

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR

MONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT September 2026



Above, Deputy Police Monitor, Kirschelle Williams, joined families, the community, social workers, detectives, NOPD officers, OPSO deputies, and fellow community partners for the 2nd Annual National Day of Remembrance of Homicide Victims Walk, hosted by NOPD's Victim Witness Assistance Unit.

Transparency. Accountability. Respect.



LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY



Dear New Orleans Community,

If there was a theme for the month of September, that theme would be collaboration. This month, the Office of the Independent Police Monitor (OIPM) partnered and met with different organizations, agencies, and bureaus to take a variety of work and to share information. In this report, the OIPM will highlight just some of these opportunities for partnership - such as meeting with the **Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau (PSAB) to create and write the first draft of a new mediation policy** for internal mediation between NOPD employees and a **meeting between the Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) and the three police associations in New Orleans.**

Another example of collaboration in September is the information sharing that occurred during the **OIPM's meeting with the Orleans Parish Communication Division (OPCD).** OPCD is a governmental agency that is responsible for receiving and facilitating all our calls to 311 and 911. These dispatchers must work closely with the NOPD to ensure that the right emergency resources are going to the right location at the time right. During our meeting in September, we were able to talk with OPCD leadership regarding where that law enforcement partnership is working and how oversight can assist with filling communication gaps. We discussed police responses during emergencies, downgrading of calls, the OPCD Police Liaison Role, and how OPCD could play a larger role in recruit training and in-service training for rank. We want to thank our partners under the headsets for their work and input into how the public can be better served by law enforcement.

In response to national and local news reports of law enforcement abuse of License Plate Recognition (LPR) systems including (but not limited to) Flock Safety cameras, the **OIPM wrote a formal letter to Chief Kirkpatrick regarding LPR systems and Flock use.** The OIPM requested that the department conduct an audit of its use of LPR systems and review its current policy to build in more safeguards and expectations. This letter is currently under review at the NOPD.

The OIPM is currently **seeking a General Counsel for the office.** This position will be filled through a contractor agreement. Interested individuals should submit a proposal through the City's procurement site. The ideal candidate will have experience working within governmental and administrative systems, including familiarity with the Civil Service Commission and public records laws. Experience in employment law and the ability to provide guidance on constitutional issues are also strongly preferred. This RFP is being rereleased due to not receiving enough submissions so please check out this opportunity and see if this could be a good fit for you.

Finally, if you are a member of a community organization or a neighborhood association and **would like the OIPM to attend your meeting to discuss police oversight and how we can serve you, please let us know.**

Thank you,

Stella Cziment

Stella Cziment, Independent Police Monitor



Above, the OIPM meets with OPCD leadership and discusses dispatch protocol.



Above is a screenshot of the first page of the OIPM formal letter to Chief Kirkpatrick regarding LPR systems and Flock Safety Cameras.

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

Formal Letter Requesting Audit of License Plate Recognition Systems and Flock Safety Camera Usage and Policy Review

In September, the OIPM sent a formal letter to the NOPD regarding their potential use of License Plate Recognition (LPR) systems and Flock Safety camera systems. This timely and relevant formal request highlighted the need to conduct a periodic audit of the department's use of LPR systems and to review and revise the NOPD's policy on LPR use to build additional safeguards.

In the letter, the OIPM requested the **execution of a periodic audit of the LPR systems utilized by NOPD as required under Chapter 41.3.9, Para 5(b)** to determine if there is proper use of the "Flock" system, any other LPR systems being utilized, and that the NOPD update policy chapter 41.3.9 to preventatively address potential misconduct and abuse as required under Chapter 41.3.9(a). This policy chapter requires that the department stays abreast of legal trends in the area of LPR and electronic public surveillance because there are national trends of law enforcement abuse of "Flock."

The OIPM requested that the NOPD build in **safeguards to prevent and quickly identify abuse of these systems** – such as a safeguard / alert system where users with X amount of searches are automatically flagged for review by supervisors. Additionally, unlike some software utilized by NOPD, Flock cameras can be accessed via app on officer's phones from anywhere. Therefore, there is an unchecked ability for officers to misuse this technology on personal phones and share information with others. The OIPM would request that any LPR system use be restricted to only department-owned devices and officers and employees be prohibited from utilizing these systems on personal devices.

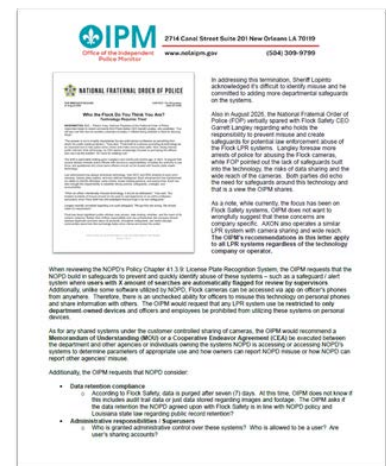
As for any shared systems under the customer-controlled sharing of cameras, the OIPM recommended that a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA)** be executed between the department and any other agencies or individuals who own the systems NOPD is accessing, or who are accessing NOPD's systems, to determine the parameters of appropriate use and how each party can report misuse by the other party.

Finally, the OIPM also requested that the NOPD consider: data retention, administrative and superuser responsibilities, how allegations of misuse are to be investigated, and officer training regarding LPR use.

Meeting with PIB and Police Associations

A component of the OIPM's creating statute and purpose is to work with police associations. Police associations represent the voice of police officers and will frequently be the first resource that officers turn to with problems. This month, the **OIPM joined the Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) in a meeting with the three police associations in New Orleans:** the Black Organization of Police (BOP), the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), and the Police Association of New Orleans (PANO).

During the meeting, the OIPM gained insight into how officers are responding to changes in policy and practice regarding the investigation of formal disciplinary investigations, how investigations are being handled across different agency partners and bodies, where the associations would like more information from PIB and the Superintendent, and how oversight can assist moving forward. The OIPM thanks these partners for bringing their questions and feedback to this meeting.



Above, screenshots of the formal letter sent to NOPD regarding LPR systems.

