

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR

MONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT

June 2026



Above, two of the OIPM's Community-Police Mediators participate in the de-escalation activity during a special training event the OIPM hosted in June with Lorig Charkoudian, the Executive Director and co-founder of Community Mediation Maryland.

Transparency. Accountability. Respect.



LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear New Orleans Community,

June marked the start of the **2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season**. Each year, the OIPM ensures that our hurricane oversight strategy to monitor the police during evacuations, shelter-in-place orders, curfews, and immediate storm responses is responsive and comprehensive. We monitor to ensure that the police communicate effectively with the public, we review misconduct and force utilized during any storm, and how the NOPD implements their hurricane response plan. The OIPM prepared for the beginning of this season by releasing the OIPM Hurricane and Emergency Oversight Plan and it is available to the public now on the OIPM website. Let's stay safe out there and start building those hurricane kits.

In June, the OIPM took on a variety of activities - from monitoring hearings and writing formal recommendation letters to testifying in Civil Service appeals, being interviewed by the news, tabling, and presenting to City Council. It has been a full month, and the OIPM looks forward to sharing some of the highlights of our work and answering your questions on relevant issues in this report. This month, this report includes:

- The **OIPM's quarterly presentation to the New Orleans City Council** presenting relevant year-to-date data regarding oversight;
- The release of the **OIPM Hurricane Oversight Plan**;
- The recent concerns regarding changes to the NOPD's **drone policy**;
- Community outreach events including **"Coffee with the IPM"** mornings;
- OIPM's participation in a **police tactics and equipment training**;
- OIPM hosting a **special mediation training** for OIPM's mediators;
- and the OIPM answered your questions regarding recent accounts of the OIPM releasing **anonymous complainant information** pursuant to an Office of the Inspector General investigation; and more.

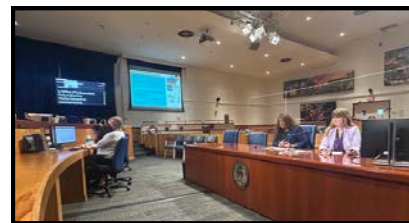
As a reminder, if you would like to learn more about the OIPM's work, we would highly recommend that you check out the **2025 OIPM Annual Report** which is available on the OIPM website now. Each year, the OIPM publishes a report detailing its monitoring, oversight, and community engagement activities, as well as statistical information and data from the NOPD and its internal investigative processes. The report highlights issues identified by the OIPM, recommendations made to improve policing practices, recommendations adopted by the NOPD, and examples of positive changes that promote professionalism, accountability, and transparency.

As always, thank you for your continued support of this office and the work we do together.

Thank you,

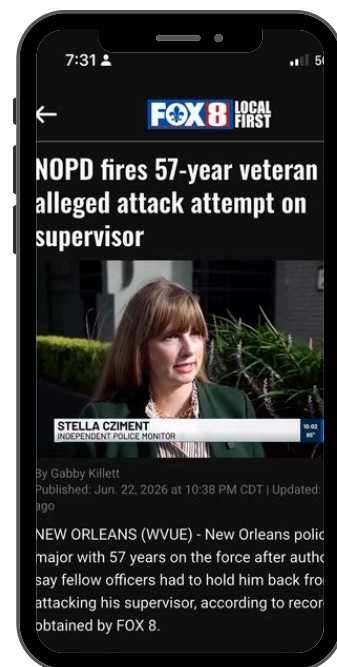
Stella Cziment

Stella Cziment, Independent Police Monitor



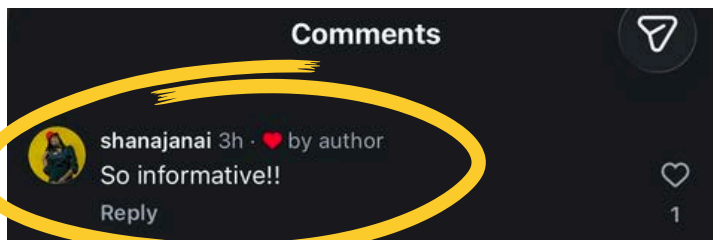
Above, the OIPM leadership, Stella Cziment and Kirschelle Williams, present year-to-date data to City Council.

Below, OIPM tables at the "Coffee with the IPM" event at Pontilly Coffee in June.



Above, Stella Cziment, the Independent Police Monitor, discusses the NOPD's decision to terminate a Major for misconduct and the formal recommendation the OIPM provided to Chief Kirkpatrick.

To the right is a comment the OIPM received from someone who attended a "Coffee with the IPM" event in June.



In order to do our work regarding policing and the community, the Office of the Independent Police Monitor does partner with, work congruently, or may be physically near people who are political leaders, elected officials, or individuals seeking election but the Office of the Independent Police Monitor does not endorse any candidates.

ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, & WORK

OIPM Presents to the City Council's Criminal Justice Committee

During June, the OIPM appeared before the New Orleans's City Council Criminal Justice Committee for the second time this year. Each quarter, the OIPM joins with our criminal justice stakeholders at the **Quarterly City Council Criminal Justice Committee meeting** to present to the committee as required by Ordinance Cal. No. 33,724.

The OIPM, alongside the NOPD, the District Attorney's Office, Criminal District and Juvenile Court Judges, and the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, presents our quarterly data to the Council, reported project progress, and highlighted relevant legal and political updates affecting policing and oversight in Louisiana.

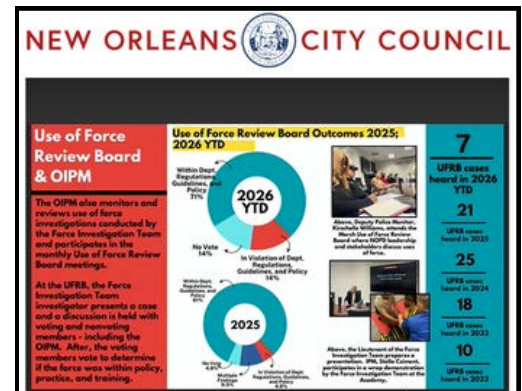
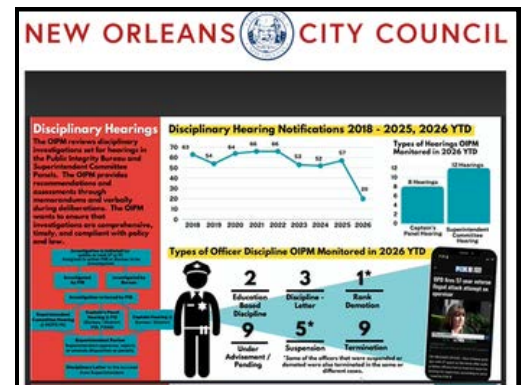
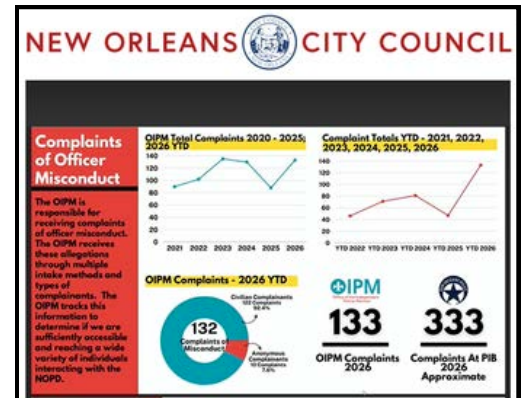
The OIPM uses these quarterly presentations as an opportunity to reach the public to inform them of our services and engage local leaders on policing issues that most impact their constituents. This month, the OIPM shared year-to-date data regarding:

- Police complaints and outcomes. This included the 89 complaints the OIPM has received regarding facial recognition and surveillance.
- Completed OIPM monitoring regarding disciplinary proceedings including the 9 hearings that resulted in officer terminations.
- Completed OIPM monitoring regarding use of force and critical incidents. The OIPM detailed its monitoring of three scenes of officer involved shootings in 2026 - none of which resulted in injuries.
- OIPM Mediation programs including the 7 mediations conducted through the traditional Community-Police Mediation Program, the 1 mediation through the District-Based Mediation Program, and the 1 mediation through the Post-Investigation Mediation Program.
- Officer awards and commendations that the OIPM has facilitated including the 1 Constitutional Policing Award the OIPM awarded and the 2 commendation requests submitted.

