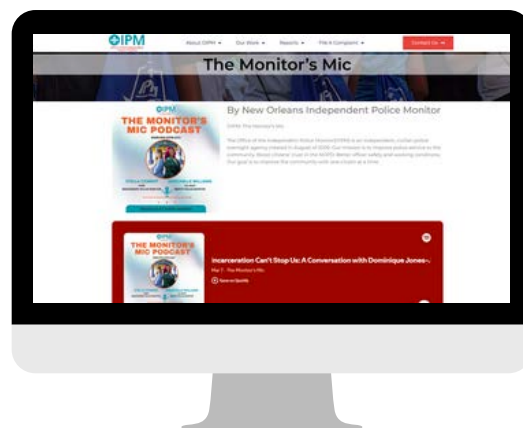
We were joined by **Dominique Jones-Johnson from Daughters Beyond Incarceration**. Dominique spoke to us about the power of community centered policing, the importance of family reunification post-incarceration, and DBI's impactful work empowering girls and youth to engage in decisions - legislatively - for all of Louisiana. Check out DBI's website to learn more about their listening session on March 27th.

The next week, we interviewed two public defenders from the **Orleans Public Defender's Office**. Alexis Chernow, Deputy Chief Defender, and Meg Garvey, Policy Counsel, dispelled misinformation about public defenders (they are not "government attorneys", do not force anyone to plead guilty or take deals, and are barred attorneys from New Orleans and all over the country). They spoke about the importance of public defense and provided informative observations about the changes in policing in New Orleans - truly giving a historical context on what it used to be like to file complaints against corrupt officers (spoiler: it was scary). It was great to hear about policing and the criminal legal system from the perspective of career public defenders.

Finally, **Dr. Shamika Kelley of NOPD's Crime Lab** joined us on the Monitor's Mic to explain what the Crime Lab is (and is not - it doesn't do autopsies!) and broke down the impact of forensic science on policing. Dr. Kelley explained the ins and outs of the NOPD Crime Lab - what they do, who they report to, and how they let the science speak for itself. She also discussed her goals for the Crime Lab and the future Forensic Biology Lab work (DNA testing is coming to New Orleans!).

If you've missed any of these shows, you can listen to recordings of the show on the OIPM website:

<https://nolaipm.gov/the-monitors-mic/>



WHO WE ARE

The OIPM is an independent, civilian police oversight agency created by voters in a 2008 charter referendum. Its mission is to improve police service to the community, community trust in the NOPD, and officer safety and working conditions. Since first opening its doors in August 2009, the Office of the Independent Police Monitor has been responsible for representing the community of New Orleans, providing accountability and oversight to the NOPD, and assisting in the reforms required under the Federal Consent Decree.

The OIPM is protected and required by City Charter and Ordinance. The OIPM operates through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of New Orleans and the New Orleans Police Department and has distinct responsibilities outlined by ordinance. This means this office was created by the people of New Orleans to represent all people interacting with the New Orleans Police Department to improve the way our community is policed.

Ensuring Compliance and Reform

- The OIPM reviews the NOPD's policies, practices, and investigations to ensure that every action taken is compliant with local, state, and federal law, and Consent Decree reforms.
- The OIPM advises on policy, tactics, training, and supervision to ensure that the NOPD is adopting national best practice and building a nondiscriminatory, safe, effective, and respectful police department that is responsive to the needs of the community and their employees.
- The OIPM does this through monitoring, case reviews, audits, and policy recommendations.

Amplifying the Needs of the Community

- The OIPM engages with the community to ensure that they both know about our services and understand how the police department works. Through providing information, the OIPM is equipping and empowering the community to navigate police encounters safely and demand what they need.
- Provides Complaint Intake.
- Operates the Community-Police Mediation Program.
- Partners with Families Overcoming Injustice.
- Coordinates public forums and outreach opportunities for the community to provide vital input on the way they are policed.

Making the NOPD a Safer and Nondiscriminatory Workplace

- The OIPM provides recommendations and assessments to ensure that the NOPD is a safe and nondiscriminatory work place for all employees.
- The OIPM assesses supervision and training to ensure that employees are being equipped and supported.
- The OIPM meets with police associations to hear concerns from their membership.
- The OIPM monitors disciplinary hearings to ensure that discipline is consistent and nonretaliatory.
- The OIPM receives commendations and accounts of positive policing from the community.



WHAT DO WE DO?

Mission, Vision, Work

We serve the community, ensure police transparency, compliance, and accountability, and make policing a safer and more rewarding employment experience.

WHAT WE DO



Misconduct Complaints



Disciplinary Proceedings



Data Analysis



Community Outreach



Use of Force



Community-Police Mediation Program



Audits and Policy



Commendations

The OIPM is the oversight body for the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD). The OIPM provides oversight through monitoring, reviewing, and auditing police activity and data. The OIPM is responsible for conducting complaint and commendation intake, on-scene monitoring of critical incidents and uses of force, overseeing the community-officer mediation program, reviewing investigations, providing assessments, identifying patterns, and making recommendations for improved practice, policy, resource allocation, and training.

The OIPM envisions a police force where the community is a valued and respected partner in public safety and law enforcement. This is achieved through:

- Assurance of transparency, accountability, and fairness within the NOPD and in all policing practices
- Community-driven policing policy that reflects the changing and dynamic needs of New Orleanians
- Continued efforts to engage the community and collaborate with community partners
- Recruitment and retention of a police force that is representative of and responsive to the community it serves
- Utilization of de-escalation techniques and methods when responding to calls of service
- Conducting only lawful and necessary arrests free of discriminatory practices
- Thorough and effective investigations resulting in appropriate arrests and prosecutions
- Clear and professional communication with victims and witnesses of crime and all that come into contact with the NOPD
- Responsible utilization of equipment and allocation of resources
- Development of highly trained supervisors and organizational leadership
- Interactions with the public and internally within the police force that are based in mutual trust and respect

The OIPM seeks to amplify the voice of the community to ensure that all within the city – visitors and residents alike – can access police services equally and have a positive experience with officers.

DATA OVERALL: YEAR TO DATE AND MONTH

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	Avg 2017-2024
Civilian Complaint Count	16	37	33	14	14	10	22	6	8	18.00
Police Complaint Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0.63
Civilian w/in NOPD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Anonymous Complaint	4	8	8	3	9	2	0	0	0	3.75
Community Liaison Count	2	3	10	3	6	18	11	1	3	6.88
Case Monitoring Count	2	0	2	6	1	7	0	5	4	3.13
Case Review Count	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	1	0	0.88
Contact Only Count	14	28	18	9	1	3	6	0	2	8.38
Disciplinary Hearing Count	8	9	10	7	4	5	6	12	12	8.13
Critical Incident Count	3	3	1	3	3	3	4	1	5	2.88
Firearm Discharge Count	2	3	1	4	2	3	3	1	2	2.38
Lvl 4 Non-Critical	2	3	3	4	2	5	0	0	0	2.13
Force Monitoring*	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.13
Mediation Count	9	1	3	3	5	7	8	1	6	4.25
Commendation Count	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.38
Grand Total	64	97	91	60	47	64	61	32	43	62

	Mar 2025	Mar 2024	Mar 2023	Mar 2022	Mar 2021	Mar 2020	Mar 2019	Mar 2018	Mar 2017	2017-2024 Average
Citizen Complaint Count	5	11	11	6	5	1	11	2	4	6.38
Police Complaint Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Civilian w/in NOPD	0	0	0	0	0	0				0.00
Anonymous Complaint	0	2	5	2	2	0				2.20
Community Liaison Count	1	1	3	0	3	2	6			2.50
Case Monitoring Count	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	1	0.88
Case Review Count	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0.63
Contact Only Count	2	13	5	3	0	0	3	0	0	3.00
Disciplinary Hearing Count	1	7	3	0	1	2	2	3	3	2.63
Critical Incident Count	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0.75
Firearm Discharge Count	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0.50
Lvl 4 Non-Critical	2	0	0	0	1	2				0.60
Force Monitoring*	0	0	0							0.00
Mediation Count	4	1	3	3	2	2	6	1	2	2.50
Commendation Count	0	2	1	0	0	0	0			0.50
Grand Total	15	39	31	19	17	11	31	12	10	21.25

*indicates a new category or a category that was not always captured by OIPM

CURRENT BUDGET



OIPM Budget Description	Amount
Personnel	\$905,785.00
Operating	\$400,000.00
2025 Total OIPM Budget	\$1,305,785.00
2025 Total OIPM Budget	\$1,305,785.00
Amounts Spent to Date:	\$301,465.00
Unexpended funds	\$1,004,320.00

MISCONDUCT WORK

Relevant Definitions

Complaint

A complaint is an allegation of misconduct filed against a NOPD officer(s) by a member of a public or civilian (external) or another officer (internal). A complaint may concern an action or lack of action taken by a NOPD officer(s), an interaction with a NOPD officer, or a witnessed interaction with a NOPD officer.

