

Alleged Abuse By BOPC Commissioner

OIG Case No. 26-0001-INV



March 5, 2026

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CITY OF DETROIT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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REQUEST TO INITIATE ACTION MEMORANDUM

DATE MARCH 5, 2026

RE: OIG FILE# 26-0001-INV

I. Summary

On January 13 and 14, 2026, the City of Detroit Office of Inspector General (OIG) received complaints alleging that a newly elected member of Detroit's Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC), Darius Morris, harassed several Detroit Police Department (DPD) officers by posting their personal information on Facebook, including their residential addresses, photos of their families, and documents from the City of Detroit (City) Law Department. It was further alleged that Mr. Morris visited DPD's 9th precinct on January 10, 2026, and used his position to intimidate officers and bypass security requirements. Our preliminary review of information confirmed that Commissioner Morris uses a public Facebook page to discuss his role as a commissioner and other matters concerning local law enforcement. Posts on the public page also directed readers to join a private group page, saying he had additional information to share about Detroit officers.

Based on the information received and reviewed, the OIG initiated an investigation to determine whether Commissioner Morris abused his access to personal or privileged information and posted it online. The OIG also sought to determine whether Mr. Morris improperly used his position as a commissioner to circumvent police station security requirements. During the investigation, the OIG received additional information alleging that Commissioner Morris improperly used his position to harass officers following a traffic stop and arrest involving his personal associates. Therefore, the OIG expanded its investigation to also consider whether Mr. Morris abused his authority in that instance.

Based on a preponderance of the evidence reviewed, the OIG found that Commissioner Darius Morris did not abuse his authority as alleged. First, the OIG found that Commissioner Morris did not use his position to access private or privileged information and post it online. The investigation revealed that information contained in messages posted by Commissioner Morris was already publicly available online. In addition, the OIG did not observe or find any copies of posts showing an officer's home address or images of their families. Finally, BOPC commissioners do not have direct access to DPD's personnel files or to the Management Awareness System (MAS) that houses DPD employees' personal information. Thus, no information reviewed shows that Commissioner Morris used his position to access or post private or privileged information.

Next, the investigation found that DPD does not have a universal station security policy that specifies protocols for entering police precincts. Second, the investigation revealed that DPD's

typical practice is to grant commissioners access to police buildings without having them go through security checkpoints. Therefore, the OIG did not find that Mr. Morris improperly used his position when he identified himself as a commissioner as a means to bypass the station's metal detector and enter the 9th Precinct.

Finally, based on our review of body camera and security footage taken on January 24, 2026, we found that Mr. Morris did not improperly use his position to confront officers in the performance of their duties. Although video evidence showed that a person associated with Mr. Morris attempted to use their relationship with him to garner favor with or to intimidate officers during a traffic stop, that person's behavior cannot be attributed to Mr. Morris. In this instance, Mr. Morris did not request special treatment or approach any officers in an intimidating manner. Nor did he question their performance or indicate in any way that he believed they had done something wrong.

Based on the OIG's findings and observations during this investigation, we recommend the following:

1. DPD should implement and distribute a written universal station security protocol that specifies station security procedures and who may be subjected to and exempted from those procedures.
2. The BOPC should develop a policy and training for commissioners regarding the use of social media. We make this recommendation because disparaging social media posts published by public servants regarding other city employees also increase the risk and perception of abuse, as public servants often have access to private information that is not accessible to the public. Therefore, best practices dictate that public servants exercise caution and discretion with their use of social media. Further, public servants should err on the side of professionalism when addressing matters involving other public servants.
3. The BOPC should develop a policy and training for commissioners regarding best practices for managing personal interactions with DPD officers on duty.

II. Background

A. Duties of the Board of Police Commissioners

The BOPC is a civilian oversight board with limited supervisory control and oversight of the DPD.¹ The Board is composed of 11 members, 7 of whom are elected and 4 are appointed by the Mayor, subject to approval by the Detroit City Council.² Although the BOPC oversees the police department, the Board is not a law enforcement agency. The 2012 Charter for the City of Detroit (the Charter) states BOPC's duties are as follows

The Board Shall:

1. In consultation with the Chief of Police, and with the approval of the Mayor establish policies, rules and regulations;

¹ 2012 Charter for the City of Detroit, Section 7-802. Board of Police Commissioners.