Additionally, the OIPM updated the Council and the public on the release of the OIPM Annual Report and the ongoing steps regarding the appointment of the IPM. You can stream the presentation now on the City Council's website.

OIPM Participated in NOPD's FIT's Tactic and Equipment Demonstration on the Wrap

In June, the OIPM went to the NOPD Academy to receive a **demonstration of a police restraint device** that the NOPD is exploring to assist with arrested individuals who are trying to self-harm or hurt officers during transport. The purpose of these types of tools is to ensure safe transport for arrested individuals and the arresting and transporting officers. Whether this tool or a different approach is utilized, demonstrations and conversations like this ensure that the process is transparent and there are opportunities for oversight to ask questions, raise concerns, and see how new equipment or tactics may be utilized. This demonstration was provided by the Force Investigation Team. Due to questions the IPM had regarding the use of the device when an individual was struggling against it, the IPM was put in the restraint to see how it touched and obstructed her body.



ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, & WORK

Policing, Oversight, and Hurricanes: OIPM Releases Oversight Hurricane Plan

Policing is different during storms, from anti-looting protocol to curfews, and to prepare for these changes in policing, the OIPM released our **2026 Hurricane and Declared Emergency Oversight Plan** with the public. This plan includes how our office will respond to hurricanes and will monitor, review, and evaluate the NOPD's performance in preparing and responding to hurricanes.

The **2026 Hurricane and Emergency Oversight Plan** outlines how the OIPM will internally respond to hurricanes and storms – including the identification of essential employees and how the OIPM will monitor the NOPD during any storm response and then audit the performance and compliance of the police post-storm. Audit sheets with the criteria that the OIPM will utilize to review the NOPD's response are included at the end of the plan.

In this document, the OIPM critically examines the NOPD's Hurricane and Emergency Plan and creates a clear rubric with criteria on what ethical and compliant policing would look like during a hurricane or a declared emergency. In constructing this plan, the OIPM reviewed city policy, state law, and NOPD's operational policies and constructed rubrics to "grade" / audit the performance of the NOPD.

Additionally, this Hurricane and Emergency Oversight Plan incorporates public input the OIPM has received over the years from public forums and public feedback to the OIPM report on NOPD performance during Hurricane Ida (also available on our website).

Anyone who would like additional information regarding policing changes during hurricane season can listen to episodes of the **Monitor's Mic** available on the OIPM's website. In the episode when the OIPM interviewed **Collin Arnold, Director of the New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (NOHSEP)**, the public can learn how the city typically prepares for hurricanes, what resources are available for residents, and how the city agencies work with the NOPD to prepare for emergencies. Additionally, the OIPM interviewed **Lt. Barnes, the Lieutenant responsible for writing the NOPD's Hurricane Season Plan**. Lt. Barnes explained how policing protocol shifts in the immediate preparation and response to storms - from reducing unnecessary arrests, to providing security to city-assisted evaluation efforts and shelters. The OIPM used this show as an opportunity to address common misconceptions and questions from the community on topics like anti-looting protocol, if the police are allowed to commandeer your private property, why curfews matter, what to do if 911 goes down, and why there are police cars at pharmacies, the French Quarter, and grocery stores during storms.

All these resources are available to the public on the OIPM's website for you to learn more about policing and hurricane season.



Above (top), is the cover of the 2026 OIPM Hurricane and Emergency Oversight Plan that was released in June along with some of the audit sheets that will be utilized by the OIPM to determine NOPD compliance with their hurricane response plan.

ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, & WORK

Coffee with the IPM at Pontilly Coffee and Backatown Coffee Parlour

In May, the OIPM hosted two “**Coffee with the IPM**” events in the community. One was held at Pontilly Coffee on Chef Menteur and the other was held at Backatown Coffee Parlour on Basin Street. These events are informal opportunities for members of the public to speak directly with OIPM leadership about policing, oversight, and the services our office provides.

This month, we ran into some familiar faces - like former City Councilmember Oliver Thomas - and met some new ones including many visitors to this city who gave feedback on their interactions with the NOPD. We greatly appreciate all of the community members, visitors, and coffee drinkers who took the time to join us, ask questions, and engage in meaningful conversation.



Above, Independent Police Monitor, Stella Cziment, and Deputy Police Monitor, Kirschelle Williams, talk to members of the public (including former City Councilmember Oliver Thomas) at the two “Coffee with the IPM” events in June.

OIPM Hosted Co-Founder and Executive Director of Community Mediation Maryland for a Special Night of Training for our Community-Police Mediators

The OIPM’s Community-Police mediators received a special **3-hour in-service training facilitated by Lorig Charkoudian, the Executive Director and co-founder of Community Mediation Maryland**. Lorig was in town for a conference and offered to spend the evening with our mediators, tailoring a training to our needs. Lorig has decades of experience in community mediation, training, and research. The focus of her Ph.D. research was on the public cost of conflict and the cost savings of mediation to the Baltimore City Police Department. She trained our first cohort of mediators back in 2014 and it was a treat to have her back for a night of learning and practice.

We had a great turnout of mediators who learned about Lorig’s research on the impact of various aspects of the mediation process, and received coaching on inclusive listening, one of the core skills of our mediation process.

Each year, the OIPM hosts hours of in-service trainings for our mediators that are opportunities for them to practice their skills and gain new instruction on how to navigate conflict, utilize inclusive listening, and facilitate sometimes emotional or contentious dialogues between our public and NOPD officers.



Above, OIPM mediators participate in the special training with Lorig Charkoudian, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Community Mediation Maryland.

ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, & WORK

OIPM Addresses Concerns Regarding NOPD's Policy Change Regarding Whether Weapons Will Be Utilized on Drones; Final Outcome: Weapons Not to be Used on Drones

During June, the OIPM was alerted by the community of concerns regarding a change to Chapter 43.5: Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS / Drones) – specifically Paragraph 47: “The sUAS shall not be equipped with weapons of any kind without prior approval, in writing, from the Superintendent of Police.” This new policy was released on June 21, 2026, without a public comment period.

- 45. Facial Recognition Technology will not be used to conduct facial surveillance during the operation of an NOPD sUAS.
- 46. The sUAS shall not be operated in an unsafe manner or in violation of regulations.
- 47. The sUAS shall not be equipped with weapons of any kind without prior approval, in writing, from the Superintendent of Police.
- 48. Tactical deployment of the sUAS shall be governed by standard operating procedures established by SOD, within the guidelines of this chapter.

Prior to that change, the policy included Paragraph 40: “The sUAS shall not be equipped with weapons of any kind.”

- 39. The sUAS shall not be operated in an unsafe manner or in violation of regulations.
- 40. The sUAS shall not be equipped with weapons of any kind.

The OIPM immediately contacted Chief Kirkpatrick and her leadership team regarding this language and the possibility of weaponized drones. The OIPM inquired what type of weaponry may be installed on the drones, which drones will be equipped with weaponry, when those weapons may be appropriately utilized, how officers will be trained to utilize weaponized drones and if this will require additional or different training. Under Chapter 43.5, Para. 54 – 55: “All sUAS operations shall have a safety program based on the principles of an aviation safety management system. All sUAS personnel shall receive appropriate safety training, coordinated through the NOPD Education and Training Division.” However, the OIPM explained there is uncertainty regarding that training since the Academy is not currently providing training on drones and it is unclear where or how NOPD officers will be trained on the safe operation of weaponized drones under or coordinated through the Education and Training Division as the policy envisions.

The OIPM stated that it was previously informed that all NOPD operators of the drones would follow Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and inquired if the addition of the weaponry would be permitted by the FAA (which places restrictions on the weaponization of drones) or if there are federal waivers and exceptions that the NOPD seeks to receive or utilize.

The OIPM reiterated support of the use of drones and police equipment for public safety reasons – such as policing large crowds, festival season, and the use in the French Quarter during large scale events or responses – or use for investigatory purposes (documenting crime scenes); however, this addition to the policy is unclear and opens the public to potential danger and the department to potential liability.

