

# Detroit Again Sees Record Number of Complaints Filed About Police

Detroit continues to log a record number of complaints about police encounters, with 2024’s 1,970 topping the old record of 1,742 complaints filed in 2023 about encounters with police officers, 911 operators, and other Police Department employees.

Because complaints often contain more than one allegation, a record number of allegations is also likely as the complaints are investigated by the Board through its investigative arm, the Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI).

The Board continues to expand its public outreach to increase awareness of ways to file complaints. Information about how to file complaints is available in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Bengali on the web and in community hubs, including all police precincts and Detroit Public Library branches.

To ensure timely investigations, the Board has been hiring more complaint investigators for OCI to ensure ample staff to investigate complaints and issue findings. The BOPC also implemented a new software to improve case management.

Since the pandemic and government shutdowns, the BOPC complaint unit has worked to reduce a backlog and to manage the rise in filings as fatal police encounters continue to raise nationwide concerns about police generally after fatal cases involving George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tyre Nichols.

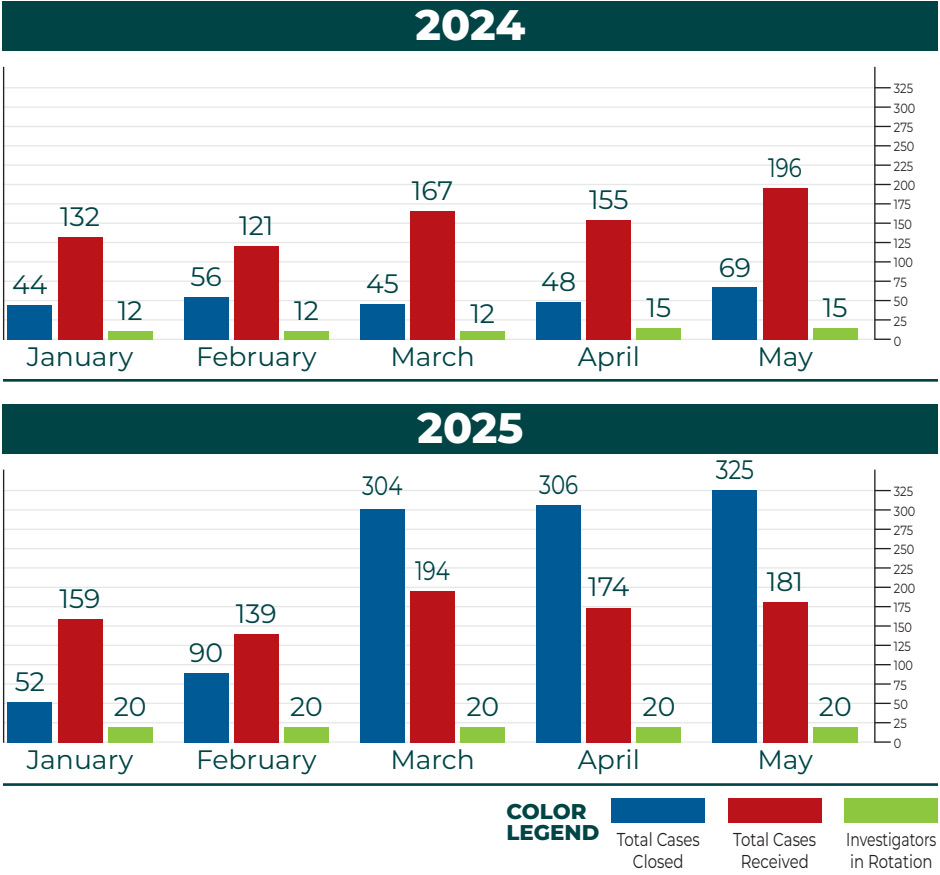
For OCI, some 1,460 complaints remained open at the end of 2024, regardless of the year filed, with an average 115 days to close complaint reports.

The Board and its staff ensure objective and timely fact-finding into complaints about police officers and other DPD employees. Complaints often help identify gaps between policy, training, and field experience for both the Board and DPD to address.