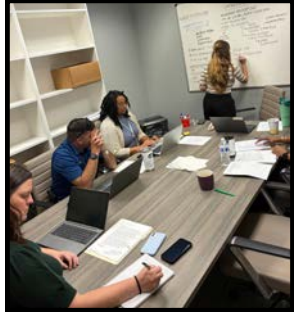
ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, & WORK

NOPD and OIPM Collaborate on Employee Mediation Program and Policy Development

At the beginning of the month, the OIPM met with members of the NOPD's Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau (PSAB) to discuss the creation of a **new mediation program for employees of the NOPD: peer-to-peer mediation**. The creation of this program was a goal listed in the OIPM's 2026 Work Plan and we are happy to see this initiative start to take form. During this initial meeting, we discussed legal considerations, logistical concerns, policy needs, and how this mediation option could operate to best serve the participants within the department.

By the end of the month, the OIPM presented PSAB with a **first draft of the proposed mediation policy for their review**. Prior to any new mediation program and policy being adopted, the OIPM and the NOPD will consult with the City Attorney's Office and stakeholders including police associations and the Civil Service Commission.

Workplace conflict can influence productivity, morale, supervision, and service to the public. We are excited to consider a way to address this conflict and solve it together so officers, supervisors, and all employees of the NOPD can focus on doing what matters - serving the public.



Create Policy and Launch Pilot for Peer-to-Peer Mediation Program

The OIPM is currently discussing a **peer-to-peer mediation program** to serve employees within NOPD and aid in solving some of the internal issues and conflicts that inevitably come up within such a large and diverse organization. This pilot is at the request of the NOPD to address internal disputes that occur and often bog down the grievance and misconduct systems. The goal would be to provide mediation to supervisors and subordinates or peers who request assistance and to aid employees in resolving ongoing workplace conflict by providing conflict resolution skills.

Above right, the Independent Police Monitor takes notes on the white board as meeting participants discuss logistics for the potential policy. To the left is a screenshot of the language included in the 2026 OIPM Work Plan regarding this program.

Caffeine, Sweets, and Books with the IPM in September: Community Engagement with the OIPM

From uptown to New Orleans East to the Westbank, in September, the OIPM hosted three different outreach events to connect with people in the city about policing and oversight.

Uptown, we hosted a **"Coffee with the IPM"** at an uptown Starbucks on Magazine and State Street. There, we talked with members of the public grabbing coffee on the way to work who wanted to know more about how to collaborate with our office or access our services.

In New Orleans East, we talked with residents and visitors stopping to get a little sugar boost at our **"Sweet Treat with the IPM"** at NOLA Sweet Tooth Fairy Bakery. 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.

We closed the month on the Westbank, talking to families and residents in a resource area of the **Algiers Regional Library**.

We greatly appreciate all of the community members, visitors, coffee drinkers, cookie enjoyers, and avid readers who took the time to join us, ask questions, and engage in meaningful conversation. Let us know what neighborhood you would like to see host the next Coffee with the IPM event!



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	158	41	84	93	51	49	51	66	22	30	64.50
Police Complaint Count	0	1	1	1	1	4	5	2	5	2	2.20
Civilian w/in NOPD	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0.20
Anonymous Complaint	14	17	21	17	24	19	25	0	0	0	13.70
Community Liaison Count	21	16	13	27	12	20	33	15	3	6	16.60
Case Monitoring Count	1	4	5	4	7	4	9	0	9	8	5.10
Case Review Count	0	0	0	1	4	4	2	4	8	0	2.30
Contact Only Count	30	34	80	43	27	17	28	14	2	4	27.90
FDI Notification Count	43	26	40	38	47	20	54	39	53	23	38.30
Disc. Hearing Attended Count*	42	31	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10.20
Critical Incident Count	3	10	5	3	5	7	9	8	5	7	6.20
Firearm Discharge Count	4	8	4	3	5	6	8	7	3	4	5.20
Lvl 4 Non-Critical	8	9	15	7	18	6	8	0	0	0	7.10
Force Monitoring*	3	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.00
Mediation Count	19	26	28	24	17	18	27	26	19	24	22.80
Commendation Count	4	1	6	5	0	8	1	4	1	2	3.20
Community Outreach Events	61	55	77	50	88	16	22	3	0	0	37.20
Grand Total	411	280	413	317	306	199	283	188	130	110	263.70

	Sept 2026	Sept 2025	Sept 2024	Sept 2023	Sept 2022	Sept 2021	Sept 2020	Sept 2019	Sept 2018	Sept 2017	2017-2026 Average
Citizen Complaint Count	15	3	5	14	7	2	3	11	5	3	6.80
Police Complaint Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0.60
Civilian w/in NOPD	0	0	0	0	0	0	1				0.14
Anonymous Complaint	1	1	5	6	1	0	2				2.29
Community Liaison Count	3	3	1	3	1	1	4	0			2.00
Case Monitoring Count	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.50
Case Review Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Contact Only Count	5	1	5	7	2	3	1	0	0	0	2.40
FDI Notification Count	9	2	5	5	5	0	12	1	0	2	4.10
Disc. Hearing Attended Count*	6	0	1								2.33
Critical Incident Count	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.40
Firearm Discharge Count	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.30
Lvl 4 Non-Critical	0	0	1	0	2	0	0				0.43
Force Monitoring*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0.00
Mediation Count	2	2	4	2	3	3	2	1	3	3	2.50
Commendation Count	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0.40
Community Outreach Events	9	13	8	6	11	2	2				7.29
Grand Total	52	27	40	46	32	13	30	14	10	10	27.40

*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:	\$838,409.00
Unexpended funds	\$322,497.00

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 complaint 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:

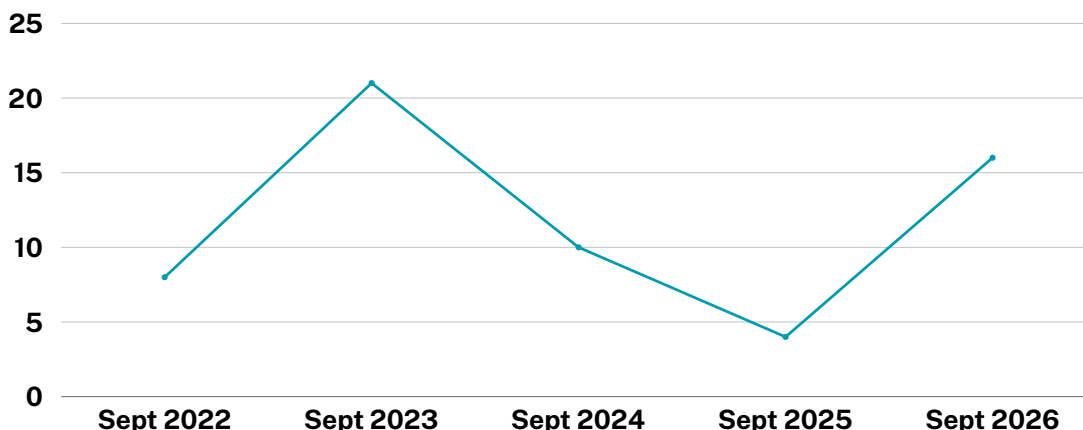
- Use of Force
- Abuse of Authority: such as unlawful searches and seizures, enter and search of premises with no warrant, threat to notify child services, threats to damage of property, refusal to take complaint, refuse to identify themselves, damages to property seized
- Failure to supervise
- Falsification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