² *Id.*

2. Review and approve the departmental budget before its submission to the Mayor;
3. Receive and resolve, as provided in this chapter, any complaint concerning the operation of the Police Department and forward all allegations of criminality to the appropriate internal or external law enforcement agency for further investigation;
4. Act as final authority in imposing or reviewing discipline of employees of the department;
5. Make an annual report to the Mayor, the City Council, and the public of the department's activities during the previous year, including the handling of crime and complaints, and of future plans.³

B. The January 13 & 14 Complaints

The OIG received 2 complaints alleging that

BOPC Commissioner Darius Morris is using his position to:

- interfere with police operations
- endanger police officers
- defeat protocols designed to ensure the safety of Police Officers and citizens
- obtain personal information on Detroit Police Members to dox them online with the intent of intimidating them or causing them harm, both physical and reputational
- make knowingly false, defamatory statements online to harm them professionally and sabotage relationships between the police and community.⁴

The complainants statements centered around allegations that Mr. Morris posted officers' private information online using the pseudonym "Dqualls Lee" and that he used a private Facebook page titled "Detroiters Against Dirty Cops" to distribute officers' addresses and photos of their families to a hostile following. Further, the complainants stated they were "concerned that [Mr. Morris] is using access to law enforcement databases or personnel records to obtain this [private] information."⁵

The complaints also alleged that Mr. Morris improperly "leveraged his position as a Police Commissioner to defeat the security protocols at the Ninth Precinct, specifically to screen all entrants for offensive weapons," and described the following interaction:

³ *Id.* at Section 7-803. Duties of the Board of Police Commissioners.

⁴ OIG Complaint No. 26-0026-COM.

⁵ *Id.*

On Saturday, January 10, 2026, approximately 3-4 pm, Mr. Morris attempted to enter the Ninth Precinct via the front entrance. He appeared to be highly agitated. He was wearing a [s]weatshirt which read “DETROIT POLICE” over a large facsimile of a DPD badge, with the word “Commissioner” under the badge in smaller font. It appears Mr. Morris was wearing the sweatshirt over a tactical or bulletproof vest. Mr. Morris refused to pass through the metal detector, so [an officer] denied him entry to the building. [The officer] walked to the entrance to speak to him directly...[Mr. Morris] again tried to enter the building, and [the officer] told him he must pass through the metal detector, which he had taken steps to bypass, by walking around it rather than through it. [Mr. Morris] asked [the officer] if [he] was “denying him entrance[.]” [The officer] said,” No, I am welcoming you to the building, but you have to pass through the gate,” indicating the metal detector. [Mr. Morris] refused. He asked [the officer] if it was department policy that entrants pass through the gate, [the officer] said he didn’t know, specifically, but it was [his] policy. [Mr. Morris] told [the officer] that [a commander] had assured him that he would allow [Mr. Morris] to enter without passing through the metal detector. [The officer] replied that [the commander] had the authority to waive that rule, but at the moment, [he] was the ranking officer in charge of the building, and [his] rule was that everyone passes through the metal detector.⁶

According to the complaint, Mr. Morris called the commander of the 9th Precinct after this interaction and was told that he would have to pass through the metal detector like everyone else. Mr. Morris allegedly then made several disparaging Facebook posts designed to intimidate the officers and put their families in danger.⁷

C. The January 24, 2026 Report

On January 27, 2026, the OIG received a copy of a report that alleged that Commissioner Morris improperly used his position to confront officers about a traffic stop that resulted in an arrest. The report stated, in relevant part:

I was advised by [an officer] that Police Commissioner Darius Morris confronted her and our Thirty Series about a traffic stop which resulted in [sic] the tow of a vehicle and a felony narcotics arrest. [Officers] made a traffic stop of a [driver]...[The driver] was driving in the area of 375 and Lafayette (a hot spot area) when [officers] effected a traffic stop for tinted windows. [The driver] was uncooperative and attempted several times to get the officers to talk to a “Sergeant” on his phone. [...] The vehicle was

⁶ OIG Complaint No. 26-0026-COM.

