

Government of the District of Columbia
Police Complaints Board
Office of Police Complaints

FY23 Mid-Year Report



COMPLAINT ACTIVITY

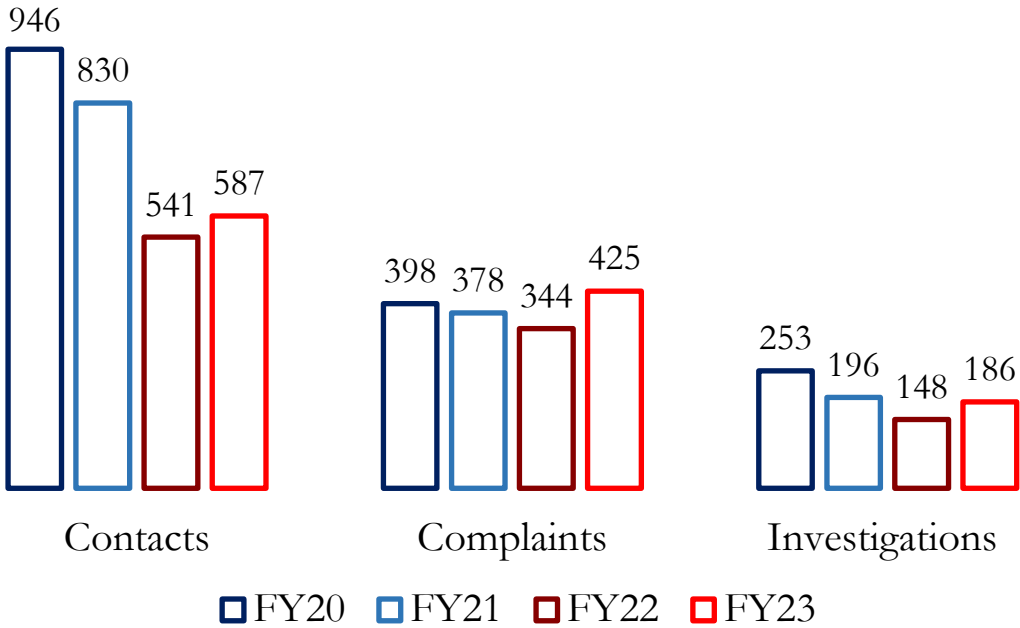
Between October 2022 and March 2023:

587 people contacted
OPC¹

425 people filed
formal complaints

OPC initiated 186
new investigations

OPC investigated 338 total complaints.² This is a 37% increase from Mid-Year FY22.



