

Q4: QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

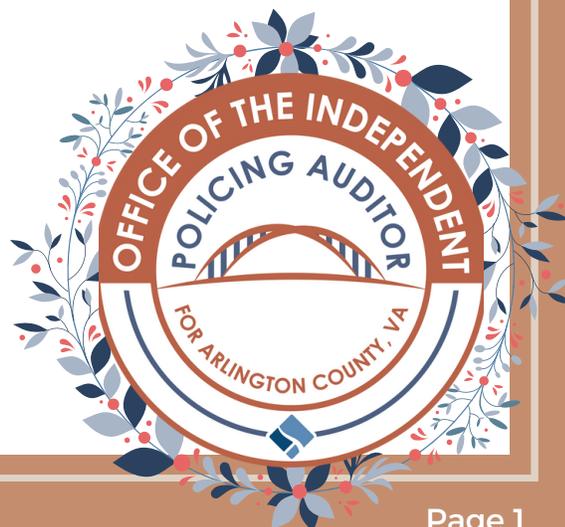
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PREVIEW

In Quarter 4, the Office of the Independent Policing Auditor (OIPA) continued to receive and investigate complaints submitted via the Civil system and the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD)'s Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). Programmatically, the OIPA participated in the 2023 National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) conference, facilitated monthly Community Oversight Board (COB) meetings, and assisted the COB in its first reviews of complaint investigations during their November and December public meetings. Finally, the OIPA worked on developing performance measures to reflect the offices' inputs, outputs and outcomes.

INDEX

- A. Q4 Complaint Investigation Data..... Pages 2-4
- B. Q4 Community Engagement..... Page 5
- C. Q4 OIPA Highlights..... Pages 6-7
- D. 2023 NACOLE Conference..... Page 8
- E. Q4 COB Updates..... Page 9



Q4 COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION DATA

FOR COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BETWEEN OCTOBER 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 2023

Note: A preliminary review is conducted for each submitted case. Following the initial review, the IPA and OPR confer to determine whether the submission will be pursued further into a full administrative investigation involving formal allegations, interviews, and findings. Complaints that result in a full administrative investigation will be assigned a tier level (see next page).

From October 1 and December 31, 2023, the OIPA received **32** complaints, **9** more than in the previous quarter. **4** cases were submitted directly to OIPA through our Sivil system, while the remaining cases came through ACPD.

The numbers reflected here include all complaints received in Q4 and processed through the date of this report (January 31, 2024).

Of the **32** complaints submitted in Quarter 4:

- **Six** (18.8%) required a **Full Investigation**
- **Nine** (28%) were **Exonerated by DEMS**
- **Five** (15.6%) were deemed **Non-Investigative**
- **Nine** (28%) remain under **Preliminary Review**
- **Three** (9.4%) were **Closed without Further IPA Action** following Preliminary Review

EVIDENCE REVIEWED

In order to classify and resolve the **32** complaints received in Q4, the OIPA reviewed **156** pieces of evidence.

While only **6** cases were determined to need a full administrative investigation, a significant amount of time is allotted to reviewing the **93** evidentiary materials to review and close the remaining categories of complaints in the table shown on the right.

***Note:** Complaints classified as “Closed Without Further IPA Action After Preliminary Review” are ones that the IPA reviewed and determined that additional investigation may be needed (beyond the digital evidence available), but that the nature of the complaint does not warrant further civilian oversight. More details on this process can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

Investigative Classification	# of Complaints	Evidentiary Materials Reviewed
Exonerated by DEMS	9	41
Full Investigation Needed	6	63
Non-Investigative After Preliminary Review	5	13
Under Preliminary Review	9	30
Closed Without Further IPA Action After Preliminary Review*	3	9
Grand Total	32	156