Complainant

A complainant is the individual who files a complaint against a NOPD officer(s). A complainant may be generated internally (by another officer or a supervisor) or externally (by a member of a public). The complainant does not need to be personally affected by the incident.

OIPM Complaint Codes

When the OIPM receives a complaint referral, the OIPM organizes the complaint according to the source of the complaint.

- Civilian based complaints are classified as: CC.
- Complaints from police officers are classified as: PO.
- Complaints from civilians working within the NOPD are classified as: CN.
- Anonymous complaints are classified as: AC.

Misconduct

Officer action or failure to take action that violates any rule, policy, procedure, order, verbal or written instruction of the NOPD or is a violation of any city ordinance, state or federal criminal law. Misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

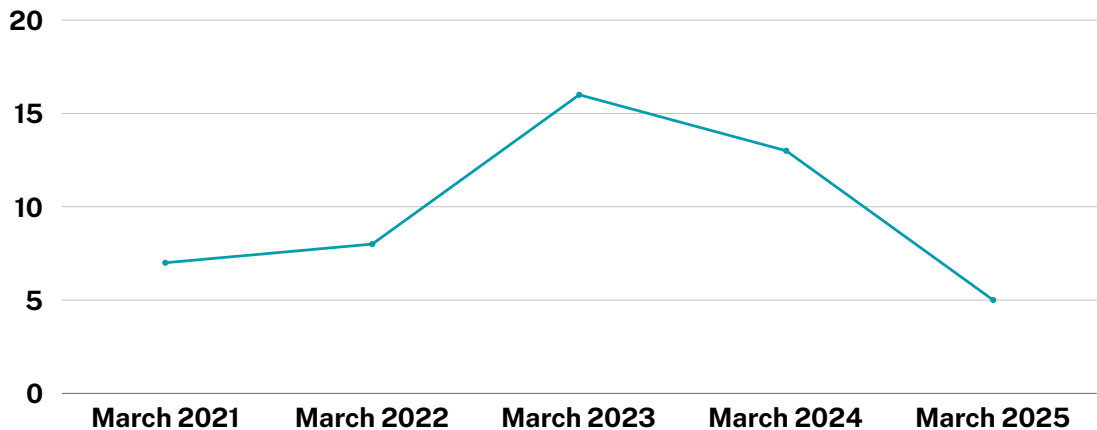
- Use of Force
- Abuse of Authority such as unlawful searches and seizures, premises enter and search, no warrant, threat to notify child services, threats to damage of property, etc., refusal to take complaint, refuse to identify themselves, damages to property seized
- Failure to supervise
- Falsification of records
- Inappropriate language or attitude
- Harassment
- Interference with Constitutional rights
- Neglect of duty
- Discrimination in the provision of police services or other discriminatory conduct on the basis of race, colors, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation
- Theft
- Retaliation for filing complaint with NOPD or the OIPM

Complaint Procedures

The OIPM does not verify the statements made during complaint intake or agree with the statements provided by the complainant. 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. OIPM personnel may review information in NOPD systems regarding the interaction complained of, including body worn camera video, in car camera video, electronic police reports and field interview cards. The OIPM may include information obtained from NOPD information systems in the complaint referral.

The OIPM assesses whether in the information provided should be provided confidentially or if the OIPM would recommend covert operations conducted by the Special Investigation Squad (SIS). Anything shared in this report is public information.