⁷ *Id.*

impounded for no registration and [the driver] was issued a citation for [the] same and taken to the 7th Precinct to wait for a ride home. His passenger...was arrested for [Violation of the Controlled Substances Act] and conveyed to the [Detroit Detention Center]. Commissioner Morris came to the station to pick up [the driver] and requested [a sergeant's] badge number, which she gave. I was then advised by [other officers] that Commissioner Morris went to the D.D.C. and confronted them as they left. They advised he began questioning them about specifics about the arrest.⁸

D. Scope of the OIG Investigation

Our preliminary review of information confirmed that Mr. Morris uses multiple Facebook pages to discuss matters concerning DPD and his role as a member of the BOPC. In addition, our review showed that Mr. Morris' public Facebook page included a post that said "Everyone please go join the private group page because today I have to tell you about this Detroit officer that is from Ferndale." Noting where an officer lives indicates potential misuse of private information. Accordingly, on January 13, 2026, the OIG initiated an investigation to determine whether Mr. Morris used his position to access private or privileged information and post it online. After receiving the January 24th report described above, the OIG expanded its investigation to also consider whether Commissioner Morris improperly used his position to confront and intimidate officers in the performance of their duties as described in the report.

III. Analysis and Findings

A. Commissioner Morris Did Not Use His Position to Access and Post Private Or Privileged Information Online

As stated above, the complaint alleged Commissioner Morris harassed and doxxed officers by publicly posting their home addresses and photos of their families.⁹ The complaint also alleged Mr. Morris posted documents from the City's Law Department.¹⁰ As elected officials, commissioners may have access to sensitive information, including privileged information and personnel files that, for various reasons, is not readily available to the public. Therefore, the OIG sought to determine whether Commissioner Morris used his position to access private or privileged information which was then posted online.

The OIG conducted interviews, reviewed social media content, and requested copies of Facebook posts that contained officers' home addresses and photos of their families. Our search of online content revealed 2 posts containing an officer's full name and information concerning a

⁸ Inter-Office Memorandum to Todd Bettison, Chief of Police, from Jevon Johnson, DPD Commander, RE: Chief Duty Officer Report for Saturday, January 24, 2026, dated January 25, 2026. Also, we note body camera footage captured the driver of the vehicle stating "the commissioner is my cousin" in an apparent attempt to garner favor with or to intimidate the officers while they performed their duties.

⁹ OIG Complaint No. 26-0026-COM.

¹⁰ *Id.*

lawsuit against DPD officers and the City of Detroit.¹¹ Mr. Morris published those posts on December 28 and 29, 2025. The OIG did not find or observe any copies of posts containing addresses or photos of officers' families.¹²

Although Mr. Morris' December 2025 post contained an officer's full name, evidence shows that he did not use his position to access that information. When asked how he learned the officer's first, last, and middle name, Mr. Morris stated that he read the officer's name online in documents related to a lawsuit against him and the City.¹³ The OIG verified that the officers' full name is listed online on the register of actions along with other information concerning the litigation.¹⁴ The register of actions is readily accessible to the public and does not require special access to review information.

Relatedly, as referenced above, the information Mr. Morris posted about the lawsuit as well as the names of the parties is public information. Further, a document detailing a proposed settlement is available on the City's website.¹⁵ Moreover, Detroit's City Council discussed the proposed settlement at an open meeting on May 9, 2023. Thus, evidence shows Mr. Morris did not use his position to access and post the information described above.

Finally, the investigation revealed that BOPC Commissioners do not have access to DPD's physical personnel files or to the MAS database that houses their personal information,¹⁶ so it is not likely that Mr. Morris accessed private files and retrieved officers' personal information. Mr. Moore stated that he advocated for access to DPD's personnel files because he believes it made sense for commissioners to have it, but that commissioners never received access or any logins for the MAS database.¹⁷ When asked how he learned the cities and counties where officers lived, Mr. Morris stated that he searched and found the information online.¹⁸ In fact, free online public records searches can reveal personal information, including a person's name, address, voter registration, and names of close relatives.¹⁹

The OIG performed online searches to verify whether various individuals' cities and counties of residence are listed online. Our searches returned several hits that substantiate Mr. Morris' claim that he found officers' residential information online. Considering the foregoing, it is more likely

¹¹ See <https://www.facebook.com/MR.DLEE100>; See also, OIG Interview of DPD Commander Svec and related photos, January 20, 2026.

¹² We note that when asked whether he had posted photos of an officer's family, Mr. Morris acknowledged that he may have reposted an officers' profile picture that included an image of his wife, but that he wasn't sure if the post actually made it up. Nonetheless, as stated above, the OIG's review of Mr. Morris' public and private Facebook groups/pages did not reveal any posts containing photos of any members of an officer's family. The OIG also reviewed Mr. Morris' Instagram page and found no posts within the relevant time period that contained any images or disparaging references to the DPD.