## COMPLAINT TRENDS

### Jan - May 2024 & 2025

#### Received vs Closed vs Investigators



## Board Completes Role in National Search for Second Time Since 2021



Photo: Detroit Public Safety Foundation Above and Beyond Event

As required by the City Charter, the Board of Police Commissioners carried out its mandate to whittle a national search down to three finalists to fill the Police Chief vacancy.

Chief Todd Bettison earned the Mayor’s appointment over two other candidates interviewed by the Board at a special community meeting at the end of January at Laborers’ International Local 1911 union hall.

It was the second time recently that the Board completed its mandate, including 2021 when Chief James Craig retired and the City welcomed Chief James White.

The City Council confirmed Chief Bettison as the 44<sup>th</sup> head of the Police Department in February.

# Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

## Teamwork with Wayne Law Boosts Civilian Oversight with ABA Consortium

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners is continuing its collaboration with Wayne State University Law School.

The collaboration involves the Law School’s participation in the American Bar Association (ABA) Legal Education Police Practices Consortium. The Consortium is a collaboration between law schools and the ABA dedicated to understanding and addressing legal issues in policing and public safety, including conduct, oversight, and the evolving nature of police work.


**The Board’s charter-mandated role for supervisory control and oversight of the Detroit Police Department means the collaboration focuses on civilian oversight and could lead to both local and national improvements.**

The Board voted in December 2022 to allow WSU’s law students to work with the BOPC in advancing research, analysis, and reports on community-led oversight, policing, and public safety. Detroit has been a national leader in police accountability since 1974. The collaboration builds on other recent training and research projects done in partnership with WSU, its Damon Keith Center for Civil Rights, and other community partners to enhance outcomes from civilian oversight.

### About Complaints

BOPC is responsible for non-criminal complaints about police offices, 911 and other DPD Employees. The Police Department is responsible for complaints alleging illegal or criminal acts. Contact the Professional Standards Bureau, which includes Internal Affairs, at 2875 West Grand Boulevard or (313) 596-2447.

#### Lots of Ways to File




##### In Person

at any DPD precinct,  
BOPC Meeting,  
or BOPC’s Complaint Office  
(OCI @900 Merrill Plaisance)




##### By Phone

at 313-596-2499 (Leave a Voice Mail  
anytime for staff to contact you)  
or fax 313-596-2482



##### Online

at [detroitmi.gov/services](https://detroitmi.gov/services) or  
[detroitmi.gov/bopc](https://detroitmi.gov/bopc) and  
click Submit a Police Complaint



##### Email

[bopc@detroitmi.gov](mailto:bopc@detroitmi.gov)

#### Ways to ID a Police Officer




##### Badge Number




##### Name on Uniform



##### Police Car Number



##### License Plate Number



##### Race



##### Gender

#### Tracking Complaints



The Board’s investigative unit, the Office of the Chief Investigator, contacts those who file complaints and provides case findings.

The public can also track complaints and trends at the City website.

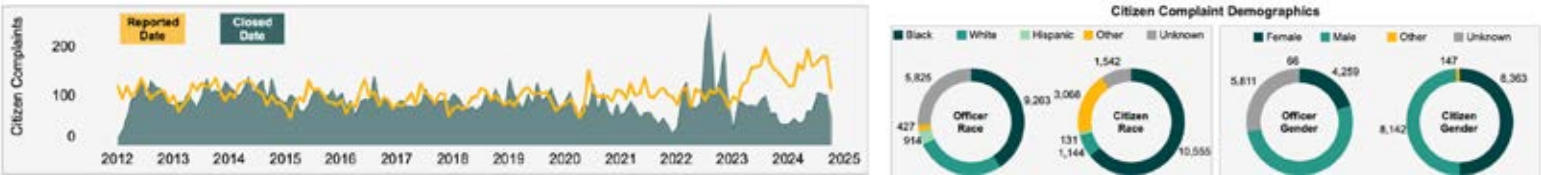
##### Police Accountability Dashboard at