Complaint Totals - March



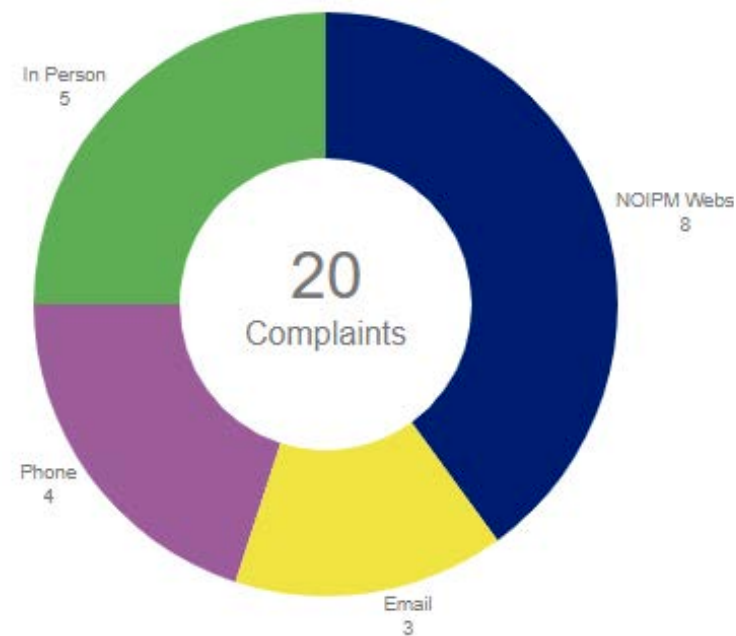
5

Total Complaints
Received this
month

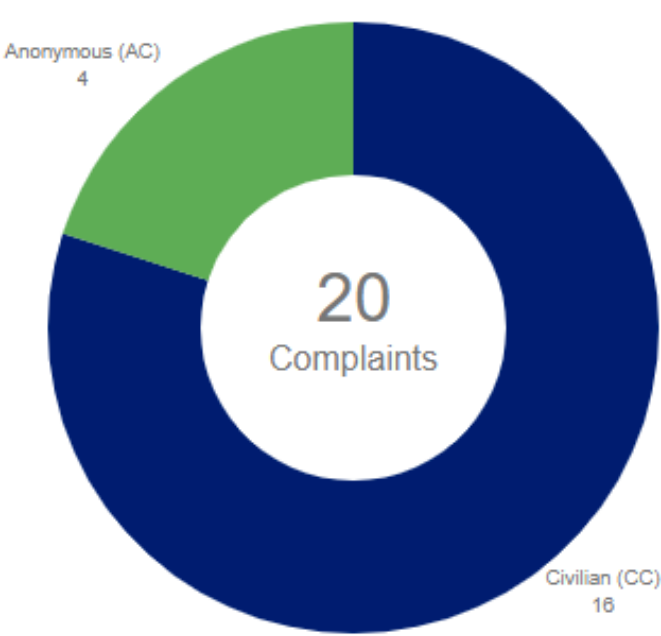
20

Total Complaints
Received This
Year

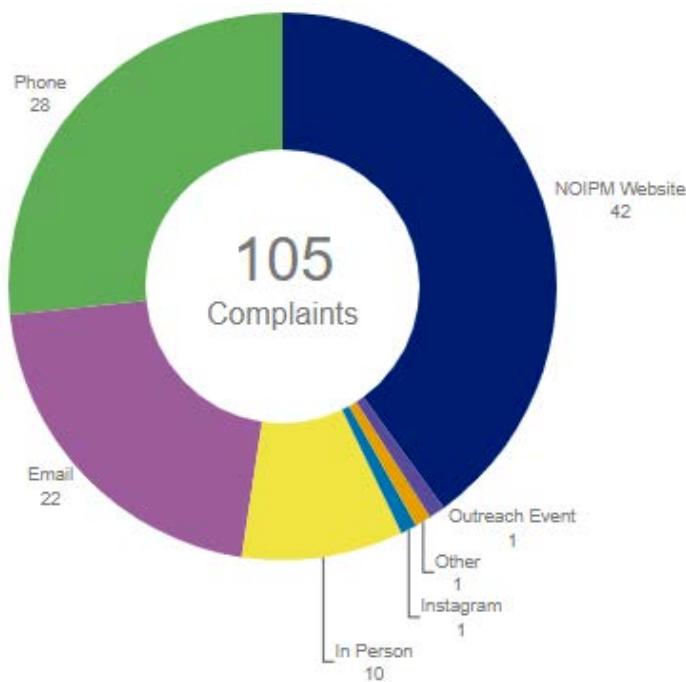
Complaint Intake Source - 2025



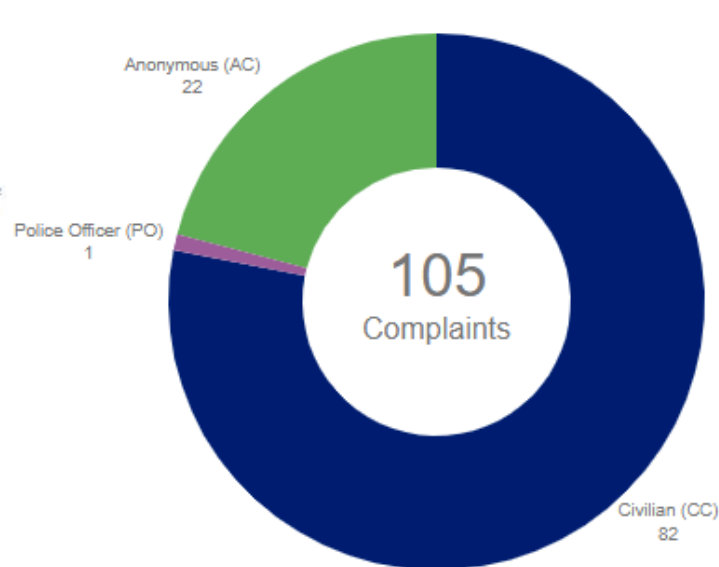
Complainant Type - 2025



Complaint Intake Source - Past 12 Months

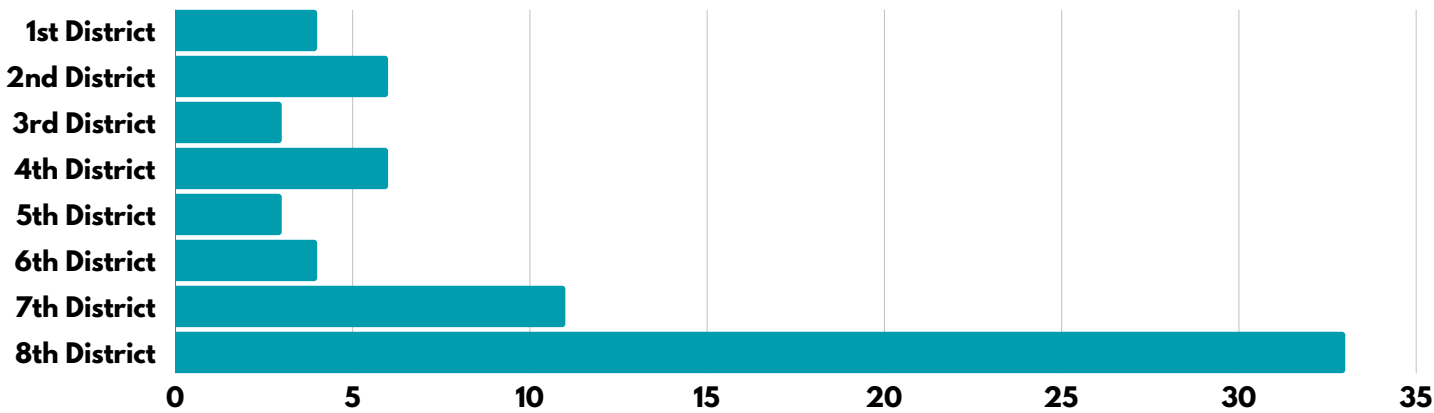


Complainant Type - Past 12 Months

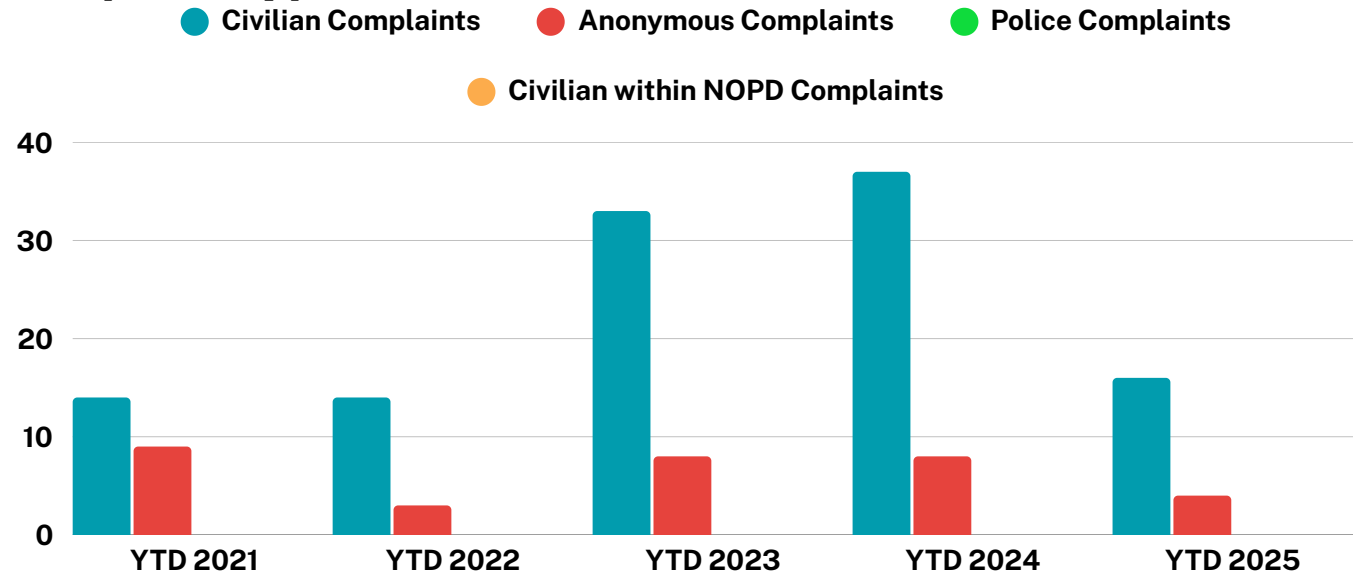


Districts - Past 12 Months

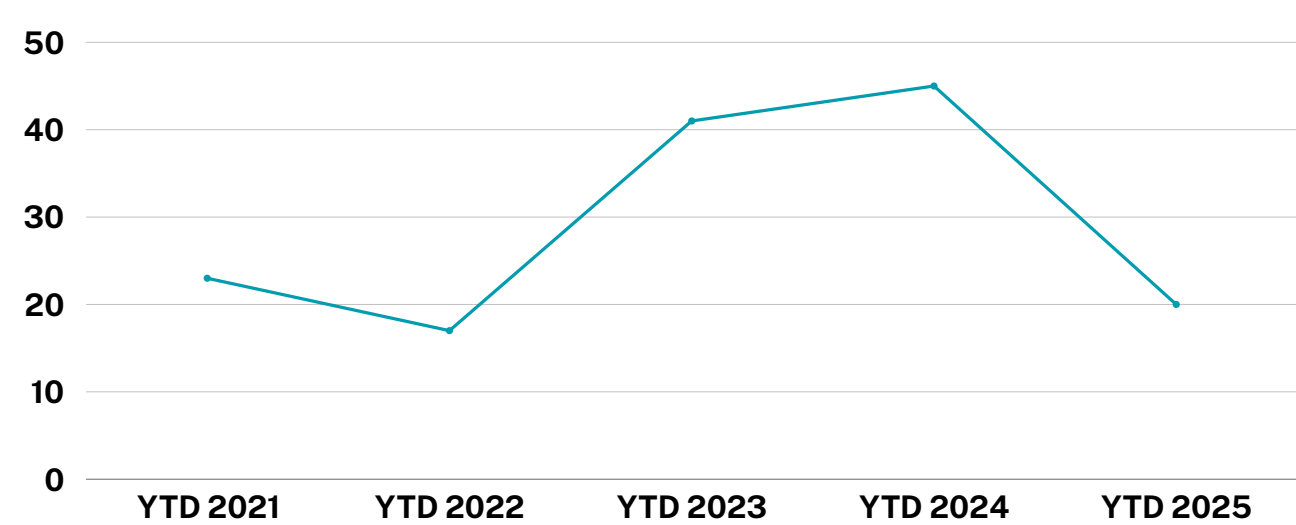
This chart communicates where the alleged misconduct occurred by police district. This requires the misconduct to occur in a physical space (instead of an incident that occurs over the phone or internet for example). This is based on complainant disclosure and the OIPM tries to verify this information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