Chief Kirkpatrick immediately notified the OIPM that this was intended to be draft language and the language would be removed - the **NOPD does not intend to utilize drones with weapons**. The next day, the policy was updated to that position:

- 46. The sUAS shall not be operated in an unsafe manner or in violation of regulations.
- 47. The sUAS shall not be equipped with weapons or hazardous materials of any kind.
- 48. Tactical deployment of the sUAS shall be governed by standard operating procedures established by SOD, within the guidelines of this chapter.

ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, & WORK

Understanding Anonymous Complaints, Metadata, and OIPM's Legal Obligations

Recently, a terminated NOPD officer - Officer Cockerham - went before the Civil Service for his appeal hearing. Both Stella Cziment, the Independent Police Monitor, and Kirschelle Williams, the Deputy Police Monitor, received a subpoena to testify in the proceedings. Afterwards, there was some social media and radio attention to an aspect of the investigation and the role the OIPM played in providing information to the investigating body. Many of the questions we received centered on anonymous complaints. People want to know: *why did the OIPM share information about anonymous complaints? Are anonymous complaints private or confidential?*

These are fair questions. The OIPM understands why some members of the community may be concerned. Anonymous complaints play an important role in police accountability, and community members should understand how those complaints are handled, what protections exist, and what the law requires of our office.

First, Why Does the OIPM Accept Anonymous Complaints?

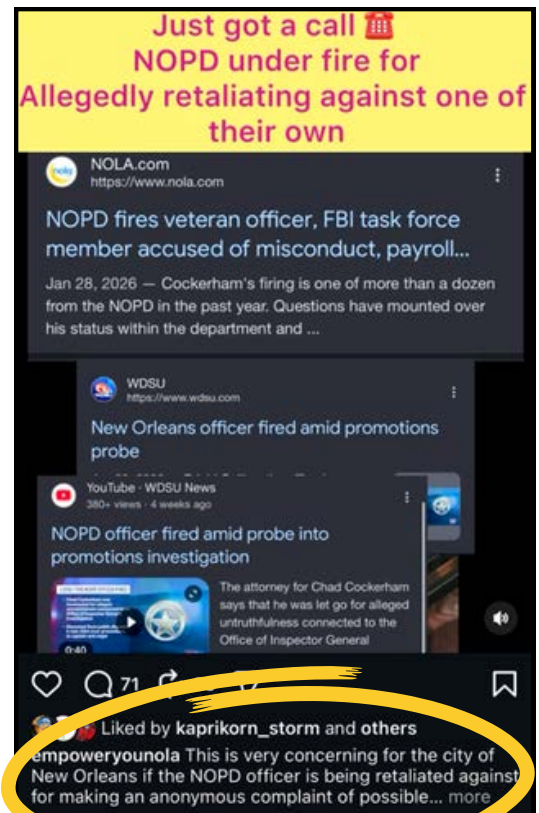
The OIPM accepts anonymous complaints because we recognize that some community members may not feel comfortable identifying themselves when reporting concerns regarding police officers and some police officers and NOPD employees may feel uncomfortable or fear for their jobs if they identify themselves as being the source of the allegation. A person may worry about retaliation, workplace consequences, damage to personal relationships, may be court involved or have been arrested, or simply may not want attention focused on them. Anonymous complaints allow the public - members of the community, visitors, and NOPD employees - to share what they know without saying who they are. Many important problems have been uncovered because someone made an anonymous complaint. For that reason, the OIPM will continue accepting anonymous complaints and encourages all to come forward if they know something is wrong.

What Happened In This Case?

In 2024, the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) conducted promotional examinations for the ranks of Captain and Major. After the examinations were completed and a promotion eligibility list was created, the former-Mayor became concerned about the potential of favoritism or cheating in the promotional process. Both the Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) and the OIPM received anonymous complaints alleging favoritism and cheating during the examination process. The OIPM sent a formal letter to Chief Kirkpatrick regarding this matter and attached the complaints of misconduct. The Civil Service Commission and the NOPD executed investigations into the potential wrongdoing in the process. The NOPD elected to refer to the investigation to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). The OIG opened an investigation into the allegations of cheating.



Above and below, on EmpowerYouNOLA, the creator states it appears an officer was retaliated against for filing an anonymous complaint with the OIPM.



ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, & WORK

Understanding Anonymous Complaints, Metadata, and OIPM's Legal Obligations Continued

As part of that investigation, the OIG submitted a formal written request to the OIPM seeking records related to complaints alleging favoritism and bias involving the Captain and Major examinations. The request sought: complaint intake forms, attachments, and associated metadata, including network traffic, logs, and IP address information. The OIPM complied with that request and provided the requested records.

From those requested records, the OIG was able to connect the IP address information with other information the OIG received through subpoenas to service providers and learn the potential identity or ownership of the disclosed IP addresses. The OIG concluded, based on the disclosed IP addresses, that an NOPD officer, Chad Cockerham, had submitted the complaint (one of the records the OIPM submitted). The NOPD held disciplinary hearings regarding Officer Cockerham and the Superintendent terminated Officer Cockerham for violating NOPD policy. **Officer Cockerham was not terminated for submitting the complaint; Officer Cockerham was terminated for the allegation that he was not truthful in his statements to the OIG investigators in their investigation.**

Now, the questions the OIPM has received - both privately and publicly - is why did the OIPM comply with this investigatory request and give confidential information?

Understanding Anonymous Complaints and Confidentiality

One of the biggest misunderstandings surrounding this issue is the difference between the act of submitting a complaint anonymously and then how that complaint is handled once becomes an official city record. When a complaint is submitted anonymously, the complainant is not required to provide their identity to the OIPM. But the complaint doesn't disappear once it's submitted. It becomes an official government record that our office keeps, just like other complaints, information, and documentation. Sometimes, when something is submitted online, the computer system automatically creates extra technical information. This is called metadata. Metadata is also a record that the OIPM keeps.

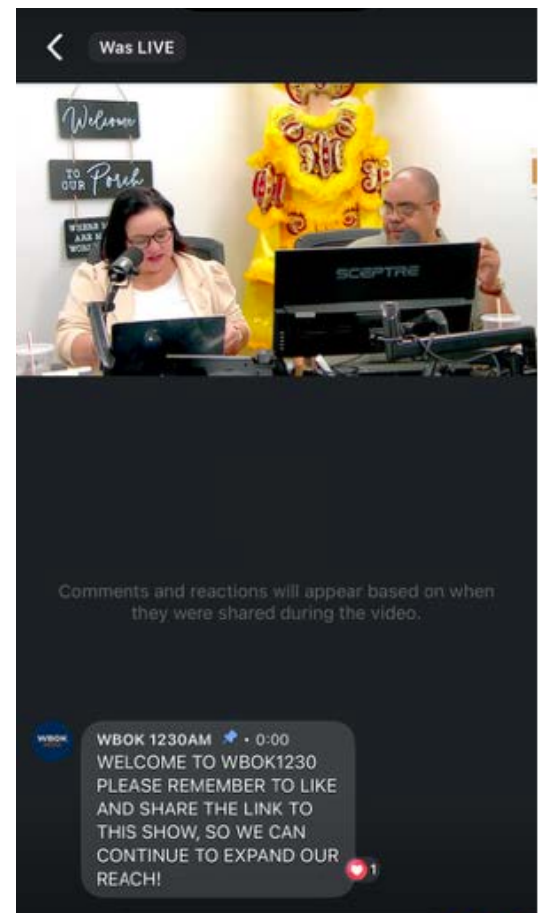
The existence of a government record does not mean that record is publicly available. The OIPM's records are confidential under City Code Section 2-1121(21) unless the law requires the OIPM to provide the documentation:

"All records of the office of the independent police shall be exempt from public disclosure and shall be considered confidential, unless the independent police monitor is legally required to make such records public.... The office of the independent police monitor is subject to all state laws concerning public records."

What Is Metadata?

People have also asked about "metadata" and IP addresses. Metadata is information a computer creates automatically when something is sent electronically. Think of it as 'information about information.'