¹³ See *Danielle Deisch v. Careema Yopp, James Lafata, City of Detroit, et al.*, Case No. 21-009264-NI.

¹⁴ See Register of Actions at <https://cmspublic.3rdcc.org/CaseDetail.aspx?CaseID=3899409>.

¹⁵ See <https://pub-detroitmi.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=98906> and <https://pub-detroitmi.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=a510a674-5f85-47f6-be39-e07dc03b9e85&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English>.

¹⁶ OIG Interview of BOPC Commissioner Victoria Camille, February 17, 2026; OIG Interview of Ricardo Moore, February 10, 2026.

¹⁷ OIG Interview of Ricardo Moore, February 10, 2026.

¹⁸ OIG Interview of BOPC Commissioner Darius Morris, January 21, 2026.

¹⁹ See, for example, <https://voterrecords.com> and <https://www.michiganresidentdatabase.com>.

than not that Mr. Morris learned the cities and counties where officers live by searching online public records. Therefore, we find that Commissioner Morris did not use his position to access and post private and privileged information.

B. Commissioner Morris Did Not Improperly Use His Position As Means To Bypass A Security Checkpoint At DPD's 9th Precinct.

The OIG conducted interviews and reviewed information concerning station security protocols to determine whether Commissioner Morris improperly used his position to bypass the security checkpoint at DPD's 9th Precinct. The 9th Precinct's commander asserted that only sworn officers were exempt from passing through metal detectors and complying with station security procedures.²⁰ However, according to DPD's Planning, Research and Accreditation division, which is the department responsible for maintaining manuals related to DPD's operations, DPD does not have written universal policies that speak specifically to station security.²¹

Additional interviews revealed that although BOPC commissioners are not considered law enforcement, they have typically been allowed to enter police buildings without going through metal detectors or other security measures that are required of the public. Former BOPC Commissioner Ricardo Moore stated that during his term he visited DPD precincts and was not subjected to station security protocols.²² He stated that he would show his identification and identify himself as a commissioner.²³ He would then be allowed to enter without passing through the metal detector.²⁴

Security protocols at Detroit's Public Safety Headquarters (DPSH) also support that commissioners can bypass general security procedures to enter police buildings. In that setting, commissioners only show their identification to the front desk attendant and they are not required to pass through metal detectors to further enter the facility.²⁵ Considering the foregoing, the OIG finds that Commissioner Morris did not improperly use his position as means to bypass security protocols at DPD's Ninth Precinct.

C. Commissioner Morris Did Not Abuse His Authority to Harass or Intimidate Officers on January 24, 2026.

On January 27, 2026, the OIG received a report that indicated Commissioner Morris improperly confronted officers about a traffic stop and arrest involving people with whom he is personally associated.²⁶ As stated above, the BOPC is a civilian oversight agency. Commissioners do not have the authority to direct officers' duties in the field.²⁷ Generally, using a position as a police

²⁰ OIG Interview of DPD Commander John Svec, January 20, 2026.

²¹ Email from DPD Deputy Chief Michael Parish to DPD Commander Michael McGinnis, Re: Policy on Station Security, dated February 16, 2026.

²² OIG Interview of Ricardo Moore, February 10, 2026.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ Inter-Office Memorandum to Todd Bettison, Chief of Police, from Jevon Johnson, DPD Commander, RE: Chief Duty Officer Report for Saturday, January 24, 2026, dated January 25, 2026.

²⁷ 2012 Charter of the City of Detroit, Section 7-806. Duties of the Chief of Police.

commissioner for personal matters, or to intimidate or otherwise influence officers in the performance of their duties can constitute abuse. Therefore, the OIG sought to determine whether Mr. Morris improperly used his position to harass or intimidate officers who had stopped and arrested his personal associates.