Complaint Type YTD - 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

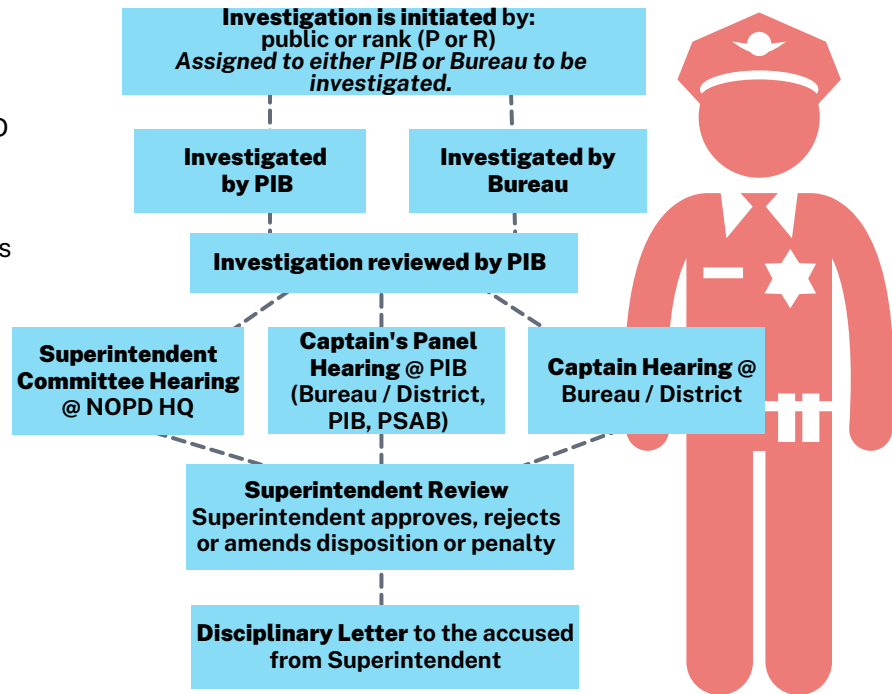


Complaint Totals YTD - 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025



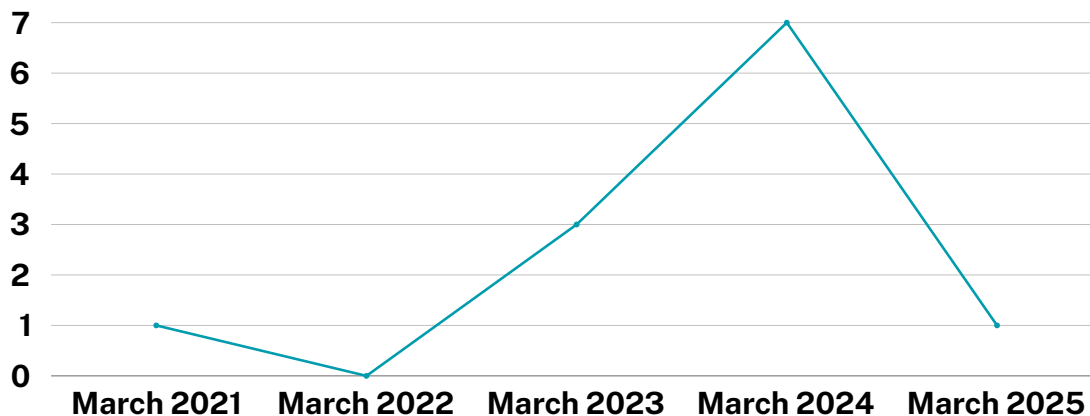
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

After the misconduct investigatory process, if the investigating officer sustained an allegation, then that allegation must be affirmed by NOPD leadership in order for that accused officer to be disciplined. This occurs through the disciplinary proceeding process. The disciplinary proceedings are conducted by the NOPD - either by Captains or Deputy-Chiefs. The OIPM monitors and assesses the efforts of NOPD to ensure all disciplinary investigations and proceedings are conducted in a manner that is non-retaliatory, impartial, fair, consistent, truthful, and timely in accordance with NOPD policies and law. Adjudication of misconduct is handled internally by the PIB or the Bureau of the officer / employee.



The OIPM may monitor the process conducted by the PIB or by the Bureau; however, under the MOU, there are detailed directions regarding how the OIPM is notified of investigations by the PIB and similar protocol does not currently exist for Bureaus. For that reason, the OIPM tends to be more involved with investigations and disciplinary proceedings conducted by the PIB. During every disciplinary proceeding, the OIPM remains in the room for deliberation with the NOPD leadership to give the hearing officers feedback and input. This process is how the OIPM provides our recommendations and feedback regarding the strength of the investigation, liability and risk management concerns, and areas where the policy required clarification or was being applied inconsistently. Though OIPM may provide this feedback in memorandums to the NOPD prior to the hearing or supplementing these hearings, these discussions during the deliberation process enable the NOPD to consider and digest our points before any final decision was made on the matter. These discussions are an opportunity for the OIPM to provide and receive insight into the NOPD investigation and often these comments lead to meaningful discussion with not just the hearing officers, but the assigned investigator on the case, since it was an opportunity for that investigator to explain investigatory decisions and to answer questions.

Disciplinary Proceedings - March



1

**Total
Disciplinary
Case Received
this Month**

OIPM tracks Disciplinary Proceedings based on the date notice is received from NOPD and not necessarily on when the disciplinary proceeding occurs. Additionally, this figure does not account for investigations in which multiple officers are accused, or for hearing notifications received in a prior year but rescheduled to the current month. These proceedings are often rescheduled for scheduling conflicts. Tracking by notification date allows for consistent and accurate data collection.

USE OF FORCE

Relevant Definitions

Critical Incident

Critical incidents are an internal definition that was agreed upon by the OIPM and the NOPD through the November 10, 2010 Memorandum of Understanding. This definition captures that the OIPM should be notified of deaths, certain levels of injuries, and officer involved shootings within an hour so the OIPM has the ability to monitor the on scene investigation by the Force Investigation Team. According to this shared definition, critical incidents are:

- All incidents including the use of deadly force by an NOPD officer including an Officer Involved Shooting ("OIS");
- All uses of force by an NOPD officer resulting in an injury requiring hospitalization;
- All head and neck strikes with an impact weapon, whether intentional or not;
- All other uses of forces by an NOPD officer resulting in death; and
- All deaths while the arrestee or detainee is in the custodial care of the NOPD.

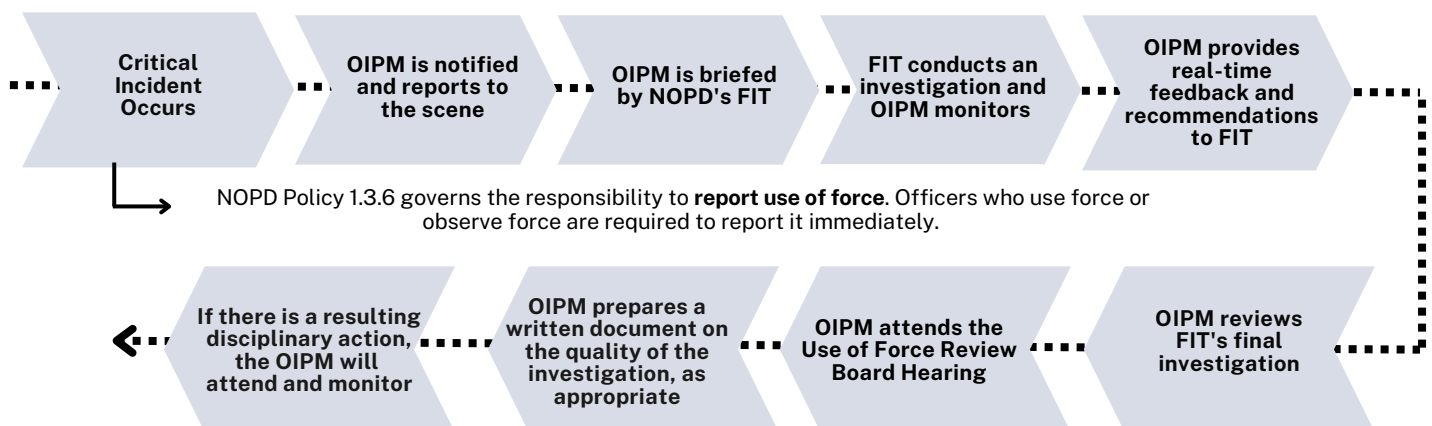
Use of Force

Use of Force is when an officer uses physical contact on an individual during a civilian-police interaction. The force can be mild to severe based on the levels of force outlined in the NOPD policy. The force may be considered justified by NOPD policy considering the facts and circumstances known to the officer at the time which would justify that appropriate physical contact based on how officers are trained to handle that interaction. Force will be assessed based on the type of contact utilized compared to the resistance encountered, resulting injuries, witness statements, officer statements, and evidence found.