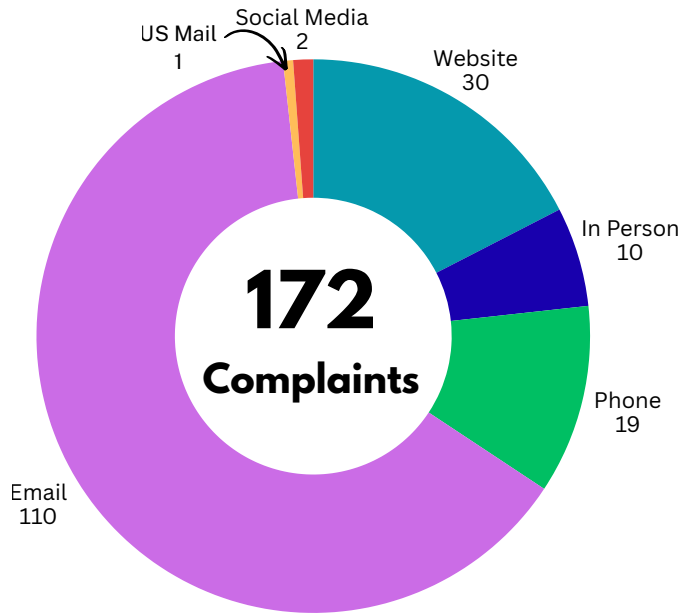
16

**Total Complaints
Received this
month**

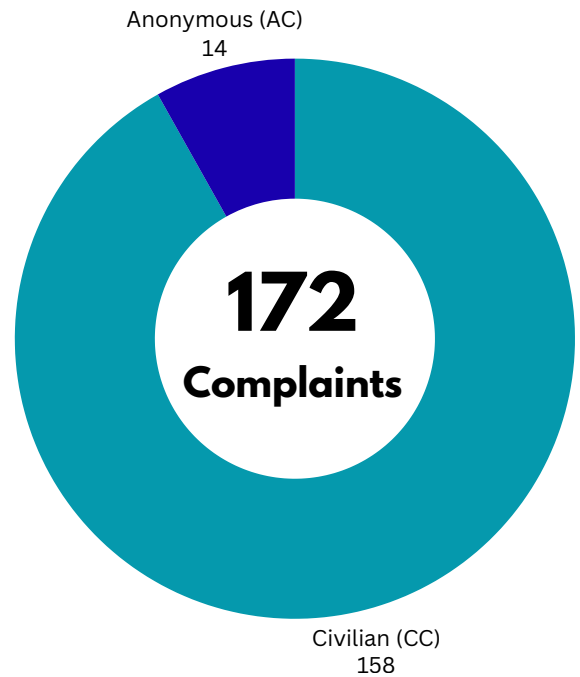
172

**Total Complaints
Received This
Year**

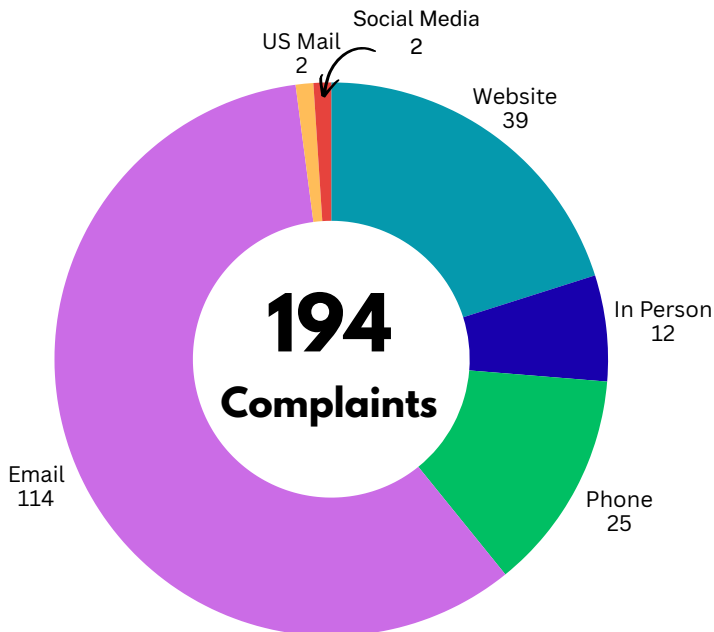
Complaint Intake Source - 2026



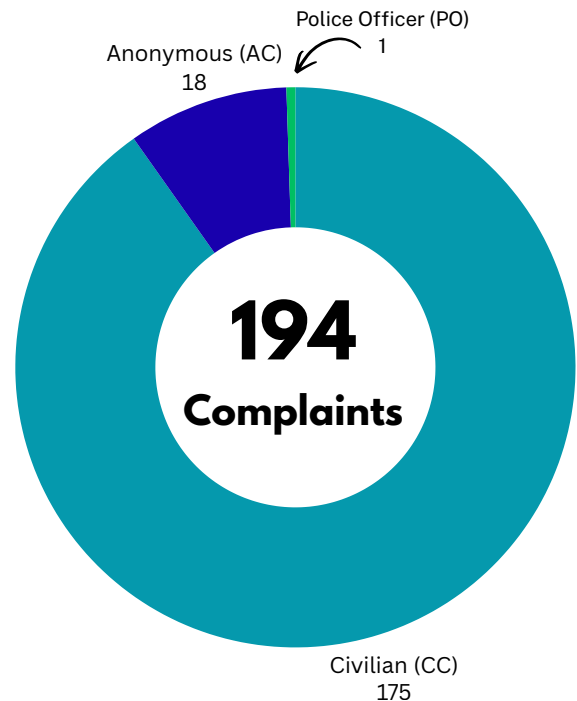
Complainant Type - 2026



Complaint Intake Source - Past 12 Months



Complainant Type - Past 12 Months



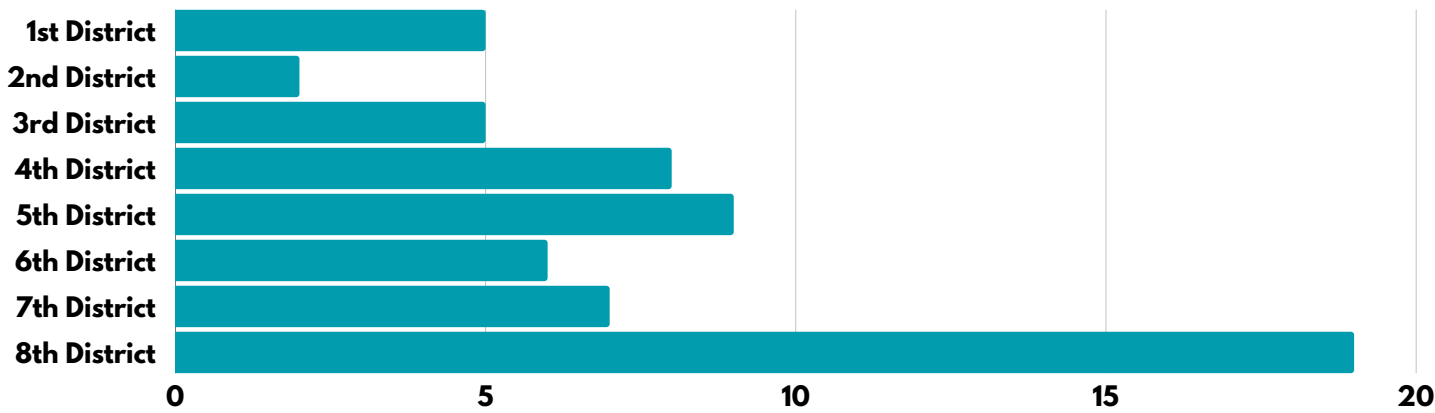