[detroitmi.gov/bopc](https://detroitmi.gov/bopc)

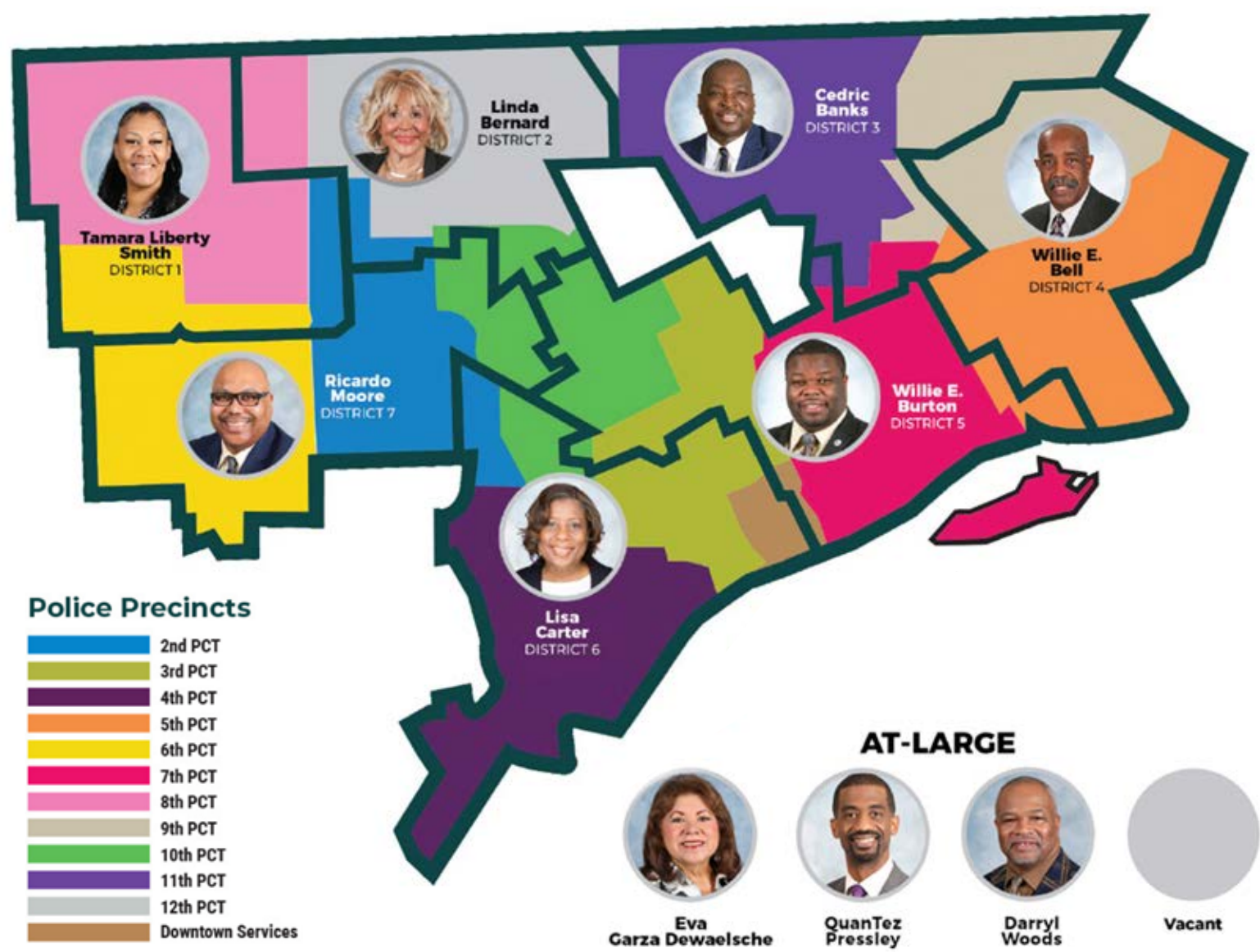
##### DPD Citizen Complaints Open Data Portal at

[data.detroitmi.gov](https://data.detroitmi.gov)  
in Public Safety

### Police Accountability Dashboard



# District and Precinct Map



**Police Commissioners Contact Information:**  
All Police Commissioners serve as volunteers. To reach BOPC staff for assistance or to contact any commissioner, call the BOPC Administrative Office at (313) 596-1830 or email [bopc@detroitmi.gov](mailto:bopc@detroitmi.gov).