Examples of metadata may include the date and time something was submitted, or technical details about the device used to send it. We don't create this information ourselves; the computer systems create it automatically.



Above on WBOK, co-hosts, Gerod Stevens and Suzette Bagneris, recap the Civil Service appeal hearing for Officer Cockerham and question why the OIPM provided information about IP addresses of anonymous complainant's to the OIG for the investigation.

ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, & WORK

Understanding Anonymous Complaints, Metadata, and OIPM's Legal Obligations Continued

What that language means is that the OIPM cannot and will not release information unless the law requires the OIPM to release that material. Releases will depend on whether it's a public record, a subpoena, or there is another legal obligation to provide the information. This means: the OIPM's confidentiality has limits.

Even though our records are confidential, the law may require the OIPM to provide information.

How Are Public Records Requests Different?

Some people may wonder: could the public have just requested this same information? The answer is no, it works differently. City Code Section 2-1121(21) requires the OIPM to comply with state public record laws.

This means that when the OIPM receives a public records request, the office must review the request and determine what information can legally be released. When complaint records are released in response to a public records request, the OIPM reviews those records for confidential information and applies redactions. Depending on the circumstances, this may include personal identifying information, contact information, witness information, complainant information, or other information protected from disclosure.

If a complaint is submitted anonymously, the OIPM does not release information that would identify the anonymous complainant. Likewise, metadata such as IP address information is not disclosed through the public records process.

Why Did the OIPM Provide That Information (Records) to the OIG If It Is Not a Public Record?

What happened with the OIG was not a public records request. It was a formal request from another government oversight office that has its own legal power to investigate. These are two different things, with two different sets of rules.

First, the Office of Inspector General serves a different role than the OIPM. The OIG is responsible for conducting investigations involving fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, and other matters within its jurisdiction. To perform those duties, City Code gives the OIG broad authority to obtain information it determines is necessary for an investigation. City Code Section 2-1120(12)(a) states that the OIG shall have access to records, information, data, documents, and other materials necessary to facilitate an investigation. Further, City Code Section 2-1120(12)(b) **requires** city agencies to provide requested information and assistance.

The City Code also states: "No subpoena is required for the information or documents mentioned in this paragraph. All information and documents are to be provided upon written request from the office of inspector general." **In other words, the OIG doesn't need a court order to get information from another city agency - a written request is enough.**

Therefore, once the OIG submitted a lawful written request, the OIPM was obligated to comply. The OIPM does not have legal authority to refuse the request. Nor did the OIPM have authority to limit the powers granted to the OIG under City Code. City Code Section 2-1121(19) specifically states: "Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the existing powers of the office of inspector general..." The OIPM will comply with the law.

What OIPM Did Not Do

It's just as important to explain what did not happen. We did not give these records to the public. We did not give up our confidentiality protections. We complied with a lawful request from another independent oversight office that has the legal authority to ask for records during an investigation.

ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, & WORK

Understanding Anonymous Complaints, Metadata, and OIPM's Legal Obligations Continued

How Can You Submit Complaints?

People have asked if different ways of submitting a complaint create different kinds of records. The answer is yes. Sending something electronically (like online) often creates extra technical information automatically. Other ways of submitting a complaint may create different kinds of records.

You can file a complaint with us in several ways:

- Through our website
- By calling or texting our 24-hour hotline: 1-877-225-6476 (OIPM) (in English, Spanish, or Vietnamese)
- By visiting our office in person
- By mailing us a complaint

No matter how you submit your complaint, the OIPM will follow the laws regarding how to keep confidential records. The OIPM accepts complaints without requiring your name. If you have questions about how to file a complaint, please contact us directly.



Above is one of the OIPM's billboards regarding the 24 hour hotline that is available for the public to utilize to file complaints of officer misconduct or accounts of positive policing (commendations).

Should You Still Use the Systems in Place to File Complaints?

Yes, the OIPM encourages the public and NOPD employees to tell us or the Public Integrity Bureau of any of their concerns about police conduct. You do not have to be identified. Anonymous complaints remain an important tool for receiving concerns that may otherwise go unreported. They help oversight agencies identify potential misconduct, policy concerns, and issues that may require further review.

The OIPM will continue accepting anonymous complaints and protecting complaint records from public disclosure as required by law. At the same time, we are going to be honest: the OIPM cannot refuse a lawful request from another government agency that has its own legal authority to investigate.

We understand why there have been questions about this process. We hope this explanation helps clarify what happened and why.

The OIPM understands that public trust must be earned and maintained. We remain committed to protecting complaint information to the fullest extent permitted by law, being transparent about our legal obligations, and ensuring that all continue to have multiple ways to safely share concerns with our office.

Anonymous complaints remain an important part of police accountability, and the OIPM will continue accepting, reviewing, and acting upon those complaints as part of our mission to serve the people and city of New Orleans.

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

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	Avg 2017-2026
Civilian Complaint Count	125	29	68	61	32	33	41	43	11	18	46.10
Police Complaint Count	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	4	2	1.00
Civilian w/in NOPD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Anonymous Complaint	11	13	13	10	14	16	21	0	0	0	9.80
Community Liaison Count	11	12	9	19	8	14	25	13	1	3	11.50
Case Monitoring Count	0	2	1	3	6	2	8	0	7	5	3.40
Case Review Count	0	0	0	1	4	4	1	4	3	0	1.70
Contact Only Count	19	25	51	24	17	9	23	14	2	4	18.80
FDI Notification Count	24	17	11	28	24	13	35	20	49	13	23.40
Disc. Hearing Attended Count*	21	24	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.60
Critical Incident Count	2	8	4	2	4	7	8	7	3	6	5.10
Firearm Discharge Count	4	7	3	1	4	4	7	6	1	3	4.00
Lvl 4 Non-Critical	4	6	9	5	9	4	8	0	0	0	4.50
Force Monitoring*	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.80
Mediation Count	12	17	16	14	13	12	18	22	11	18	15.30
Commendation Count	2	1	4	3	0	3	1	1	0	1	1.60
Community Outreach Events	37	36	50	33	54	12	12	0	0	0	23.40
Grand Total	275	199	253	205	189	136	208	130	92	73	176.00

	Jun 2026	Jun 2025	Jun 2024	Jun 2023	Jun 2022	Jun 2021	Jun 2020	Jun 2019	Jun 2018	Jun 2017	2017-2026 Average
Citizen Complaint Count	10	6	5	8	4	5	18	7	1	2	6.60
Police Complaint Count	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.10
Civilian w/in NOPD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0.00
Anonymous Complaint	4	0	2	1	4	0	8				2.71
Community Liaison Count	0	3	0	1	2	3	2	0			1.38
Case Monitoring Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.10
Case Review Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.10
Contact Only Count	4	4	7	1	1	0	16	1	1	1	3.60
FDI Notification Count	6	1	2	5	1	0	18	14	8	0	5.50
Disc. Hearing Attended Count*	4	1	2								2.33
Critical Incident Count	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0.70
Firearm Discharge Count	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0.60
Lvl 4 Non-Critical	0	2	1	1	3	0	0				1.00
Force Monitoring*	0	0	0	0							0.00
Mediation Count	2	1	3	6	4	2	4	2	2	1	2.70
Commendation Count	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		1	0.33
Community Outreach Events	9	6	10	7	7	3					7.00
Grand Total	42	27	33	31	27	13	69	26	13	8	28.90

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

CURRENT BUDGET



OIPM Budget Description	Amount
Personnel	\$944,243.00
Operating	\$216,663.00
2026 Total OIPM Budget	\$1,160,906.00
2026 Total OIPM Budget	\$1,160,906.00
Amounts Spent to Date:	\$520,223.79
Unexpended funds	\$640,682.21

MISCONDUCT WORK

Relevant Definitions

Complaint

A complaint is an allegation of misconduct filed against a NOPD officer(s) by a member of the 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 the 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:

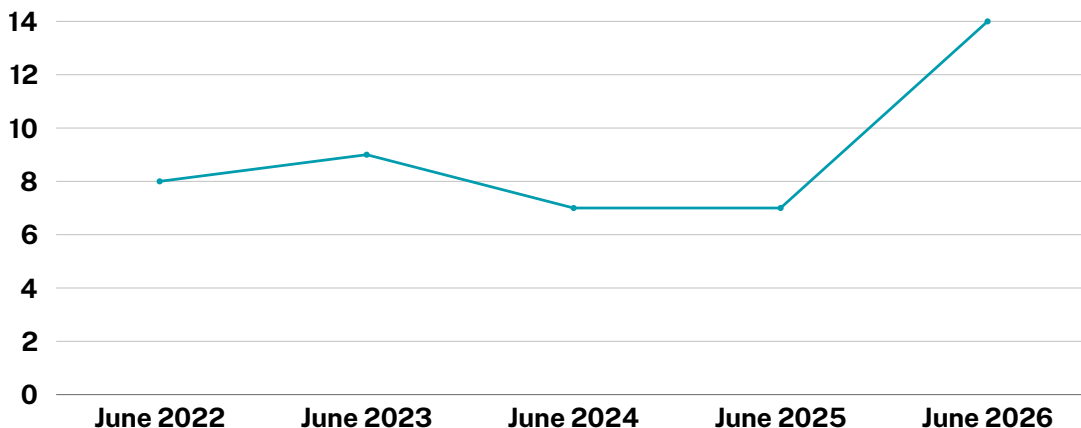
- Use of Force
- Abuse of Authority such as unlawful searches and seizures, premises enter and search, no warrant, threat to notify child services, threats to damage of property, etc., refusal to take complaint, refuse to identify themselves, damages to property seized
- Failure to supervise
- Falsification 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 - June