Levels of Force

- **Level 1:** Includes pointing a firearm at a person and hand control or escort techniques (e.g., elbow grip, wrist grip, or shoulder grip) applied as pressure point compliance techniques that are not reasonably expected to cause injury; takedowns that do not result in actual injury or complaint of injury; and use of an impact weapon for non-striking purposes (e.g., prying limbs, moving or controlling a person) that does not result in actual injury or complaint of injury. It does not include escorting, touching, or handcuffing a person with minimal or no resistance.
- **Level 2:** Includes use of a CEW also known as "tasers" (including where a CEW is fired at a person but misses); and force that causes or could reasonably be expected to cause an injury greater than transitory pain but does not rise to a Level 3 use of force.
- **Level 3:** Includes any strike to the head (except for a strike with an impact weapon); use of impact weapons when contact is made (except to the head), regardless of injury; or the destruction of an animal.
- **Level 4:** Includes all 'serious uses of force' as listed below:
 - (a) All uses of lethal force by an NOPD officer;
 - (b) All critical firearm discharges by an NOPD officer;
 - (c) All uses of force by an NOPD officer resulting in serious physical injury or requiring hospitalization;
 - (d) All neck holds;
 - (e) All uses of force by an NOPD officer resulting in a loss of consciousness;
 - (f) All canine bites;
 - (g) More than two applications of a CEW on an individual during a single interaction, regardless of the mode or duration of the application, and whether the applications are by the same or different officers, or CEW application for 15 seconds or longer, whether continuous or consecutive;
 - (h) Any strike, blow, kick, CEW application, or similar use of force against a handcuffed subject; and
 - (i) Any vehicle pursuit resulting in death, serious physical injury or injuries requiring hospitalization.

Critical Incident / Use of Force Chain of Events

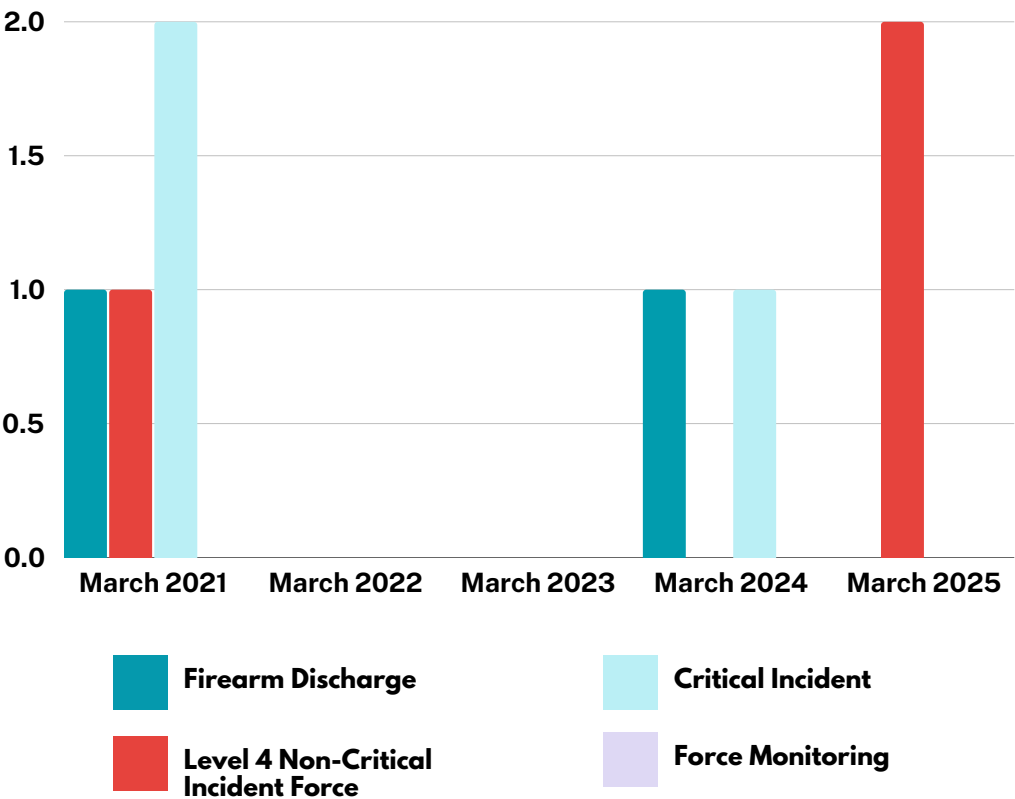


Use of Force Work

Use of Force monitoring and reviews are an opportunity for the OIPM to conduct a qualitative assessment of an investigation to ensure thoroughness, timeliness, fairness, transparency, accountability, and compliance with law, policy, and the Federal Consent Decree. The OIPM monitors and reviews the use of force, in-custody death, and critical incident investigations conducted by the Force Investigation Team (FIT) within the Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) of the NOPD. The OIPM is required by City Code § 2-1121 and by the MOU to monitor the quality and timeliness of NOPD’s investigations into use of force and in-custody deaths. The OIPM will attend the investigation or the relevant activity, and will document the activity taken and not taken by the NOPD. The expectation is that the OIPM representative does not participate in the activity, but instead observes the police actions and takes notes.

While OIPM is notified of each use of force that occurs, OIPM gives the most attention to the most serious uses of force incidents, Critical Incidents. However, OIPM will often review lower-level uses of force incidents to ensure NOPD policy is being upheld.

Use of Force This Month 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025



0
Firearm Discharge this Month

0
Critical Incidents this Month

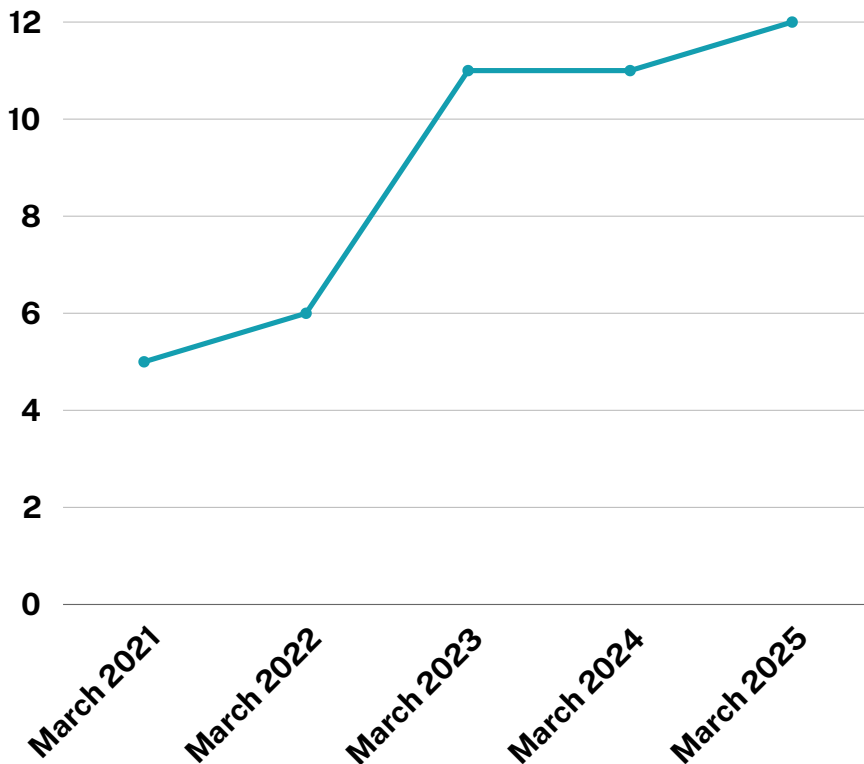
2
Level 4 Non-Critical Use of Force this Month

0
Additional Force Monitoring this Month

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community is vital to police oversight and the center of the work conducted by the OIPM. In the Memorandum of Understanding, the OIPM committed to developing relationships with community and civil groups to receive civilian and anonymous complaints, meeting with police associations, and conduct public outreach meetings and engagement activities. In this section of the Monthly Report, the OIPM explains the community outreach and public events that the OIPM coordinated or participated in the last month.