INVESTIGATION DATA



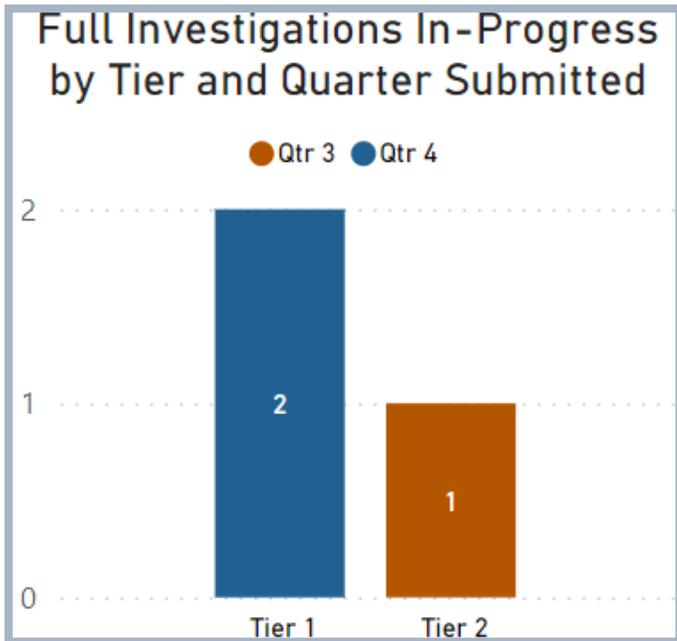
FOR COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM OCTOBER 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023

NOTE: All complaints that are categorized as requiring a full administrative investigation will be assigned a tier level. The tier levels are defined in the "[Complaint Investigation Tier System](#)" document.

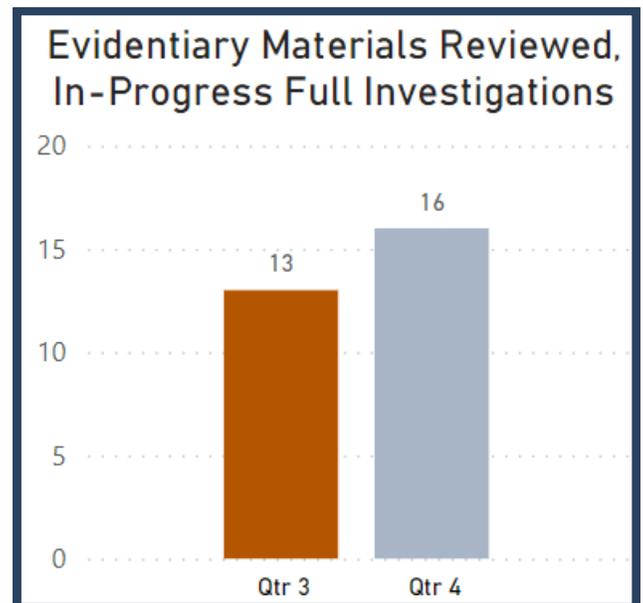
Out of the **6** complaints from Q4 that required a full investigation, **3** were Tier 1 while **1** each were Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. The **3** Tier 1 investigations remain in progress while the other more extensive investigations have been closed, and are pending final investigation reports.

Q4 Full Investigations by Tier and Status

Tier	Status	Investigations	Evidentiary Materials Reviewed
Tier 1	Closed	1	12
Tier 1	In Progress	2	16
Tier 2	Closed	1	10
Tier 3	Closed	1	20
Total		6	63



Of the in-progress full investigations from Q3 and Q4, the OIPA reviewed 13 pieces of evidentiary materials in Q3 and 16 evidentiary materials in Q4. All full administrative investigations from Q1 and Q2 of 2023 have been closed (however some investigative reports are outstanding and will be reflected in the Q2 newsletter).



Of all in-progress full investigations, **2** investigations are from Q4 and **1** investigation is from Q3.

Both Q4 full investigations are Tier 1 while the Q3 full investigation is Tier 2.