14

Total Complaints
Received this
month

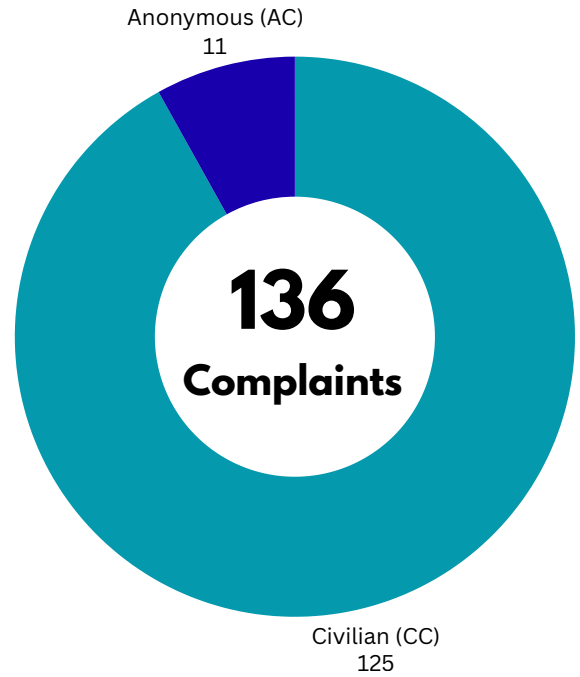
136

Total Complaints
Received This
Year

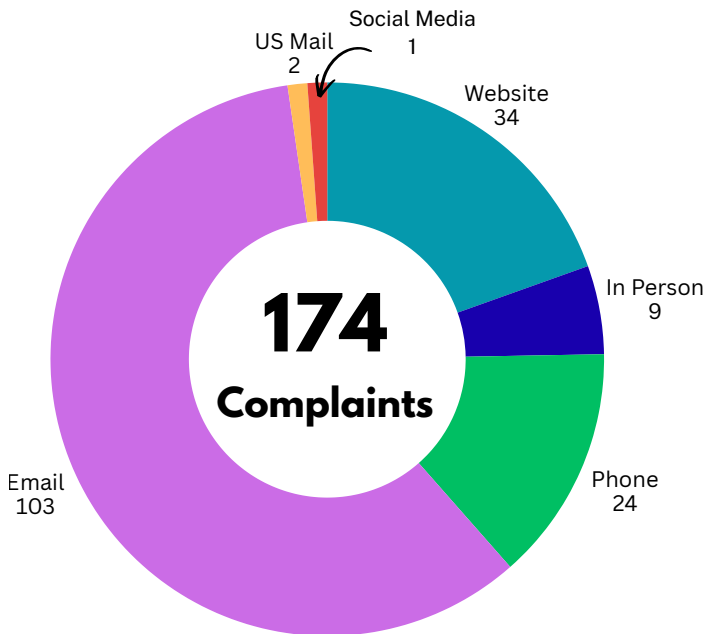
Complaint Intake Source - 2026



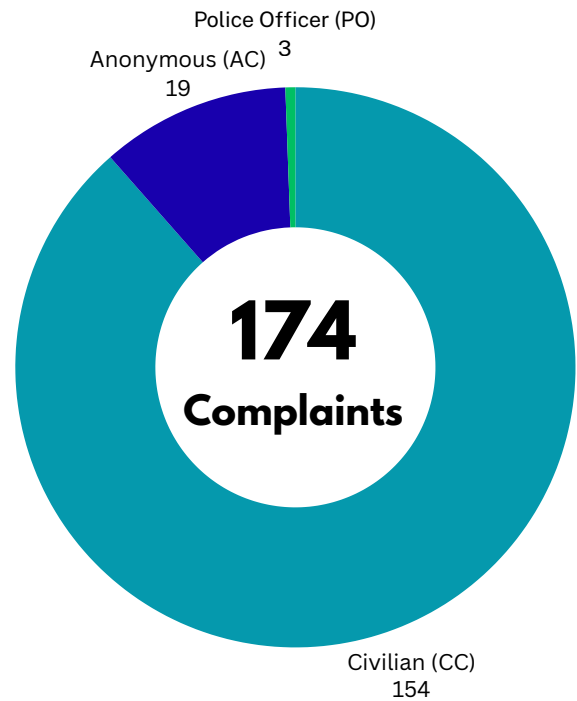
Complainant Type - 2026



Complaint Intake Source - Past 12 Months

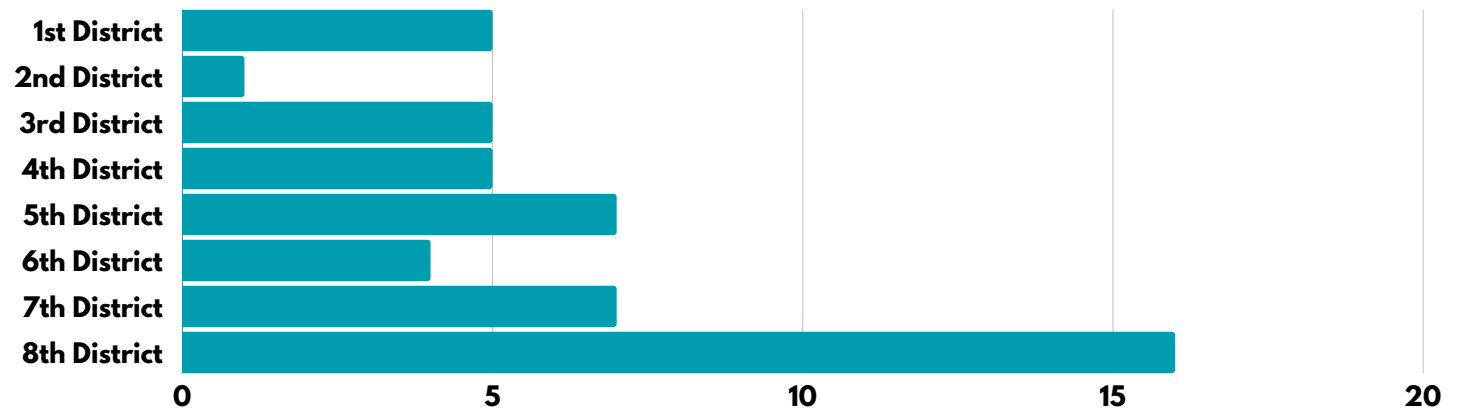


Complainant Type - Past 12 Months

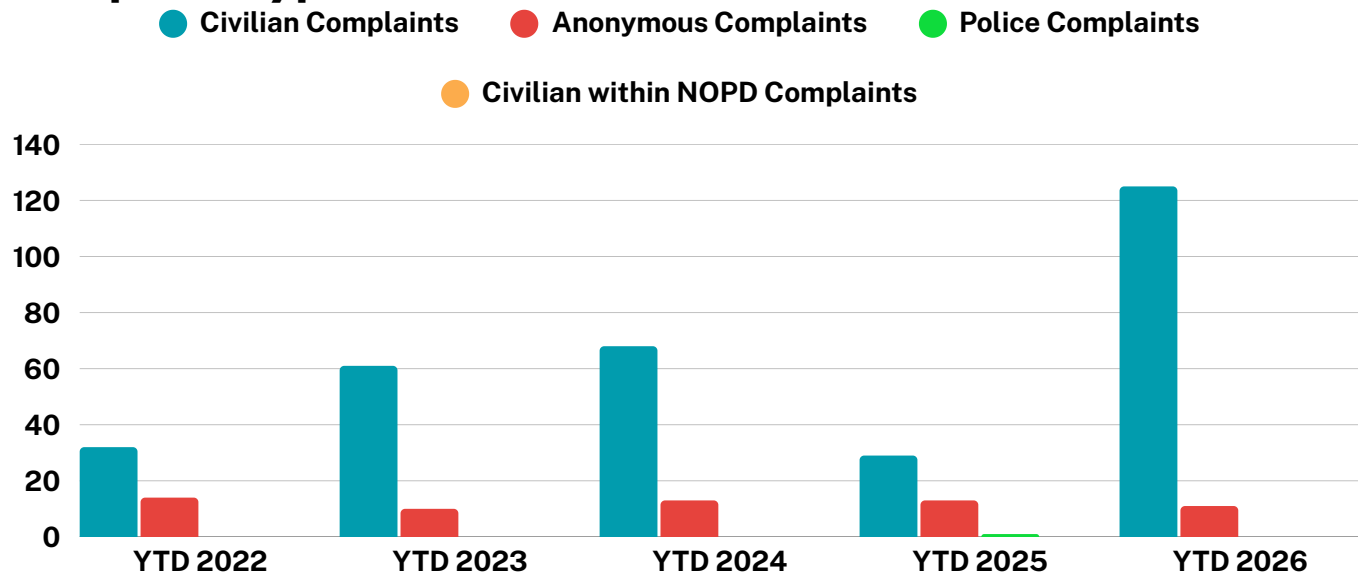


Districts - Past 12 Months

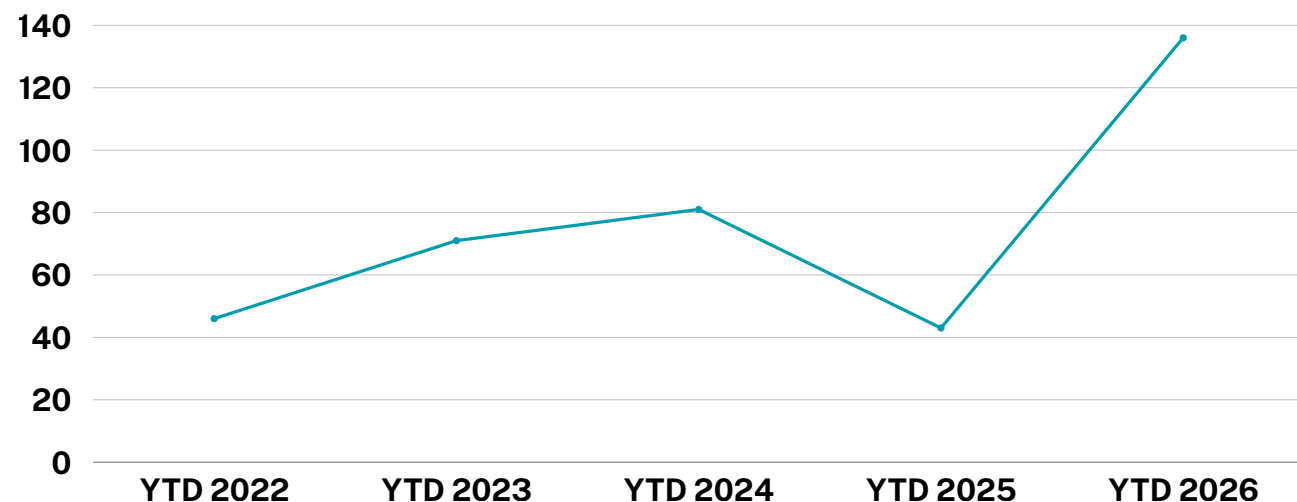
This chart communicates where the alleged misconduct occurred by police district. This requires the misconduct to occur in a physical space (instead of an incident that occurs over the phone or internet for example). This is based on complainant disclosure and the OIPM tries to verify this information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



Complaint Type YTD - 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

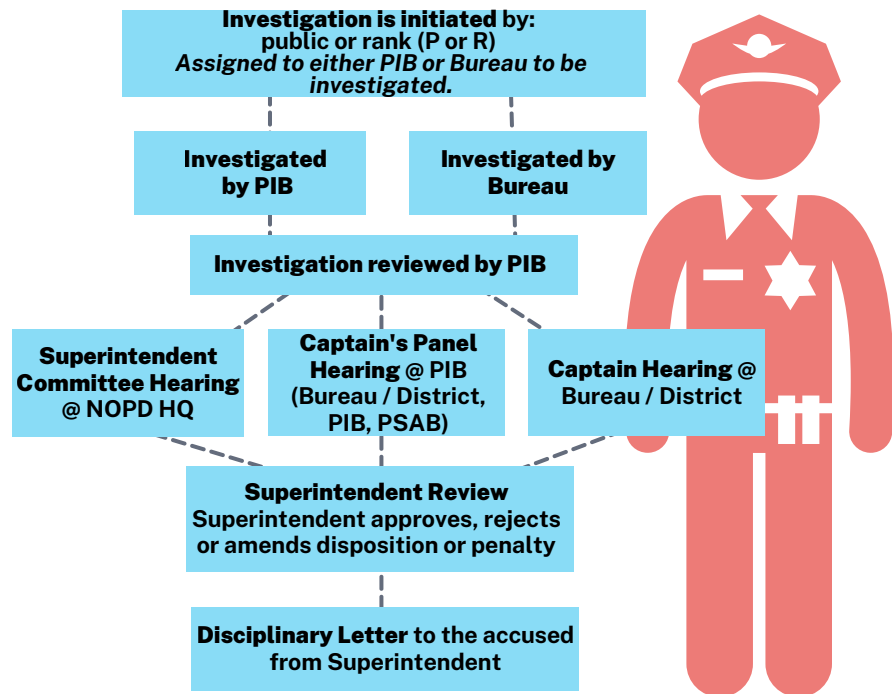


Complaint Totals YTD - 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026



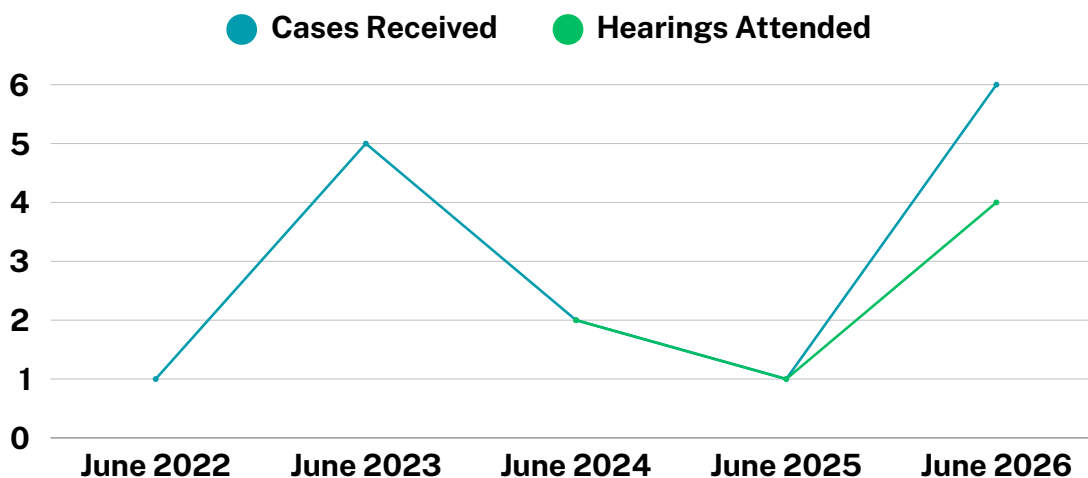
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