9% increase in
contacts received

24% increase in
formal complaints

26% increase in
new investigations³

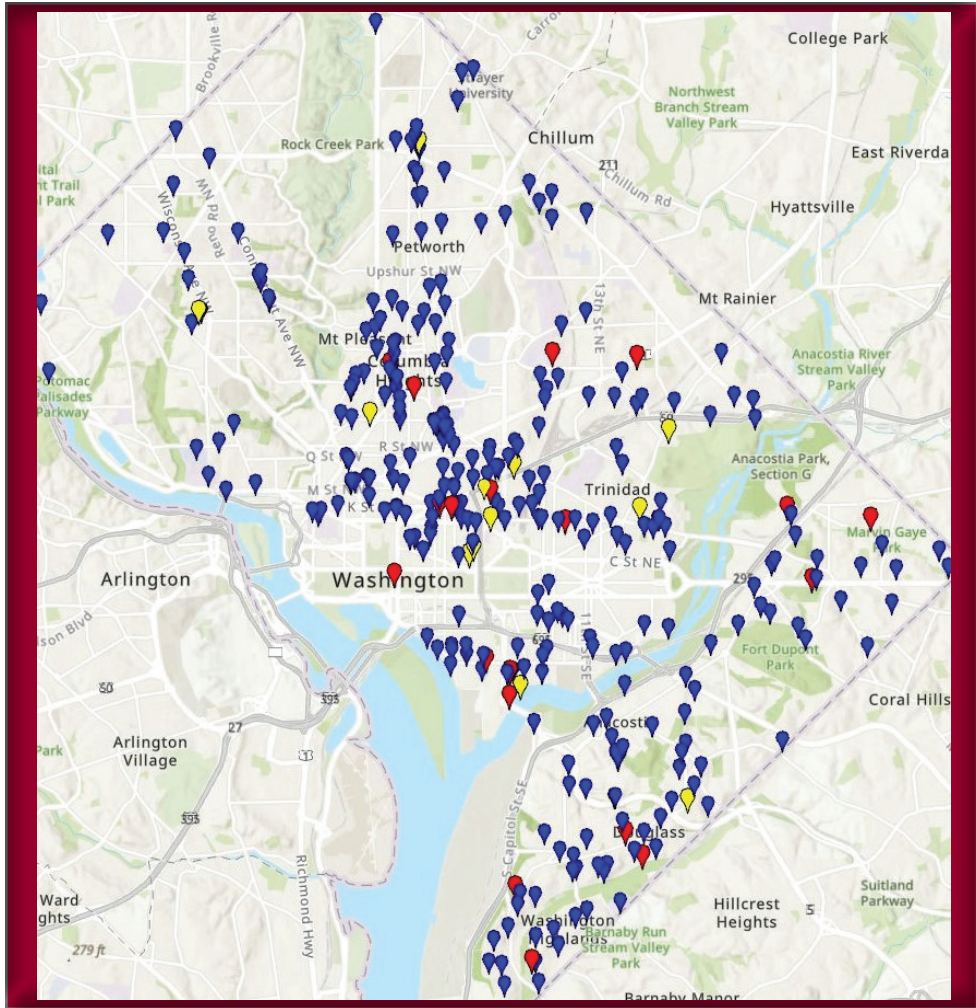
1: In April 2021 OPC streamlined the process for tracking contacts. To be tracked a contact must be regarding MPD/DCHAPD in the DMV area. See the [FY21](#) Annual Report for more information.

2: Includes new cases plus open cases from prior fiscal years

3: OPC no longer includes administrative closures when reporting new investigations. In the FY21 Mid-Year report OPC did report administrative closures, which added 17 cases.

COMPLAINT ACTIVITY^{4, 5}

District	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
FY22	19%	15%	14%	14%	12%	14%	12%
FY23	22%	15%	16%	10%	13%	10%	15%



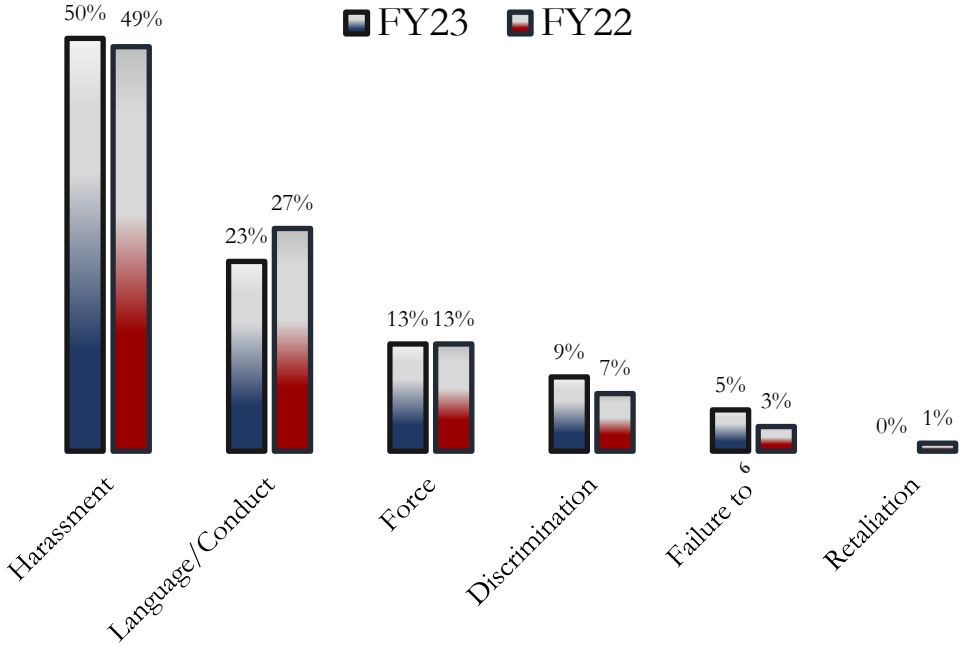
Ward	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
FY22	10%	16%	8%	9%	13%	17%	16%	13%
FY23	13%	12%	6%	7%	15%	18%	10%	19%