The OIG reviewed body camera footage of the traffic stop and security footage from the 7th Precinct. The footage revealed that Mr. Morris did not inappropriately approach officers when he went to the 7th Precinct to pick up his associate. Although the report states that Mr. Morris entered the precinct and requested a badge number from one of the officers involved in the stop, security footage shows that Mr. Morris entered and exited the precinct without speaking to any of the officers involved.²⁸

When he arrived, Mr. Morris acknowledged the officer stationed at the front desk by shaking his hand. He then walked to the corner to speak to the person he had come to pick up. While in the corner, the two men talked amongst themselves and reviewed video/information on a mobile phone. After several moments, the two men left and Mr. Morris again acknowledged the front desk officer on his way out. Footage shows Mr. Morris' associate may have asked an officer for their badge number while he was waiting at the station. Mr. Morris, however, did not approach any officers in the precinct before leaving with his associate.

The footage showing Mr. Morris' visit to the Detroit Detention Center (DDC) also does not show that he improperly confronted officers and questioned them about the arrest. Instead, footage shows a brief nonconfrontational interaction between Mr. Morris and 2 officers. Mr. Morris asked the officers whether the arrested individual was driving and the officers responded; he then thanked them and left. No footage or recordings show that Mr. Morris questioned their performance, or that he attempted to intimidate the officers or inappropriately demand information. Therefore, the OIG finds that Commissioner Morris did not improperly use his position to harass or intimidate officers involved in the January 24th traffic stop and arrest.

IV. Conclusion

The OIG investigated allegations that BOPC Commissioner Darius Morris improperly used his position to bypass station security protocols and to access and post private and privileged information online. It was also alleged that Mr. Morris improperly used his position to harass and intimidate officers in the performance of their duties. The investigation revealed that DPD does not have a station security policy that specifies protocols for entering police precincts. In addition, members of the Board are typically able to enter police buildings without going through security protocols that are required of the public.

The investigation also revealed that police commissioners do not have access to DPD's personnel files or systems containing officers' personal information. Also, posts Mr. Morris published to Facebook contained only public information that is readily available online. Finally, security footage showed that Mr. Morris' interaction with officers who had stopped and arrested his personal associates was not confrontational and that he did not attempt to direct or intimidate the

²⁸ DPD Body Camera and 7th Precinct Security Footage, V_Security Video_7TH DDC_25JAN26.crdownload, collected January 30, 2026.

officers, or inappropriately obtain information. Accordingly, based on a preponderance of the information and evidence reviewed, the OIG found that Commissioner Morris did not abuse his authority as alleged.

V. Recommendations

Based on the OIG's findings and observations, we recommend the following:

1. DPD should implement and distribute a written universal station security protocol that specifies station security procedures and who may be subjected to and exempted from those procedures.
2. The BOPC should develop a policy and training for commissioners regarding the use of social media. We make this recommendation because disparaging social media posts published by public servants regarding other city employees also increase the risk and perception of abuse, as public servants often have access to private information that is not accessible to the public. Therefore, best practices dictate that public servants exercise caution and discretion with their use of social media. Further, public servants should err on the side of professionalism when addressing matters involving other public servants.
3. The BOPC should develop a policy and training for commissioners regarding best practices for managing personal interactions with DPD officers on duty.

VI. Evidence Reviewed

a. Interviews

- DPD Commander John Svec, January 20, 2026
- BOPC Commissioner Darius Morris, January 21 and February 17, 2026
- Former BOPC Commissioner Ricardo Moore, February 10, 2026
- BOPC Commissioner Victoria Camille, February 17, 2026

b. Documents

- 2012 Charter for the City of Detroit.
- OIG Complaint No. 26-0026-COM.
- Inter-Office Memorandum to Todd Bettison, Chief of Police, from Jevon Johnson, DPD Commander, RE: Chief Duty Officer Report for Saturday, January 24, 2026, dated January 25, 2026.
- Copies of Facebook posts posted by Darius Morris on various dates between December 2025 to January 20, 2026.
- Register of Actions for Danielle Deisch v. Careema Yopp, James Lafata, City of Detroit, et al., Case No. 21-009264-NI.
- Memorandum from Crystal Olmstead, City of Detroit Senior Assistance Corporation Counsel, to Detroit City Counsel, RE: Danielle Deisch v. Careema Yopp, James Lafata, City of Detroit, et al., Case No: 21-009264-NI, File No: L21-00737 (CBO), dated March 27, 2023.
- Detroit City Council Formal Session Agenda, Item 17.3, dated Tuesday, May 09, 2023.
- DPD Body Camera and 7th Precinct Security Footage, V_Security Video_7TH DDC_25JAN26.crdownload