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 - June



6

**Disciplinary
Cases Received
this Month**

4

**Disciplinary
Hearings Attended
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.

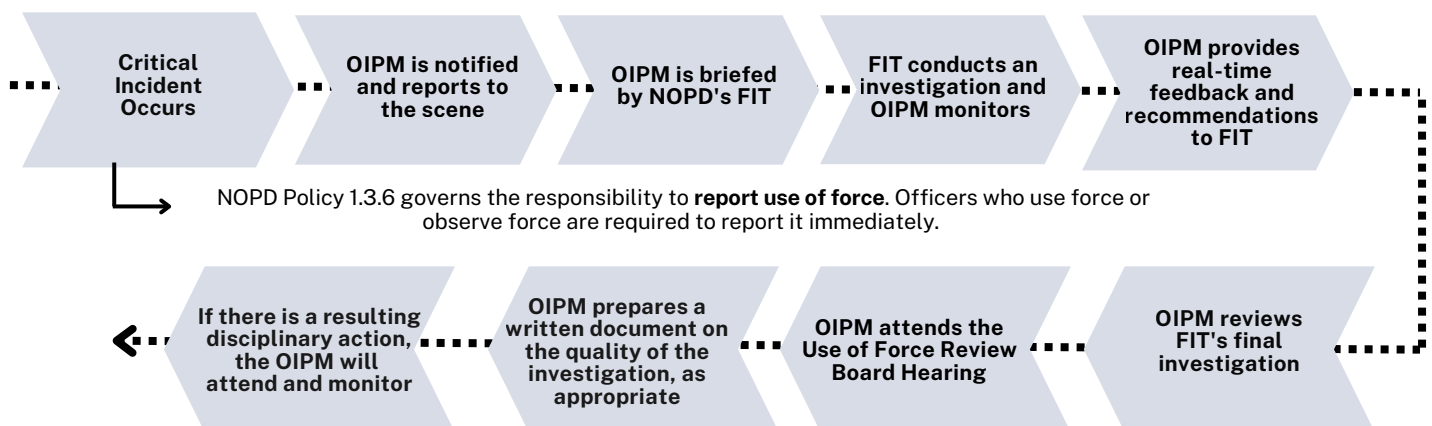
Use of Force

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

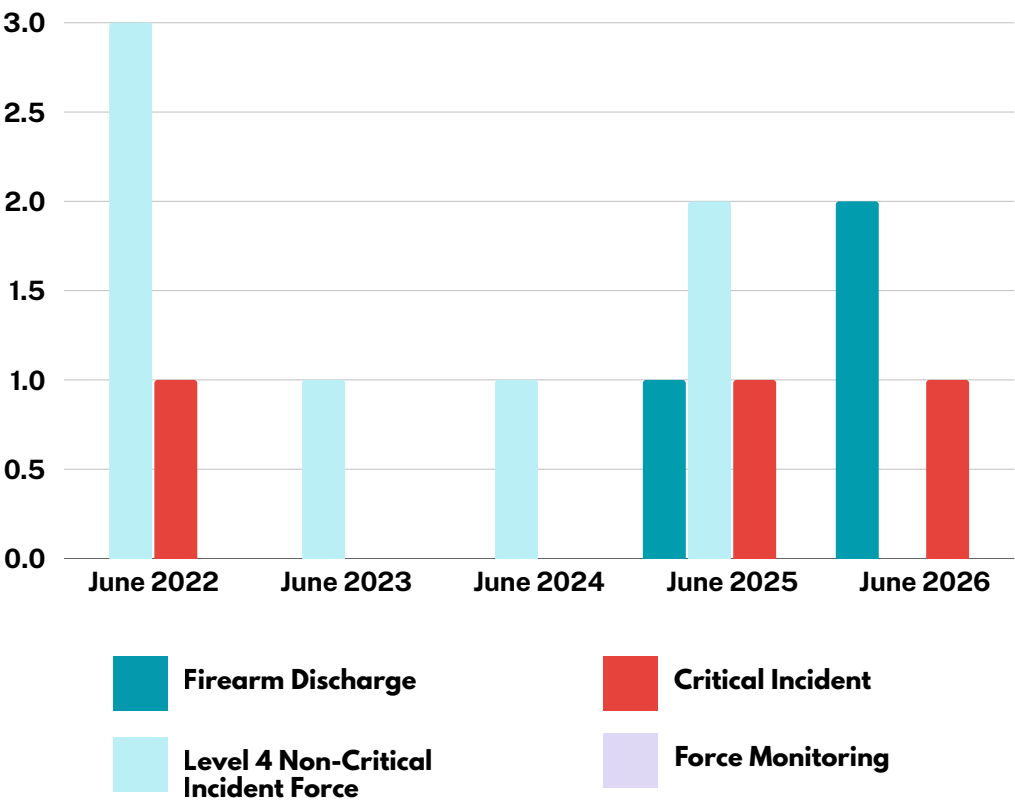


Use of Force Work

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 and policy. 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 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026



2
Firearm Discharge this Month

1
Critical Incidents this Month

0
Level 4 Non-Critical Use of Force this Month

0
Additional Force Monitoring this Month

COMMUNITY-POLICE MEDIATION

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.

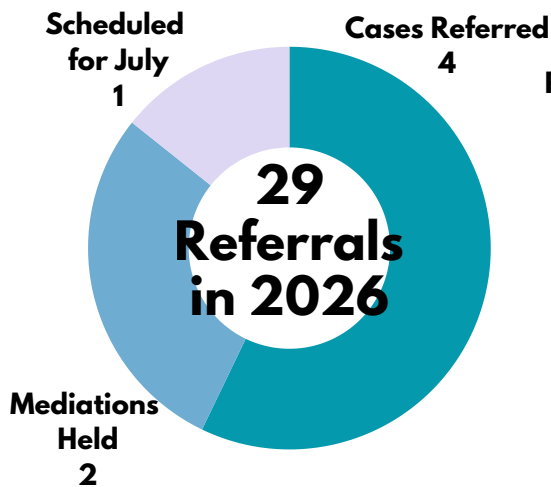
Voluntary

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.

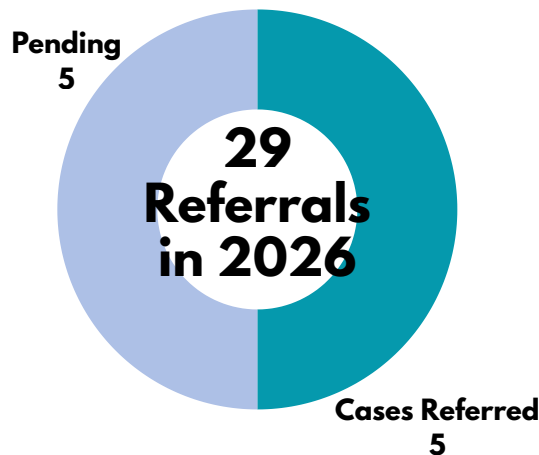
Consent

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.