4: Due to rounding, not all percentages in this report will add to exactly 100%

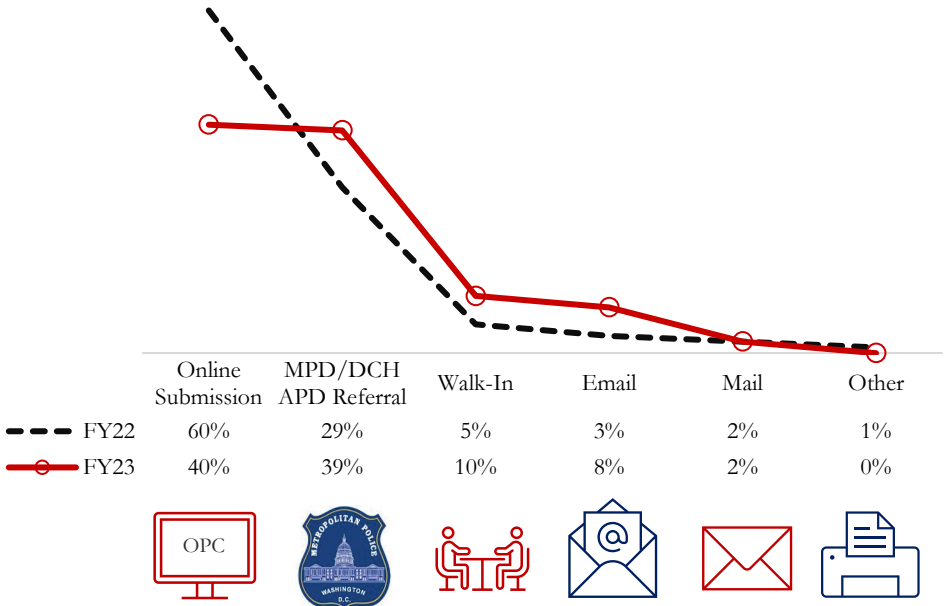
5: Blue icons represent addresses with a single complaint, the red icons represent addresses with two complaints, and the yellow icons represent addresses with more than two complaints



ALLEGATIONS



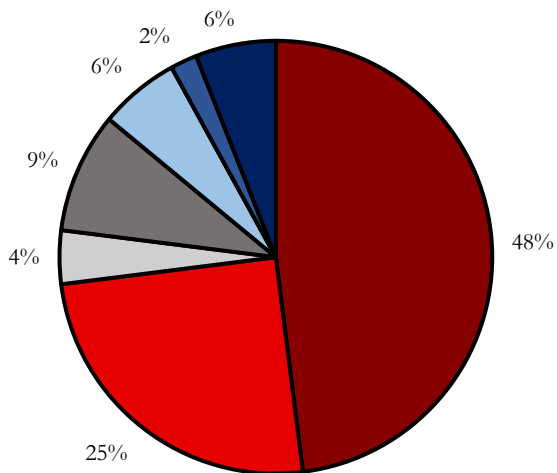
SOURCE OF COMPLAINTS



6: OPC combines failure to identify and failure to intervene into “failure to”