How Can You Submit Complaints?

You can file a complaint with us in several ways:

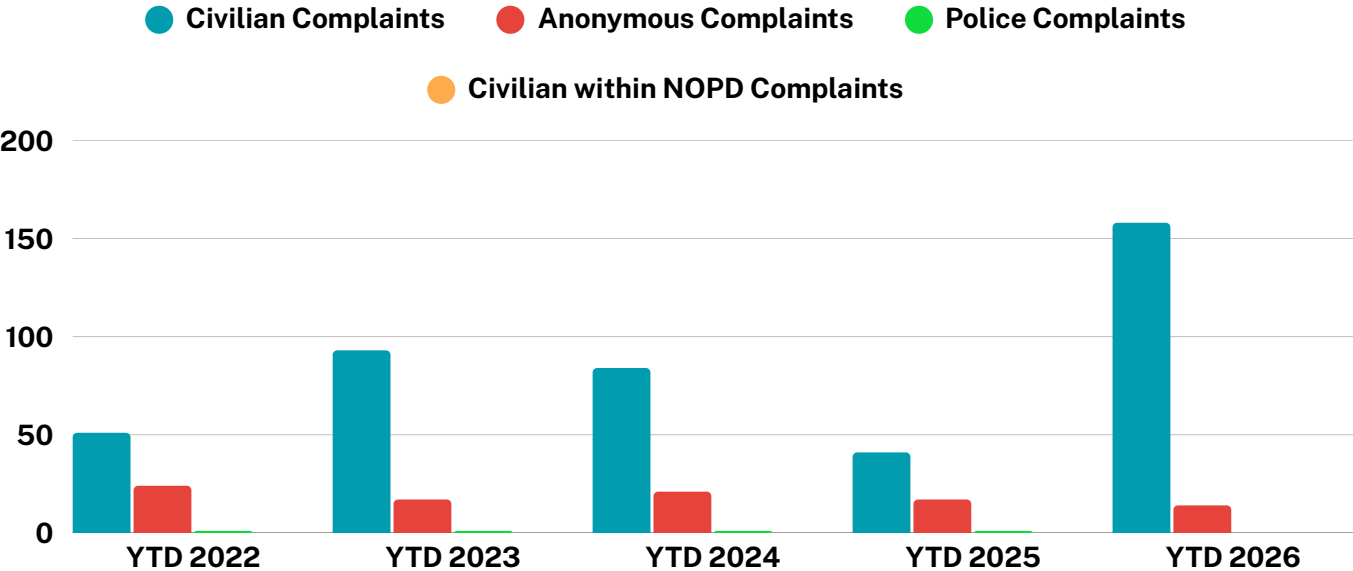
- Through our website: www.nolaipm.gov
- By calling or texting our 24-hour hotline: **1-877-225-6476 (OIPM)** (available in English, Spanish, or Vietnamese)
- By visiting our office in person: **2714 Canal Street, Suite 201**
- By mailing us a complaint: **2714 Canal Street, Suite 201**
- Emailing us a complaint: policemonitor@nolaipm.gov