Mediation Numbers - June



Post-Investigation / Cleared by Camera (CBC) Mediation Numbers - June



Community District Based Mediation Numbers - June



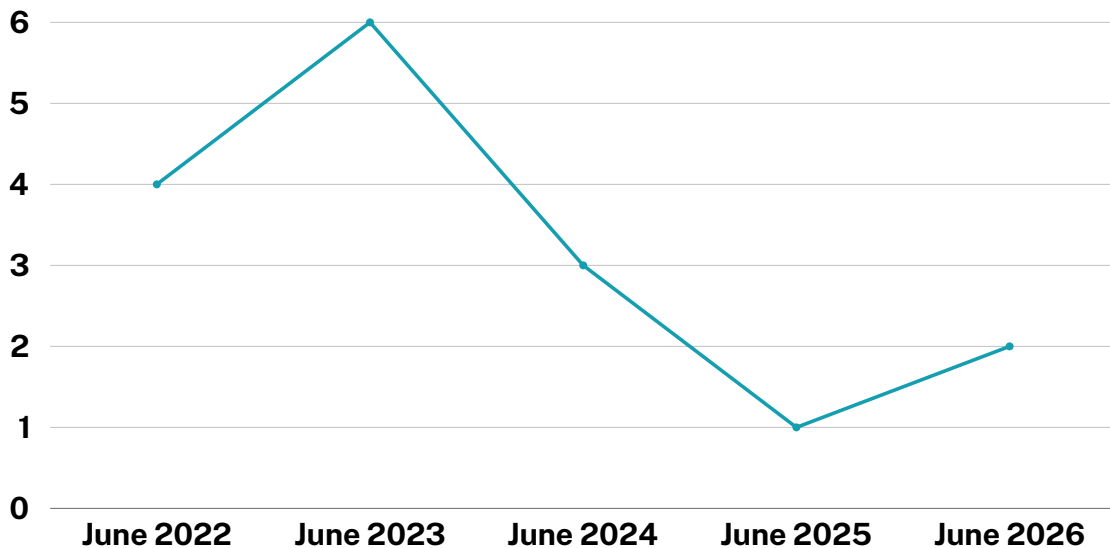
Non-judgmental
Confidential
Voluntary



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.

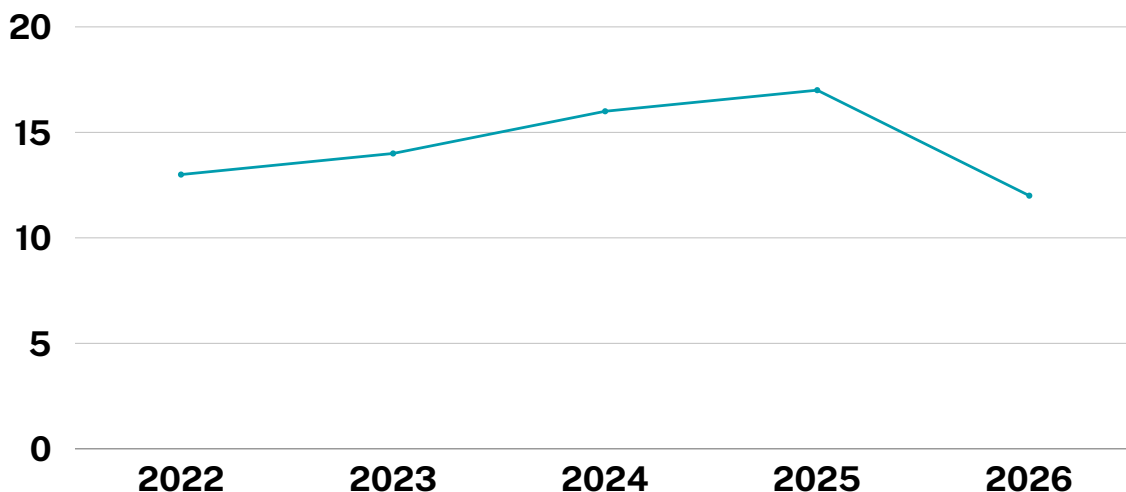
Total Mediations Held This Month 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026



2

**Total
Mediations
Held this
month**

Total Mediations Held YTD In 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026



12

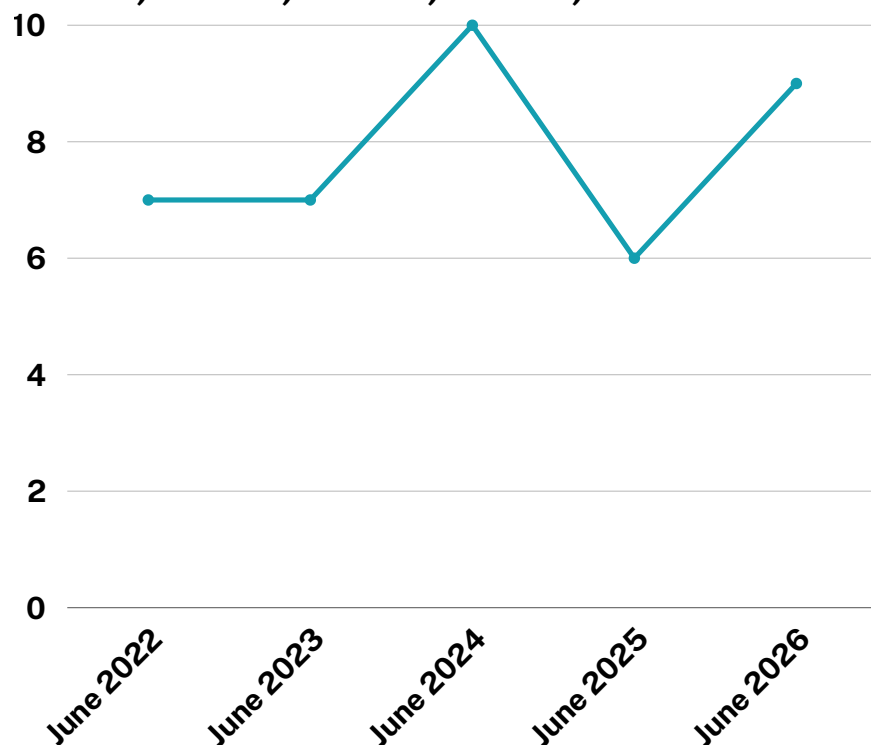
**Total
Mediations
Held YTD**

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 - June

2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

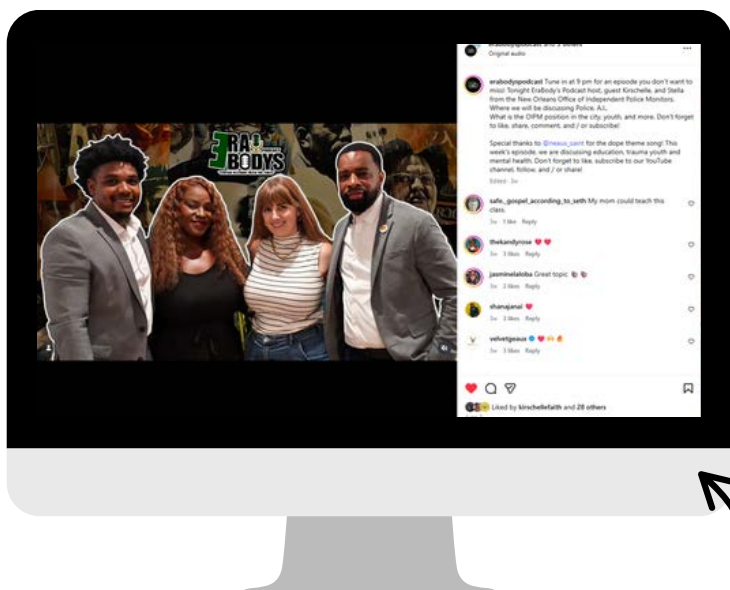


9

Total Outreach Events this Month

Outreach Events

- Coffee with the OIPM at Pontilly Coffee
- Special Mediator In-Service with CMM's Lorig Charkhoudian
- Community Health Fair at The Broadside
- Operation Restoration Community Festival at PotBelly NOLA
- Community- Police Mediation Network- virtual meeting- Held by Zoom
- Coffee with the OIPM at Backatown Coffee Parlour
- IPM Stella Cziment & DPM Kirschelle Williams on Erabody's Podcast
- Criminal Justice Committee Presentation
- Fox 8 Interview, re: Burkart Termination



Above, Independent Police Monitor, Stella Cziment, and Deputy Police Monitor, Kirschelle Williams, went on the podcast and Youtube show, Erabody's Podcast, in June to answer questions about policing in New Orleans and explain the role of oversight in the city.

OIPM's Monitor's Mic Radio Shows

If you want to listen our Monitor's Mic programing, it is all available online. You can listen on the OIPM website:

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