CASE DISPOSITIONS

FY23



Dismissed Merit: 48%

Dismissed No Cooperation: 25%

Mediation: 4%

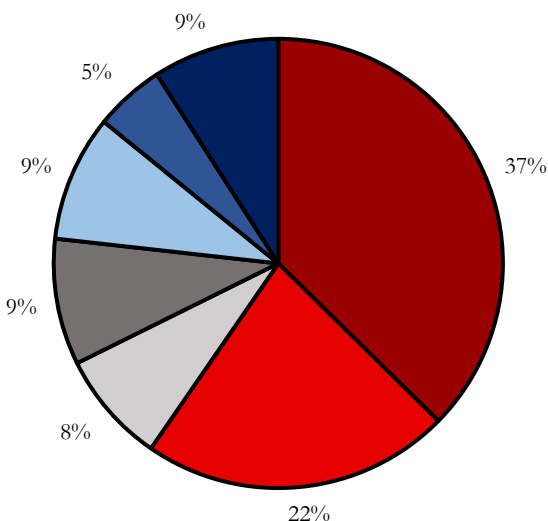
Policy Training: 9%

Rapid Resolution: 6%

Adjudicated: 2%

Withdrawn: 6%

FY22



Dismissed Merit: 37%

Dismissed No Cooperation: 22%

Mediation: 8%

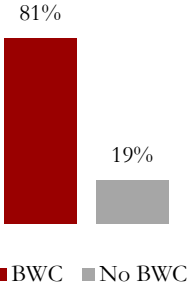
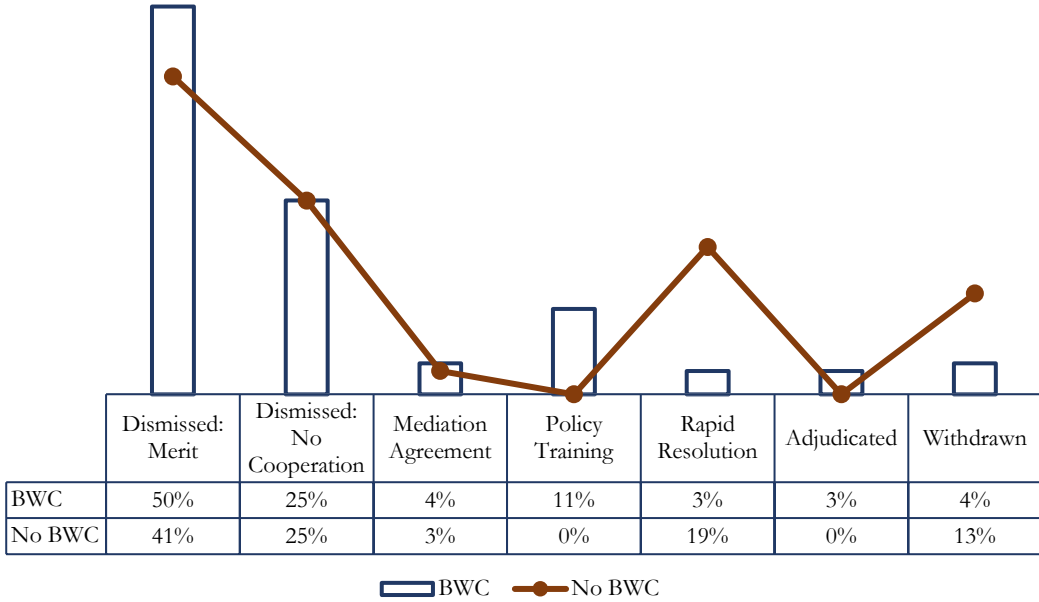
Policy Training: 9%

Rapid Resolution: 9%

Adjudicated: 5%

Withdrawn: 9%

BODY WORN CAMERAS



81% of Cases had BWC Footage



43% of Cases had BWC Non-Compliance

TYPES OF BWC NON-COMPLIANCE

	Not Activated	Turned on Late	No Notification	Camera Obstructed	Turned off Early
FY22	2%	15%	20%	0%	8%
FY23	7%	22%	16%	0%	16%

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

OPC published two policy reports in the first half of FY23 to help update policies and improve police and community relationships.

1. Implementation Update on the Reports and Recommendations of the Police Complaints Board from Fiscal Year 2021

On March 7, 2023, OPC released the Implementation Update on the Reports and Recommendations of the Police Complaints Board from Fiscal Year 2021 to assess the implementation of previously made recommendations. The policy recommendations from Fiscal Year 2021 included three reports and nine recommendations to the Council and MPD. Of the 9 recommendations, five have been fully implemented, two have been partially implemented and two have not been implemented. The recommendations are included below.