Districts - Past 12 Months

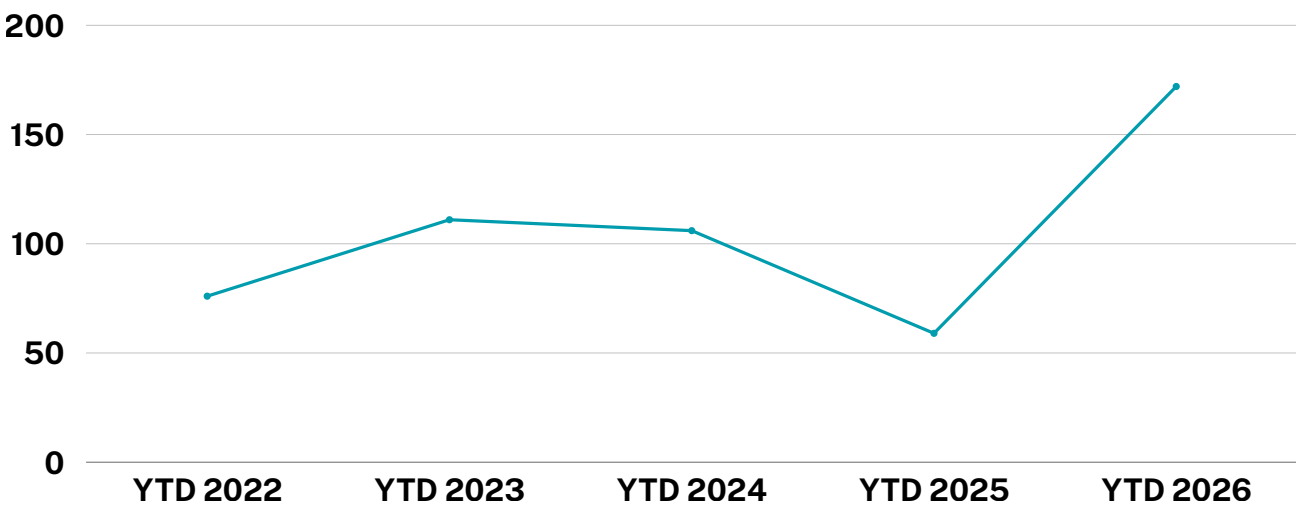
This chart communicates where the alleged misconduct occurred by police district. This requires the misconduct to occur in a physical space (instead of an incident that occurs over the phone or internet for example). This is based on complainant disclosure and the OIPM tries to verify this information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



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

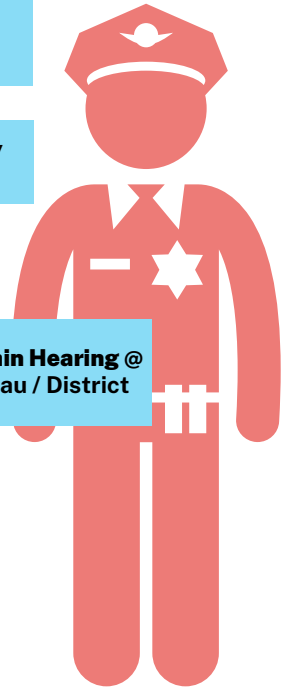
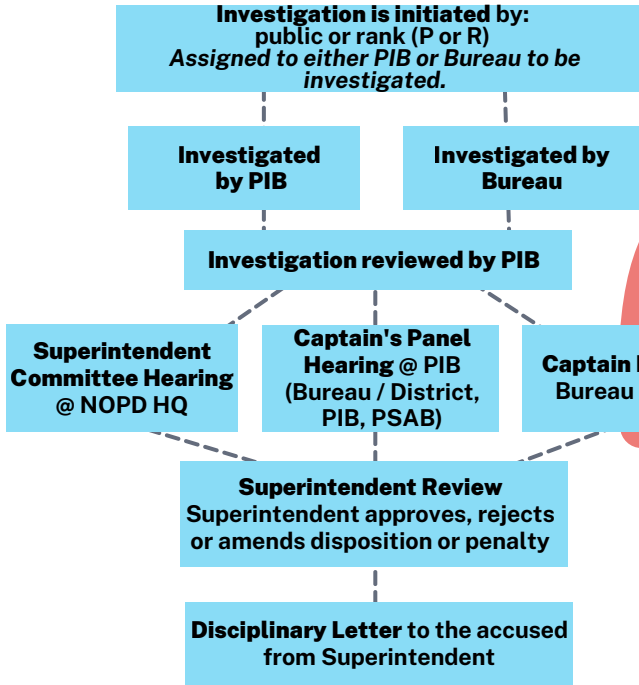


Complaint Totals YTD - 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026



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.

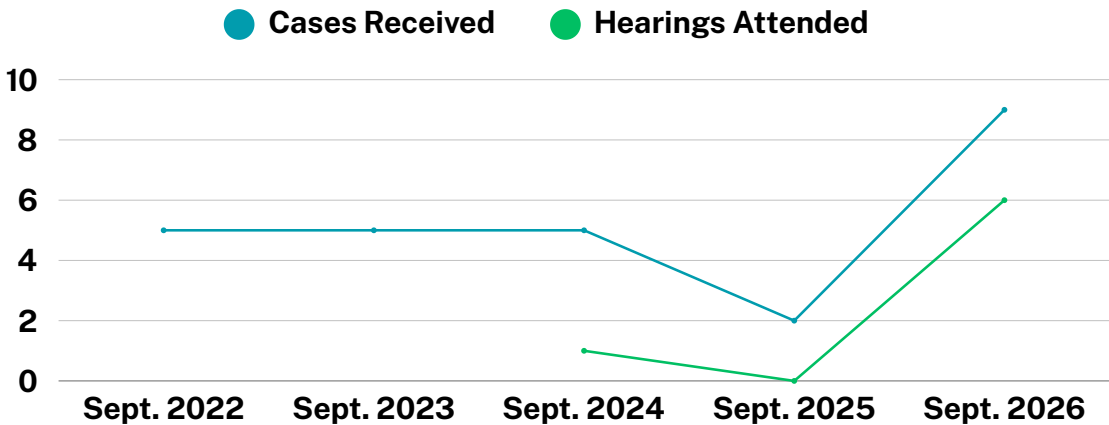


The OIPM may monitor the process conducted by the PIB or by the Bureau; however, under the MOU, there are detailed directions regarding how the OIPM is notified of investigations by the PIB and similar protocol does not currently exist for Bureaus. For that reason, the OIPM tends to be more involved 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.



Above, IPM, Stella Cziment, talks to Deputy Chiefs between disciplinary hearings.

Disciplinary Proceedings - September



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.

9

Disciplinary Cases Received this Month

6

Disciplinary Hearings Attended this Month

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.