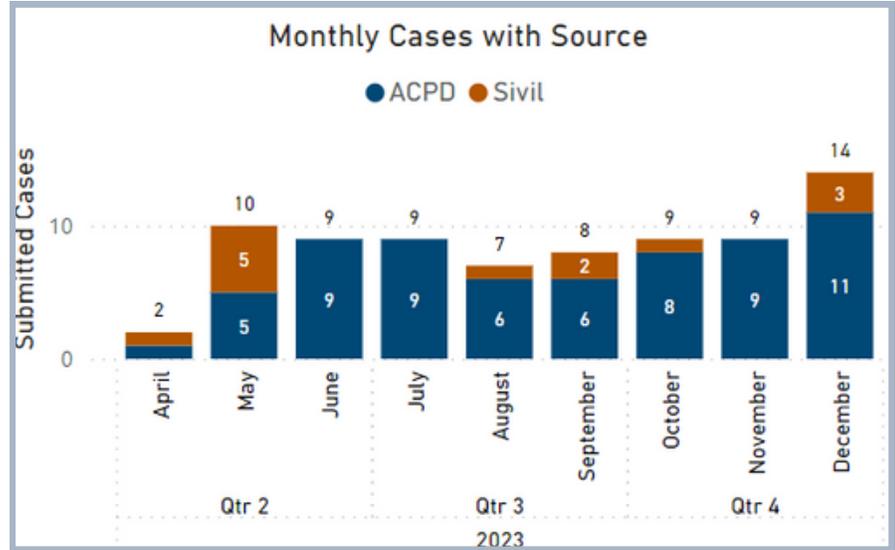
INVESTIGATIONS: A CLOSER LOOK



As demonstrated in the chart on the right, in Q4 the OIPA received the largest number of complaints (32) to date.

The chart below indicates the status of all complaints received in Q4 as of January 31, 2024.

Status	# of Complaints	Evidentiary Materials Reviewed
Under Preliminary Review	5	9
In Progress	6	46
Closed	21	110
Grand Total	32	156



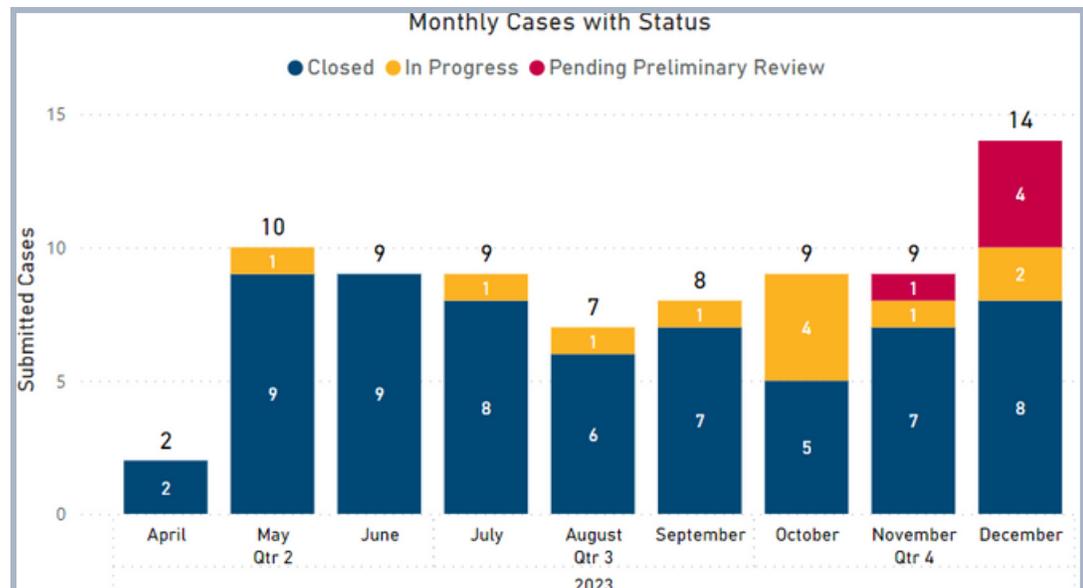
The chart below shows the status of all complaints the OIPA has received since April 25, 2023. All complaints through November 2023 have received a preliminary review, with a total of 5 complaints from Q4 that are awaiting review. The majority of those complaints are from December 2023, which is a reflection of the high number of complaints received that month.

In total, there are 12 complaints (7 of which have been reviewed and an investigation is in progress) that are outstanding from Q4, which was also the OIPA's busiest training and engagement period.

16 total complaints from 2024 remain open due to operationalizing complaint investigations (i.e. evidence release, administrative interviews, etc.) and the necessary reallocation of resources when particularly serious complaints arise that may impact the processing order for complaints.

Looking Ahead:

The OIPA is collecting data in preparation for a more detailed report (to be released in the fall of 2024) that will outline trends in complaint allegations and policy/training recommendations after completing a full year of reviewing and investigating ACPD complaints. The report will also detail the OIPA's operational processing and efficiency in closing investigations.