Outreach - March 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025



12

Total Outreach Events this Month



Justice Lab explains advocacy options after police misconduct at the "Self-Empowerment Clinic"



Participants at the Public Forum about French Quarter and Bourbon Street Safety

Outreach Events

- Taught presentation to the NOPD's Citizen's Academy at the NOPD's Academy
- Attended Facilitated Discussion and Book Event for "Fire on the Levee" about police misconduct post-Hurricane Katerina at Baldwin Books
- Monitored Super Sunday (Uptown)
- Participated in the ACLU and Justice Lab "Self-Empowerment Clinic" regarding police misconduct in the Lower 9th Ward
- Monitored St. Joseph's Night (Uptown)
- Led public forum at the Treme Center
- Participated in the Public Meeting hosted by the NOPD and Vieux Carré Property Owners, Residents, & Associates to discuss the Bourbon Street Security Plan
- Monitored Protest regarding NOPD handling of Child Abuse allegations
- Community-Police Mediation Network Virtual Meeting
- Presented to Criminal Justice Criminal Committee
- Mediator Meet and Greet (Midcity)
- Mediator In-service Training



IPM Stella Cziment led a training on oversight and the OIPM to the NOPD's Citizen's Academy

COMMUNITY-POLICE MEDIATION

Relevant Definitions

Mediation

A mediation process helps parties develop a mutual understanding of a conflict. Mediation may help the parties identify disputed issues, facilitate communication, provide an opportunity to improve community relationships, and generate options that may help the parties reach a mutually acceptable resolution.

Consent

All parties must voluntarily agree to participate in mediation and give consent. The consent process involves communication between the participant and the Mediation Director or program staff about the mediation process, what to expect, and clarification of any questions. Consent forms are signed in advance of confirming the mediation session.

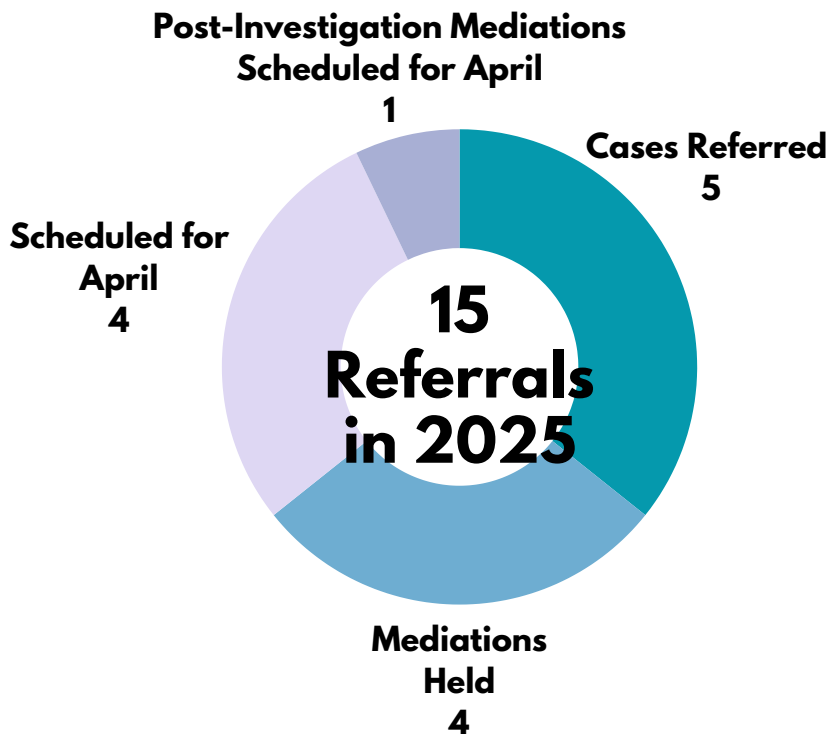
Mediator

The role of the mediator is to be a neutral and trained third party who listens, clarifies, and facilitates conversation. Mediators are non-judgmental and do not give advice, take sides, or decide who is right or wrong. Mediators do not influence or pressure participants to come to an agreement. Mediators are trained and recruited by the OIPM.

Voluntary

All participants engage in mediation at their own free will. They can end the process at any time and will not be forced to do anything or say anything they do not want to. No one is forced to agree to anything they do not want to.

Mediation Numbers - March



What is Mediation?

Mediation is an alternative to the traditional process of resolving complaints of police officer misconduct. Mediation provides a process facilitated by two professionally-trained community mediators to create mutual understanding and allow the officer and civilian to be fully heard and understood in a non-judgmental way. Mediation creates a safe, neutral space for officers and civilians to speak for themselves, share about their interaction and how it impacted them, explain what is important to them, and come to their own agreements and solutions about moving forward.

The Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) of the NOPD determines which complaints are referred to the Mediation Program. The types of complaints that are most often referred to mediation are those that allege lack of professionalism, neglect of duty, or discourtesy.

Complaints such as unauthorized use of force, unlawful search, and criminal allegations are ineligible for mediation and continue through the formal complaint investigation process by the PIB.

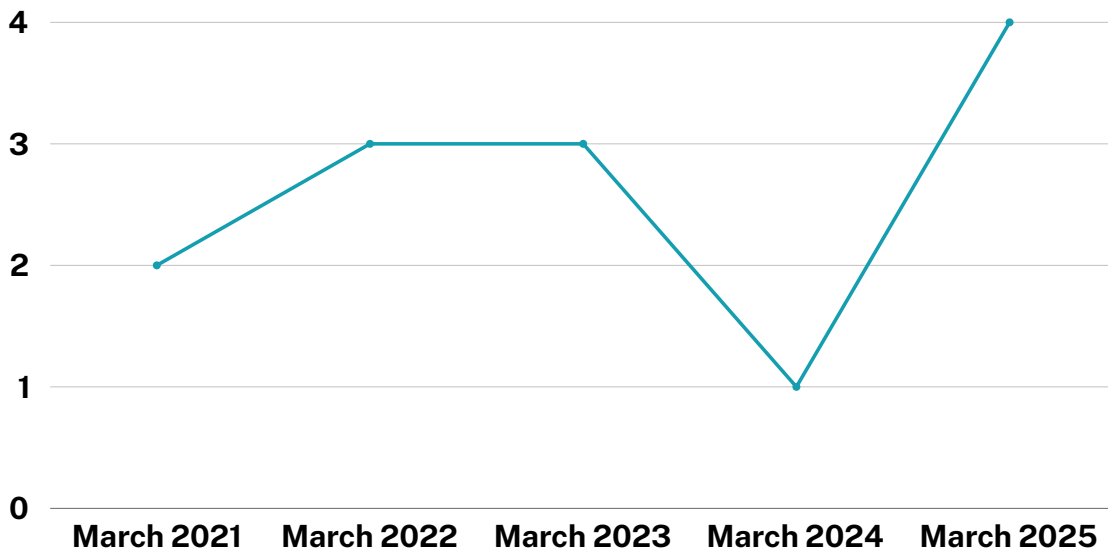
Non-judgmental
Confidential
Voluntary



Mediation is:

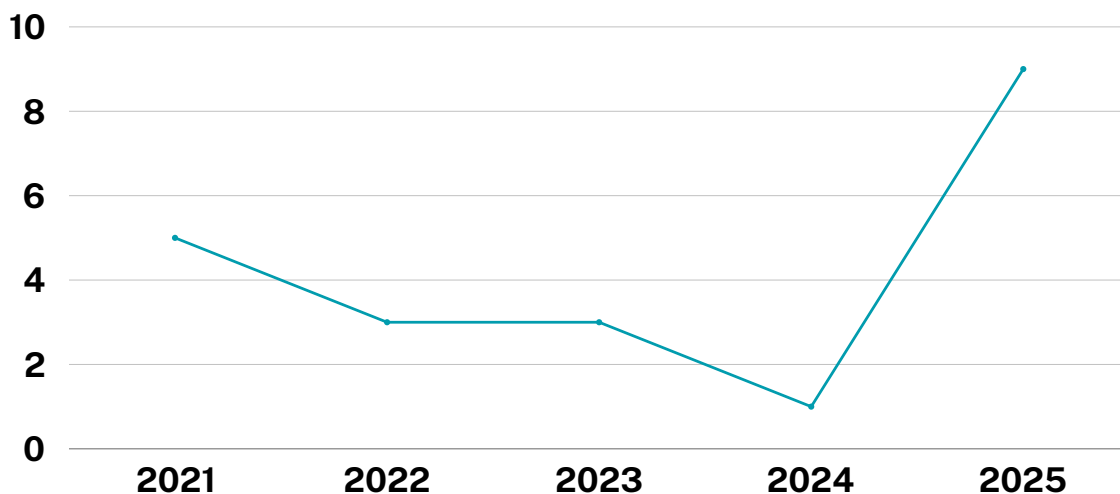
- ➔ A participant-guided process that helps the community member and the officer come to a mutually-agreeable solution. This helps to create mutual understanding and improve relationships.
- ➔ A space of discussion without the need to say who is right or wrong. No evidence is needed. The mediators are not judges. The mediators do not present their thoughts on the issue.
- ➔ It's about dialog, not forced resolutions. People are not forced to shake hands or make-up. The role of the mediators is to be neutral 3rd party facilitators. They will not pressure either participant to come to an agreement.
- ➔ An opportunity for the community member and the officer to be in charge of their own process and outcome. It will not be decided by an outside agency or person. It is outside of any punishment framework or the legal process. There is no appeal because mediation is voluntary.

Mediations Held This Month 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025



4
**Total
Mediations
Held this
month**

Mediations Held YTD In 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025



9
**Total
Mediations
Held YTD**

CONSENT DECREE & OVERSIGHT BACKGROUND

The OIPM is providing the following information in our monthly reports as a way to keep our partners and the public informed of the role of oversight, the policing history that led to the creation of the Consent Decree, and the differences between different types of oversight.

The OIPM wants to use every opportunity available to share valuable information and historical context to our work so everyone working towards the goal of accountability, transparency, and police oversight can be equipped, informed, and engaged.

Over the year, the OIPM may add to this section additional resources and information that we assess as helpful and empowering.



LEGAL JURISDICTION; OBLIGATIONS OF THE OIPM OFFICE AND STAFF

The OIPM operates under three core legal documents that guide the scope of local oversight and the jurisdiction of our work. Additionally, below are overviews of other ordinances that affect our work and create new legal obligations on the OIPM.

New Orleans Code of Ordinances Stat. § XIV: Office of the Independent Police Monitor

This statute was created by voter referendum and provides the legal responsibilities, perimeters, and budgetary support of the OIPM. This was put to a public vote in November 2016 and passed. This statute states the responsibilities of the OIPM and requires particular work streams and tasks. The statute also describes the disclosure requirements of the office.

Louisiana Revised Stat. § 33:2339: Detail or Secondary Employment; City of New Orleans

This statute was created in 2013 and gives legal abilities and subpoena power for the OIPM to investigate allegations of misconduct in the secondary employment system operated by the Office of Police Secondary Employment. The statute is silent as to the ability for the OIPM to refer these investigations to the NOPD or the District Attorney's Office for subsequent criminal or administrative accountability based on the OIPM investigation.

Memorandum of Understanding between NOPD and OIPM Executed November 10, 2010

The MOU is a Memorandum of Understanding between the NOPD and OIPM which outlines the responsibilities, expectations, and authority of the OIPM when providing oversight to the NOPD. Through this MOU, there is clarity regarding the work the OIPM will complete and how the OIPM will access NOPD records, data, and reports and monitor NOPD during on scene investigations. The MOU was entered into in November 2010 and in the coming year the OIPM intends to work with NOPD leadership to review this agreement and determine if it should be updated to ensure it is still relevant and considers updates to technology.

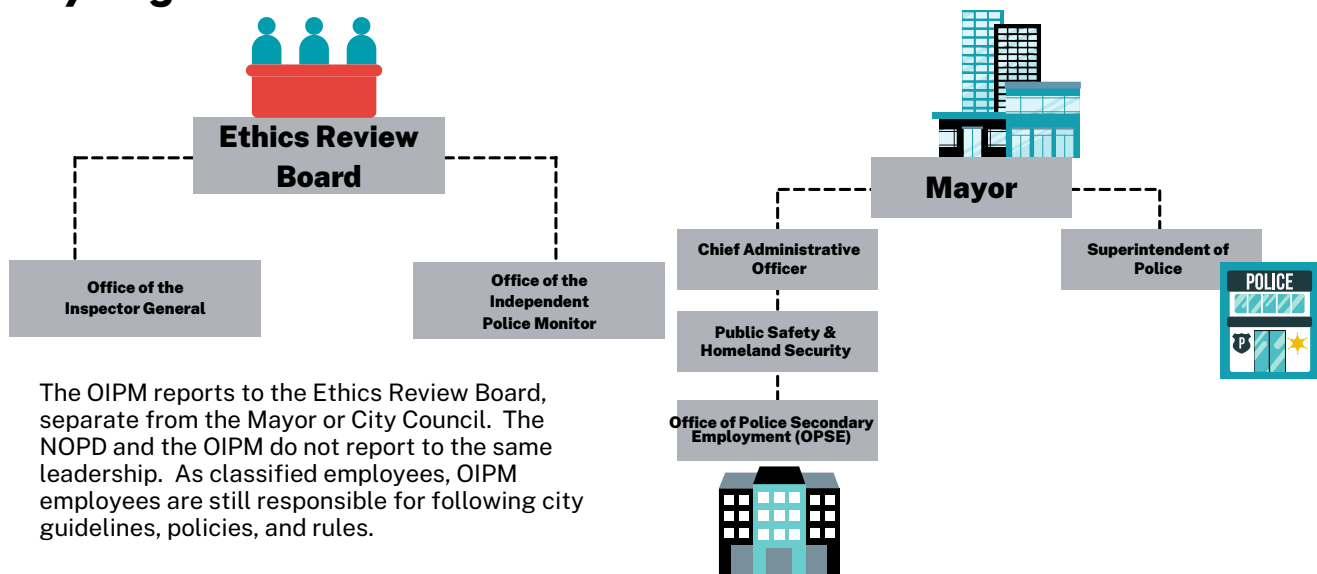
Ordinance 29130: Sharing of Data

Ordinance 29130 requires that our office (along with other public safety agencies) provide data monthly to City Council.

Ordinance 29063: Quarterly Presentations to the Criminal Justice Committee

Ordinance 29063 requires that our office (along with other public safety agencies) present quarterly to the City Council Criminal Justice Committee.

City Organizational Structure - Truncated



OVERSIGHT MODELS

Different Reasons Why There is Oversight / Monitors

Court Ordered

Court ordered monitors through litigation brought by the US Dept. of Justice to end "patterns and practices" of unconstitutional policing under federal law.

Consent Decree Monitors

Monitors that are the result of federal Consent Decrees.

Oversight Agencies

Oversight agency like civilian oversight that is responsible for review, auditing, or investigation.

New Orleans has both of these types of oversight

Models of Civilian Oversight

Review-Focused Model

Review-Focused models tend to utilize volunteer boards and commissions.

- Review-focused models assess the quality of finalized investigations conducted by an internal affairs division or the police department
- Conduct reviews of the agency's policies, procedures and disciplinary proceedings.
- Hold public forums, hear appeals, or make recommendations for investigations regarding allegations of misconduct

OIPM reviews the quality of finalized investigations conducted by the Public Integrity Bureau (which is the internal affairs of the NOPD)

Investigative-Focused Model

Investigative-focused models will employ professionally trained staff

- Investigative-Focused Conduct independent misconduct investigations
- Operate as an intake site for complaints.
- These models may: mediate complaints, analyze policies and practices issue recommendations to the police and public.

OIPM is a complaint intake site and OIPM has investigatory power over the secondary employment office.

Auditor / Monitor-Focused

- Auditor / Monitor-Focused model assesses systemic reform efforts.
- Review processes, evaluate policies, practices, and training. Based on those assessments, this oversight model will identify patterns and make recommendations Share findings with the public.
- These oversight agencies may participate in investigations.