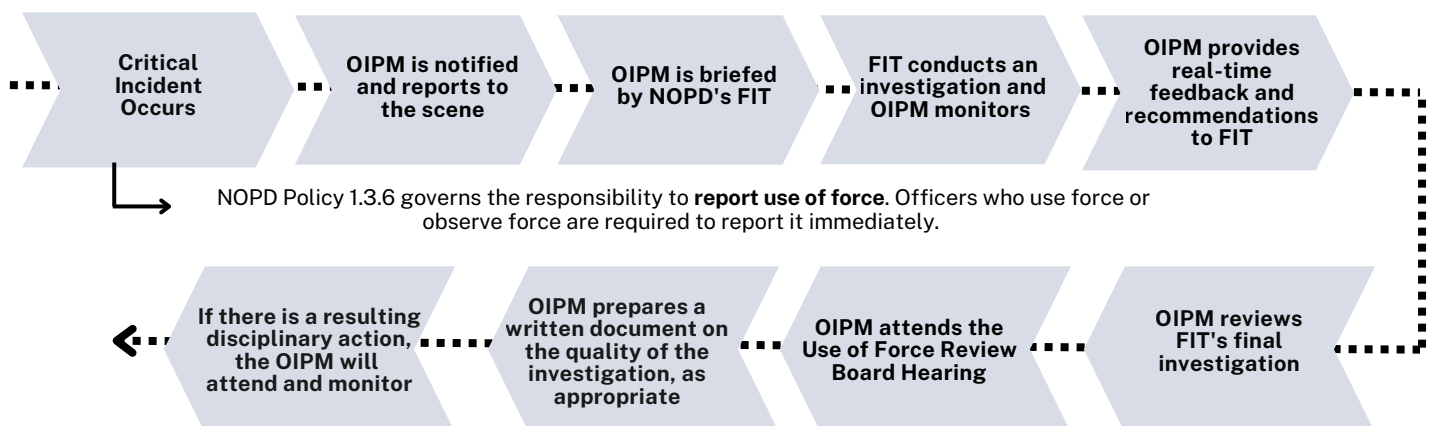
Use of Force

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

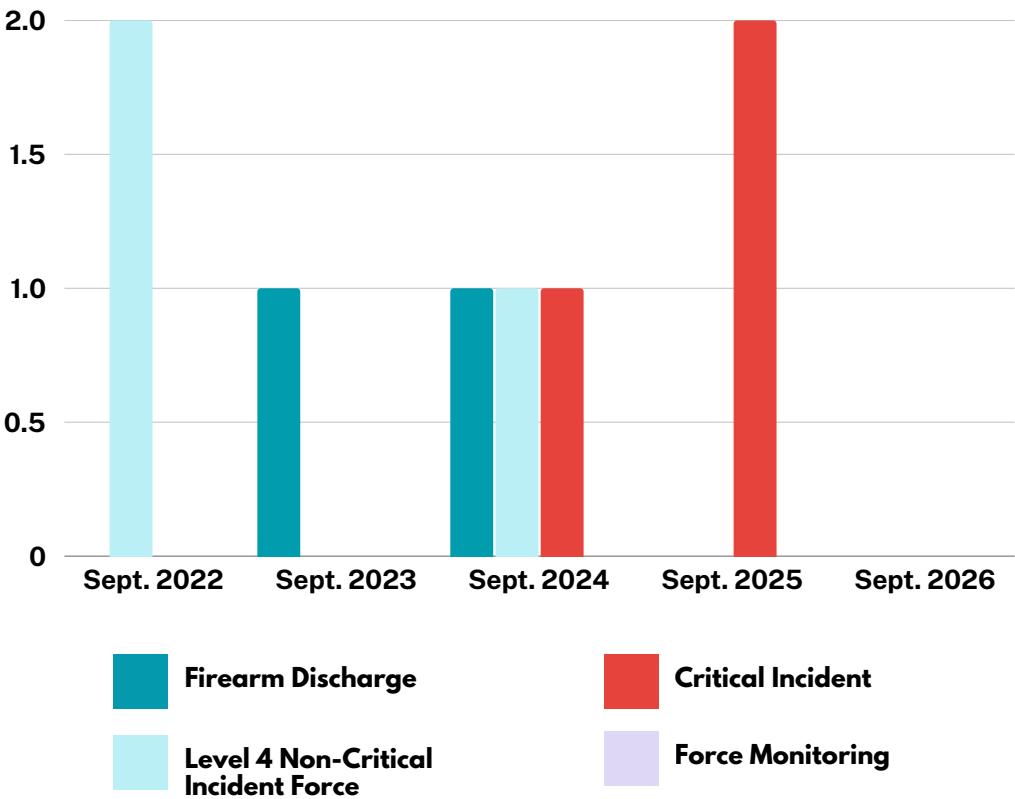


Use of Force Work

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



0

Firearm Discharge this Month

0

Critical Incidents this Month

0

Level 4 Non-Critical Use of Force this Month

0

Additional Force Monitoring this Month

0

On-Scene Monitoring

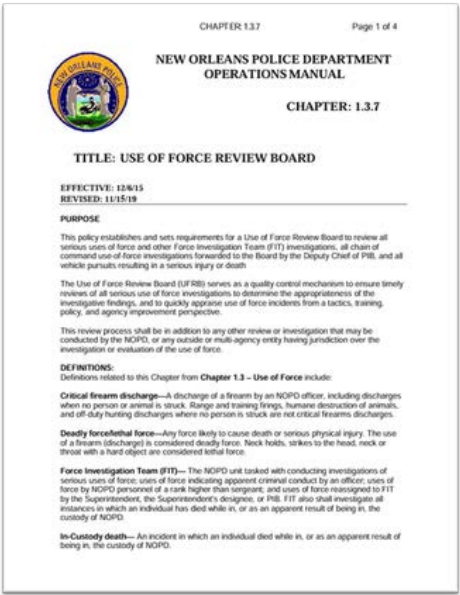
Use of Force Review Board (UFRB)

The Use of Force Review Board (UFRB) serves as a quality control mechanism to ensure timely reviews of all serious use of force investigations to determine the appropriateness of the investigative findings, and to quickly appraise use of force incidents from a tactics, training, policy, and agency improvement perspective.

The voting members of the UFRB are the Deputy Chiefs of Field Operations Bureau, Public Integrity Bureau, and Investigations and Support Bureau. Other NOPD deputy chiefs and commanders serve as non-voting members, and outside groups like OIPM, are invited to observe, listen and participate in discussion.

The FIT investigator prepares a written report, presents the cases, and provides recommendations to the Use of Force Review Board (UFRB). The Board makes the final determination of whether a NOPD officer's use of force is within policy, regulations, and guidelines based on the facts and evidence presented in the investigation. The force is evaluated using NOPD Policy Chapter 1.3. If the Board determines the use of force violated NOPD policy, the Board will refer it to PIB for disciplinary action.

By policy, UFRB should occur every 30 days to review use of force incidents or investigations that have been submitted since the prior UFRB meeting. This month, the UFRB was **cancelled**.