<b>District 1</b> Tamara Liberty Smith (313) 316-2493 <a href="mailto:tamara.smith1@detroitmi.gov">tamara.smith1@detroitmi.gov</a>	<b>District 4</b> Willie E. Bell (313) 316-2378 <a href="mailto:bellw4bopc@detroitmi.gov">bellw4bopc@detroitmi.gov</a>	<b>District 7</b> Ricardo Moore (313) 596-1830 <a href="mailto:moorer7bopc@detroitmi.gov">moorer7bopc@detroitmi.gov</a>
<b>District 2</b> Linda D. Bernard (313) 316-2634 <a href="mailto:linda.bernard@detroitmi.gov">linda.bernard@detroitmi.gov</a>	<b>District 5</b> Willie E. Burton (313) 596-1804 <a href="mailto:burtonw5bopc@detroitmi.gov">burtonw5bopc@detroitmi.gov</a>	<b>At-Large Commissioners</b> Eva Garza Dewaelsche (Chair) Quantez Pressley and Darryl Woods (Vice-Chair)
<b>District 3</b> Cedric Banks (313) 920-4237 <a href="mailto:banksc3bopc@detroitmi.gov">banksc3bopc@detroitmi.gov</a>	<b>District 6</b> Lisa Carter (313) 596-1830 <a href="mailto:carterlbopc@detroitmi.gov">carterlbopc@detroitmi.gov</a>	

Note: Districts are changing! Due to the 2020 Census population count, the City drew new district boundaries to ensure equal representation for all residents. Find the New District Maps at [www.detroitmi.gov](http://www.detroitmi.gov).



# How to get involved with BOPC

## 3 Ways to Get Involved



### Stay Active and Informed

- View meeting video, policy proposals, and other information anytime plus subscribe to BOPC news alerts at: [Detroitmi.gov/BOPC](http://Detroitmi.gov/BOPC)



### Share Your Voice

- Attend the weekly meeting each Thursday or any committee meeting
- File complaints about police misconduct with BOPC investigators
- Share comments on policies and procedures under BOPC review
- Become a member of the BOPC Youth Advisory Panel



### Enhance Police-Community Relations

- Know your precinct and your district Police Commissioner
- Join your Precinct Police Community Relations Council or a block club
- Host a monthly precinct community BOPC meeting at your organization

### Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

1301 Third Street  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

**Administration** 313-596-1830  
**DPD Complaints** 313-596-2499

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## BOPC Meeting Information

The Board meets every Thursday at 3 PM in the Skylar Herbert Room at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters **except** the second Thursday when the Board holds monthly community meetings at 6:30 p.m. at various locations. The Board also holds committee meetings.

**All meetings are available on Zoom.**  
**For meeting info or to subscribe to news, visit [detroitmi.gov/BOPC](http://detroitmi.gov/BOPC).**

## Detroit’s Youth Work to Help Shape Police Oversight



The Youth Advisory Panel, started by the Board in 2022, is making a difference by adding youth voices as a regular part of civilian oversight of law enforcement. Through its 2024 Detroit Youth Talk Safety Summer forum and the 2025 roundtable with four top police chiefs, YAP is expanding platforms for youth to share concerns and solutions on police policy, public safety, and crime, including gun violence among youth.

YAP members range from 15-24 years old and include students in high

school and college, as well as young adults with careers. Applications are available at [www.detroitmi.gov/bopc](http://www.detroitmi.gov/bopc). The annual deadline is September 30th. The program is funded by a Skillman Foundation grant.