Q4 Community Engagement Highlights



NAACP AWARDS BANQUET

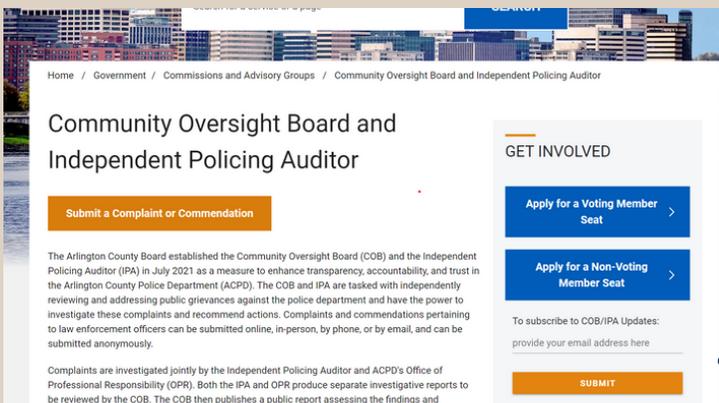
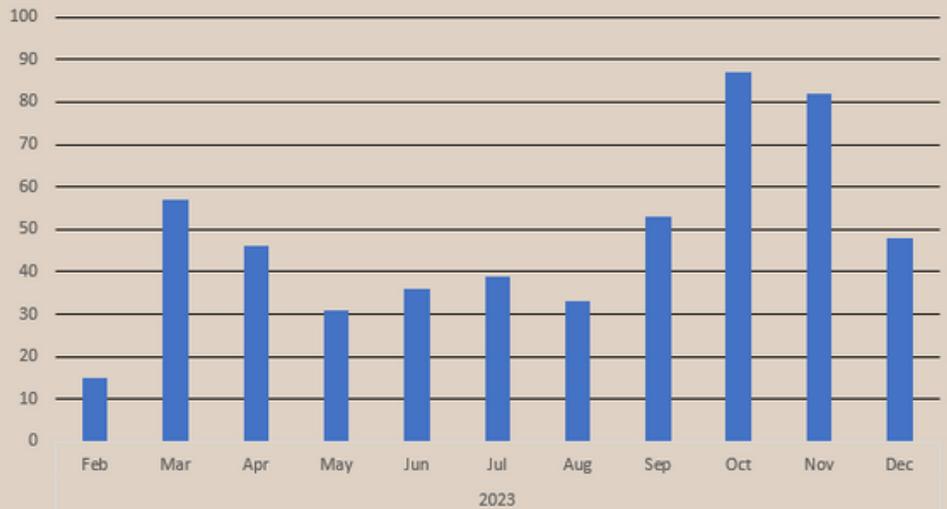
IPA Mummi Ibrahim attended the Freedom Fund Banquet hosted by the Arlington Branch of the NAACP, where she had the opportunity to engage with several members of the NAACP and other community advocates in celebration of the organization's local and national advocacy efforts.

Read about our additional Q4 community engagement events are featured in our annual report!

EXPANSION IN GOVDELIVERY

In Q4, 217 new subscriptions were made to OIPA's GovDelivery email system. GovDelivery allows OIPA to send news and important updates to individuals interested in following our work. Subscribe on our website to receive updates to your inbox.

New GovDelivery Subscriptions



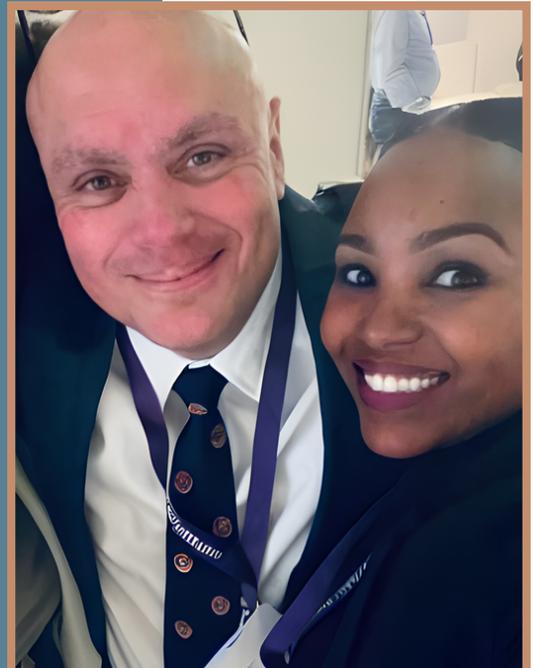
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Q4 OIPA HIGHLIGHTS

CONSENT DECREE CONFERENCE

The 2023 Consent Decree Conference, held at the Sheraton Fort Worth Downtown, covered various topics related to consent decree compliance, DOJ investigations, community and officer engagement, and best practices in police reform. Key sessions included discussions on the role of judges in consent decrees, emerging issues in enforcement, community engagement strategies, and specific case studies like the Baltimore Consent Decree. The conference featured a mix of judicial and legal experts, law enforcement officials, and civil rights advocates, highlighting the collaborative efforts required for effective reform and oversight in law enforcement.