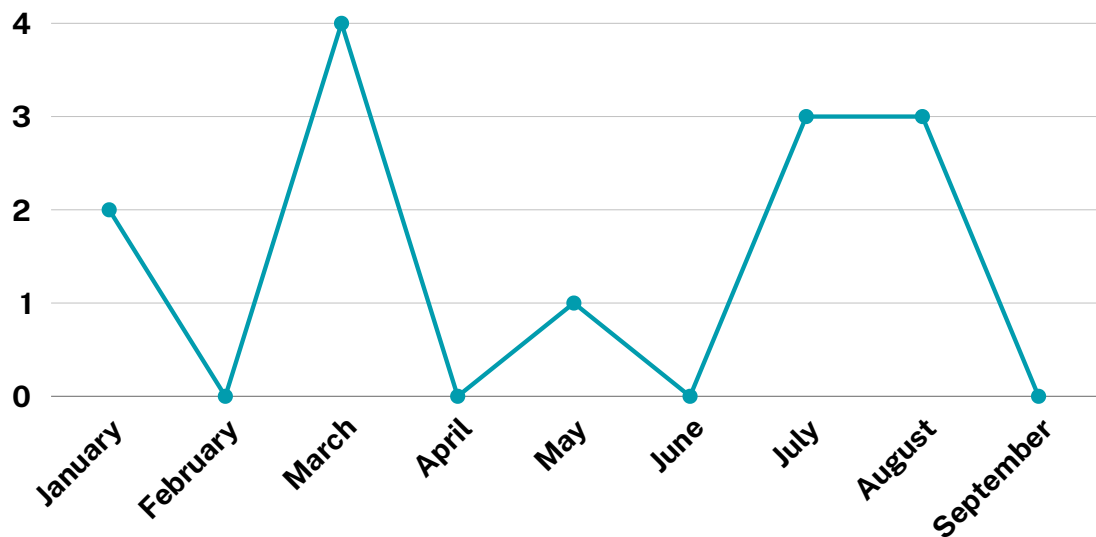


Above is the NOPD's Use of Force Review Board policy.



When a UFRB is held, the OIPM receives the cases ten (10) days before the hearing and has approximately one week to review the investigation and respond with our questions and feedback prior to the hearing. The OIPM attends the Use of Force Review Board as a nonvoting member of the board and provides input and assessments. The OIPM may provide feedback formally or informally prior to the UFRB. The OIPM often provides feedback to FIT investigators throughout the entirety of the investigation.

UFRB Cases Heard By Month: 2026



13

UFRB cases heard YTD in 2026

21

Total UFRB cases heard in 2025

25

Total UFRB cases heard in 2024

18

Total UFRB cases heard in 2023

COMMUNITY-POLICE MEDIATION

What is Mediation?

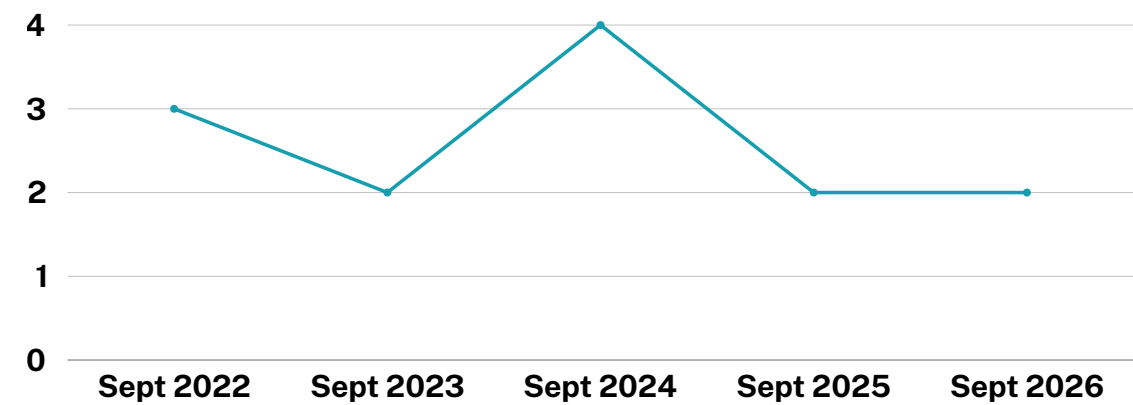
Mediation is an alternative to the traditional process of resolving complaints of police officer misconduct. Mediation provides a process facilitated by two professionally-trained OIPM community mediators to create mutual understanding and allow the officer and civilian to be fully heard and understood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

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. The consent process involves communication between the participants - in the community and within the NOPD - and the OIPM Mediation Director or OIPM 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.

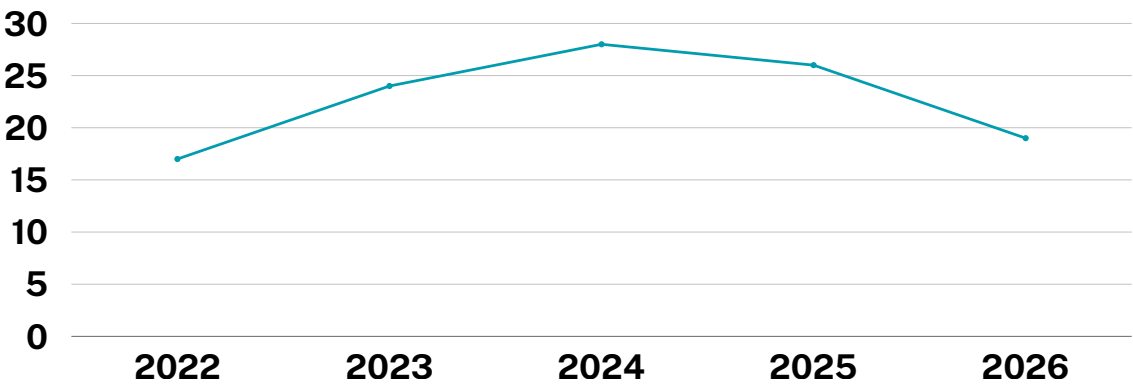


Total Mediations Held This Month 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026



2
Total Mediations Held this Month

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



19
Total Mediations Held YTD

Different Types of Mediation, Different Types of Cases

The OIPM Mediation Program has grown over the years and now includes different types of mediation opportunities, cases, and corresponding processes. Below, are the three (3) different streams of mediation work that the OIPM currently provides:

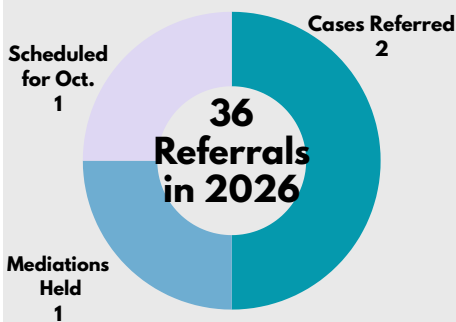
Community-Police Mediation Program

Referred by PIB through the Formal Disciplinary (FDI) Investigation Process

This is the original program that began at OIPM in 2014, and continues to be the main component of our mediation work. This program involves complaints that are marked as Formal Disciplinary Investigations (FDI) by PIB.