A. Stop and Frisk Data Review

On October 5, 2020, the PCB released the Stop and Frisk Data Review policy report, which focused on racial disparities found in MPD's 2019 Stop Data Report. The PCB urged MPD to expedite its examination into the root causes of the appearance of racial bias in the stop data. The PCB recommended that MPD, 1. Immediately make public any steps already taken to initiate a comprehensive analysis of the stop data; and 2. MPD must continue regular updates to the Stop Data Report page on the MPD website. The first is considered partially implemented, and the second is considered not implemented.

B. Discipline

On October 14, 2020, the PCB released the Discipline policy report. In the report, the PCB noted that the sanctions imposed by MPD in response to sustained community complaints suggest that the Department is reluctant to impose serious sanctions based on community complaints, and that the discipline imposed on officers often goes outside of MPD's Table of Penalties Guide. The PCB recommended, 1. The D.C. Council consider reviewing the process by which discipline is determined for OPC sustained complaints; 2. Amending D.C. Code §5-1112 to include a revised procedure for determining the level of discipline for sustained allegations of misconduct based on complaints made to OPC; and 3. Both OPC and the PCB should be involved in the discipline process and the PCB should ultimately approve the discipline. OPC considers these partially implemented.

C. Marijuana Trained Drug Detection Canines

On July 18, 2021, the PCB released the Marijuana Trained Drug Detection Canines policy report. In the report, the PCB noted that on February 26, 2015, the Legalization of Possession of Minimal Amounts of Marijuana for Personal Use Initiative went into effect. MPD continued to deploy their Canine Patrol Unit (CPU) and while their canines could differentially detect the odors of marijuana, methamphetamines, ecstasy, cocaine, and heroine, canines only had one alert indicator to signal to their Canine Handlers contraband was present.

The PCB recommended that MPD, 1. MPD should not deploy canines trained in marijuana detection in any way that would infringe upon the rights of the public, such as for sweeps or searches of persons or vehicles; 2. After probable cause has been established, MPD may deploy marijuana trained canines for a sweep, but probable cause must be established prior to and independently from utilizing a canine trained in marijuana detection; 3. MPD should no longer train canines in marijuana detection at the academy, and any certification processes should no longer be dependent on the canine’s ability to detect marijuana; 4. Any canines trained in marijuana detection that are currently employed by the MPD Canine Patrol Unit should be retired or repurposed for other departmental purposes; 5. If MPD has or acquires any canine that has the ability to distinguish between the legal and illegal possession of marijuana and the possession of other illegal drugs would not be subject to this policy recommendation; and 6. MPD should update General Order 306.01 and General Order 901.07 to reflect the above recommendations to ensure that the rights of community members who are abiding by the District’s Special Order 15-07 are protected and are uncompromised by drug detection canine deployment. OPC considers recommendations 1-5 are fully implemented and 6 is not implemented.

2. Presidential Executive Order 14074

On February 3, 2023, The PCB released the Presidential Executive Order 14074 policy report. On May 25, 2022, President Joseph Biden signed Executive Order 14074, Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety, to “increase public trust and enhance public safety and security by encouraging equitable and community-oriented policing.” Although the Executive Order applies primarily to federal law enforcement agencies, it incentivizes state and local police departments to adopt the best practices discussed therein. The PCB provided a summary of the areas in which MPD may improve or accelerate its adherence to the recommendations discussed in the executive order. The PCB recommended,

1. Whenever the Attorney General publishes new policing recommendations on civil rights violations and in-custody deaths, MPD should review them and implement the recommendations for any MPD directives that are not congruent with federal best practices on these topics;
2. MPD should actively participate in the consultations on the topic of strengthening officer recruitment, hiring, promotion, and retention practices that occur between the Office of the Attorney General and other law enforcement agencies;
3. MPD should implement any final recommendations of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) working group and the Attorney General’s office that have not already been incorporated into its own hiring and retention procedures;
4. MPD should review and implement the best practices recommended in any Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) report to enhance its own offi-

cer wellness policies once they are published;

5. When available, MPD should integrate National Law Enforcement Officer Accountability Database queries into its screening process for new employees;

6. MPD should also review the Attorney General's annual report to identify any national trends of misconduct among law enforcement officers and utilize the data to evaluate and improve its own training programs;