Pictured: IPA Mummi Ibrahim pictured with Dr. Alex Del Carmen, criminology professor and racial profiling expert at Consent Decree Conference.



DEVELOPING PERFORMANCE MEASURES

In Q4, the OIPA worked closely with the County Manager's Office to prepare for the 2025 Fiscal Year budget planning season. In addition to projecting monetary needs for the next fiscal year, the OIPA developed performance measures to track input and output measures for the COB and OIPA. These measures include complaints received, full investigations launched, the status of reports, and building community trust.

Q4 OIPA HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

ANNUAL REPORT

The OIPA released its 2023 Annual Report in December, highlighting our work in building our oversight agency's foundational structure, investigation data, and community engagement. The report also showcased community led educational tools being utilized in other jurisdictions and presented opportunities for growth in upcoming years. Additionally, the annual report included an in-depth report on crime in Arlington County which is discussed below.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

Check out our [2023 Annual Report!](#)



CRIME REPORT

Prompted by recent discussions in the community around crime reporting in Arlington, OIPA Management Analyst Ian Lazarenko compiled a report that studies crime data from 2017-2022, using NIBRS Group A Offense data from the [Virginia State Police's Beyond20/20 database.](#)

The full Crime Report was included in OIPA's 2023 Annual Report, which is linked above.

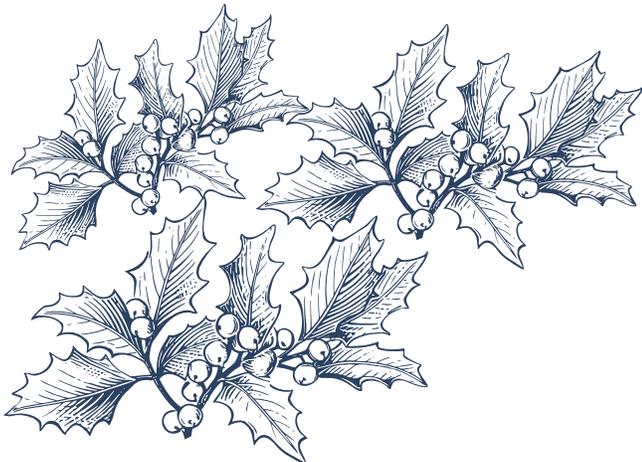
2023 NACOLE CONFERENCE



November 12-16, 2023

The IPA and OIPA management analyst attended the 2023 NACOLE Conference in Chicago, which spanned five days. The conference focused on enhancing civilian oversight of law enforcement. The event featured leadership forums, a keynote by Mayor Brandon Johnson, discussions on trauma, policy debates, and sessions on community engagement and oversight strategies. The conference also highlighted innovation in oversight, law enforcement assessments, and the role of journalism, concluding with discussions on systemic challenges and building community trust, all aimed at fostering effective oversight practices and collaboration.

The conference concluded with a community based discussion on police violence, systemic challenges, and building community trust.



Community Oversight Board Q4 Highlights

During Quarter 4, the COB accomplished the following efforts:

- Completed their first two complaint investigations during their November and December public meetings.
- Completed remaining required annual training for 2023.
- Drafted the structure for the 2023 COB Annual Report.
- Continued developing community engagement efforts.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

COB Vice Chair Garry Dean presented to the Arlington Heights Civic Association meeting virtually on November 14, 2023. The presentation was an overview of the COB, its enumerated duties and powers, and the general work undertaken by the board. Following the brief presentation, Vice Chair Dean answered questions from community members. Left: Arlington Heights Civic Association logo



November 8, 2023, COB Meeting

Q1 2024: LOOKING AHEAD

The IPA and COB will continue to receive, process, and review investigations following the structure created in Q4 2023.

Next COB Meeting: February 28, 2024



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT IN ARLINGTON, VA!

If you have any questions or concerns about any information contained in this newsletter, please feel free to reach out to us using the contact information listed below.



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ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA

happy
HOLIDAYS