OIPM assesses systemic efforts and will evaluate and review policies, practices and training then provide recommendations to NOPD.

Hybrid Civilian Oversight Model

Hybrid Civilian Oversight Hybrid civilian oversight means there is one office serving functions from different models or multiple agencies in one jurisdiction which may be different models (like an advisory civilian board and the investigatory OIG).

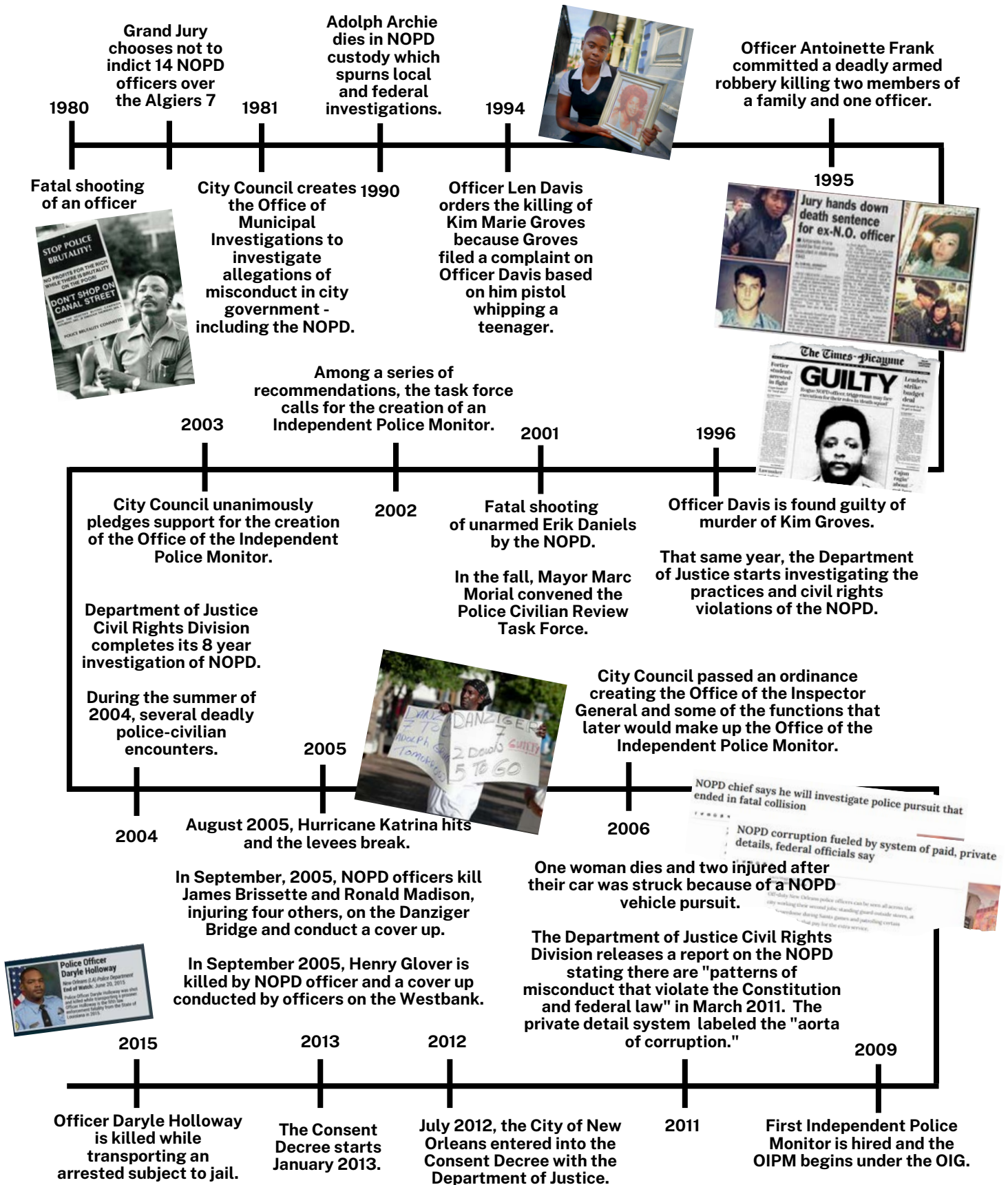
OIPM is a hybrid oversight agency because it has elements of all the different types of oversight models. Additionally, New Orleans has hybrid civilian oversight since we have multiple oversight agencies serving different functions.

13 Principles of Effective Oversight

The National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) identifies these 13 principles as necessary for effective oversight. The OIPM adopted these principles:

- Independence
- Clearly defined and adequate jurisdiction and authority
- Unfettered access to records and facilities
- Access to law enforcement executives and internal affairs staff
- Full cooperation
- Sustained stakeholder support
- Adequate funding and operational resources
- Public reporting and transparency
- Policy patterns in practice analysis
- Community outreach
- Community involvement
- Confidentiality, anonymity, and protection from retaliation
- Procedural justice and legitimacy

BRIEF HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONSENT DECREE; POLICING IN NEW ORLEANS



UNDERSTANDING THE CONSENT DECREE AND HISTORY

New Orleans entered a formal consent decree in January, 2013. This Consent Decree process started in the years prior with the investigation of the patterns and practices of the NOPD by the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. In order to understand the necessity of the Consent Decree and the reforms required within it, it's important to understand the historical context of the city and the NOPD's problematic behavior within the community.

The NOPD had a long history of misconduct, violence, discriminatory practices, and corruption stemming back decades. In the 1980s was the beginning of a community effort to organize civilian based oversight of the NOPD. This effort resulted in multiple initiatives from the Office of Municipal Investigations to the Police Civilian Review Task Force to eventually the creation of the Office of the Inspector General to the Office of the Independent Police Monitor.

While these local efforts were evolving, simultaneously, the federal government was conducting ongoing investigations of the NOPD, the most recent ending in March 2011. Ultimately, the Department of Justice found that the patterns and practices of the NOPD violated the Constitution and federal law. The report identified systemic deficiencies in multiple operational and substantive areas including policy, supervision, training, discipline, accountability - all of which "led to unconstitutional discrimination, uses of force, stops, searches, and arrests." The findings of the Department of Justice may have surprised the country, but the community of New Orleans was already well aware of the violent and unchecked behavior of the NOPD and the culture of obstructionism and discrimination that existed within the department.

This shared history of policing is briefly overviewed on the next page and the OIPM included examples of the dynamics of the NOPD and the crimes committed that directly impacted the safety of the community and public trust in the police department.

The OIPM strives to acknowledge and remember those in the community who both fought for oversight and were impacted by the pain caused by the NOPD. This is why a tenant of the work completed by civilian oversight is to amplify the voice of the community. It is in that memory that the OIPM works and stays vigilant monitoring the policing occurring today because a possible backslide from compliance, depending on the severity, could result in a return to a pattern and practices of policing that was corrupt, violent, and unconstitutional.

The goal of the Consent Decree is for the reforms to be so deeply enmeshed into the operations, policies, systems, and culture of the police department that to dismantle those reforms would be easily catchable and not only cause alarm in the community but also be virtually impossible because of the changed culture and expectations within supervision and the police department.

The position of the OIPM is that New Orleans must own our history with the police. Our history informs our fears. This is why there is a fear of history repeating itself. In New Orleans there is a real concern of "backsliding" and a return of the "old NOPD." Our neighbors, friends, coworkers, and loved ones may have experienced injustices at the hands of the NOPD. In our recent history as a city, filing a misconduct complaint about the police could have ended with retaliation or violence, walking in an unfamiliar neighborhood may have resulted in intrusive and illegal searches, arrests were conducted with force, officers could be bought, and supervisors turned a blind eye to a culture of corruption, discrimination, and violence.

For this reason, the OIPM is sensitive of allegations or noncompliance in areas that touch on these historical problems and shared fears that may exist in our community. The OIPM will not sweep these fears under a rug, but instead ensure that these allegations are immediately prioritized and addressed:

Criminal activity or associations

Corruption

Violence

Use of Force

Receiving payouts

Field strip searches

Targeting of young African

American boys

Supervisors failing to take

misconduct allegations

Unauthorized pursuits

Cover-up of wrong doing and

manipulation of misconduct

investigations

Discriminatory practices