7. MPD should review the Attorney General's best practices for collecting use of force data once they are established and incorporate into its process any additional data points it does not currently collect in order improve its own data collection;

8. The PCB recommends that MPD continue to participate in the submission of data to the FBI's Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) and National Use of Force databases;

9. MPD should utilize the FBI's Officer Safety and Awareness Training Program in the training of its own officers;

10. MPD's current use of force policy is congruent with the current Department of Justice guidelines. The PCB believes MPD should still periodically review the early warning systems utilized by federal law enforcement agencies to ensure its procedures are consistent with national best practices and to identify any opportunities for improvement;

11. MPD should also implement any best practices identified during these reviews that have not already been incorporated into its early warning system;

12. MPD should review the anti-bias programs created by OPM, the Attorney General, and other law enforcement agencies to determine whether there are opportunities to improve its own training modules;

13. MPD should periodically review the DOJ's no-knock warrants guidelines and the policies, procedures, and best practices of other law enforcement agencies to determine whether there are opportunities to improve its own directives;

14. MPD should review HHS's study on the effects of use of force incidents on communities and implement the Attorney General's best practices on dialogues with the community and proper notification of deaths resulting from use of force incidents once they are published;

15. MPD should continue to enforce its directives to ensure BWC compliance by its officers and promote transparency and accountability among its members;

16. MPD should continue to enhance its policy for interactions with individuals suffering from mental health crises or other disabilities by reviewing and incorporating the best practices recommended by the Attorney General once they are disseminated;

17. MPD should incorporate any suggested best practices into its own directives to reduce the number of unnecessary interactions between its officers and community members;

16. In a previous policy report the PCB recommended MPD seek accreditation to ensure the implementation of an effective policy and procedure system and timely, periodic review of its directives. Accreditation has several benefits for law enforcement agencies that include but are not limited to improved effectiveness,

identification of opportunities for improvement, identification of training opportunities for members, increased accountability, decreased insurance premiums, reduced potential for liability, an increased sense of legitimacy from the community, and an increase in public trust that the agency is current on law enforcement best practices. Therefore, the PCB recommends that MPD seek accreditation from these certification bodies once the process is created and implemented.

For more information please see <https://policecomplaints.dc.gov/page/policy-recommendations>

ABOUT OPC

The Office of Police Complaints (OPC) is an independent District of Columbia Government agency that provides a fair and impartial forum for the review and resolution of police misconduct complaints filed against Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and D.C. Housing Authority Police Department officers.

Our Mission

OPC's mission is to increase community trust in the District of Columbia police forces by providing a fair, thorough, and independent system of civilian oversight of law enforcement.



Office of Police Complaints

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Washington, DC 20005

(202) 727-3838 (Tel)

(202) 727-9182 (Fax)

24-hour toll-free hotline:

1(866) 588-0569

www.policecomplaints.dc.gov

dcpolice.complaintsoffice@dc.gov

facebook.com/OfficeofPoliceComplaints

<https://twitter.com/DistrictOPC>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-EUF-dAX-4iBVotOKqfpZA>

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

Complaint forms and informational brochures can be obtained by:

- Visiting our website at <https://policecomplaints.dc.gov/page/of-fice-police-complaints-online-complaint-form>
- Calling OPC's office at (202) 727-3838
- Calling OPC's 24-hour, toll-free Hotline at 1(866) 588-0569
- Visiting any OPC community partner (community partners are listed on OPC's website under "File a Complaint")
- Visiting OPC Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
- Visiting any MPD district station

Complaint forms can be submitted:

- Online
- In person
- By email
- By fax
- By mail
- By dropping forms off at any MPD district station

M DIRECTIONS TO metro OPC BY MASS TRANSIT

metrobus

Nearby Metrobus routes include: 32, 33, 36, 37, 39, 42, 52, 54, 80, D4, G8, G9, A9, P19, S2, S4, X2

metrorail

McPherson Sq



OPC is in the building directly above the 14th Street exit of the McPherson Square Metro Station. McPherson Square is served by Metro's Blue, Orange, and Silver lines.