These complaints are referred to us by PIB if they are eligible for mediation according to NOPD Policy Chapter 52.3. Mediation is offered as an alternative to the traditional investigation process.

Community-Police Mediation Program Numbers - September



Employee to Employee Mediation Numbers - September



Upon request from the NOPD, the OIPM Mediation program will conduct peer-to-peer mediation to serve employee conflict within NOPD. The OIPM has received two of these requests in 2026

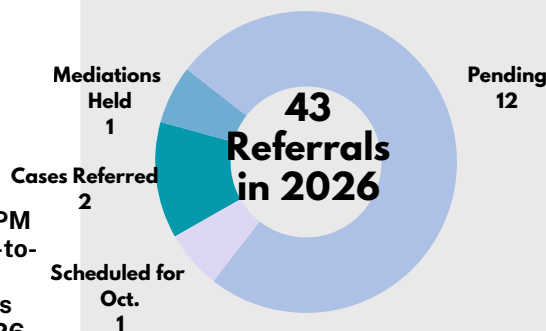
Post-Investigation Mediation

Referred by PIB through the Cleared By Camera (CBC) Process and OIPM Selection and Referrals

Beginning in 2024, we began offering Post-Investigation Mediation. This offers officers and community members a chance for mediation after the complaint investigation has concluded, if it was marked by PIB as Not-Sustained, Exonerated, or Unfounded. While the goals of mediation and the process are the same as our regular program, this expands the option of mediation and allows people to engage without giving up their opportunity for investigation. For example, if a community member is dissatisfied with the investigation outcome, this is a chance to be heard, gain clarity, and share their perspective.

Referrals can come in different methods like from the community, the OIPM, or PIB.

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



District-Based Community Mediation

Referred by District Captains and District Staff, Self Referred by Members of the Community

In 2025, we piloted a new initiative: District-Based Community Mediation. This program addresses conflicts in the community where calling the police is not providing a sufficient solution. For disagreeing parties, our mediators can now help facilitate a dialogue and support community members to find a solution. Some examples include disputes around noise, parking, property lines/fences, lighting, garbage, or pets. The service is geared towards families, business owners, or neighbors and the goal is to use mediation to save police resources, prevent issues from escalating, and help create sustainable solutions.

Referrals can be received directly from community members or from officers who have responded to a call for service and think mediation could be helpful. We have provided outreach materials and a simple online referral form so that any officer or community member can reach out with a referral. Officers now carry a business-card sized info card that they can hand out to members of the public they encounter that could benefit from mediation.

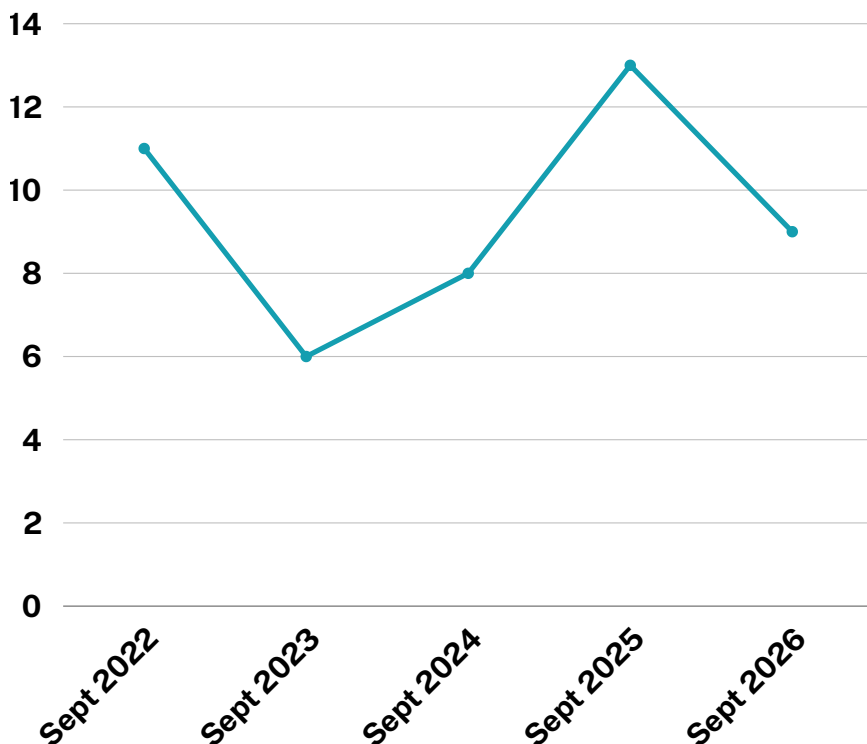
Community District Based Mediation Numbers - Sept.



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 - September 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026



9

Total Outreach Events this Month

Outreach Events

- Mediation In-Service Training (Virtual)
- Mediator Breakfast at Sunnyside Up
- Coffee with the IPM at Starbucks Uptown
- Attended Congressman Jim Clyburn Interview
- Orleans Parish Communication District Tour
- Tabled at Heal The Block Community Event in Central City
- Sweet Treat with the IPM at NOLA Sweet Tooth Fairy
- 2nd Annual National Day of Remembrance Homicide Victims Walk
- Tabled at Algiers Regional Library



Above, the OIPM visits the Orleans Parish Communication District.



In September, Kiah Howard from the OIPM attended a fireside chat hosted by Representative Troy Carter. Congressman Jim Clyburn was interviewed by Professor Clyde Robertson of the Center for African and African American Studies at Southern University at New Orleans. Congressman Clyburn discussed his new book, his relationship to service as a civil servant, and his hopes for America's future. It was a warm and educational conversation and it was an honor to meet the congressman.

OIPM's Monitor's Mic Radio Shows

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

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

