



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF POLICE COMPLAINTS

May 4, 2026

Sent via Email

The Honorable Brooke Pinto
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 106
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairperson Pinto:

I am writing on behalf of the Office of Police Complaints (OPC) in response to your request for answers to your questions about OPC's FY27 budget. Included below are responses to each question.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marke Cross".

Marke D. Cross
Executive Director

I. **Operating Budget**

General

1. Please provide a hiring plan for the following vacant positions:
 - a. Position 00075267 – Investigator

OPC posted this position on the DC Careers website as an internal posting, which closed on April 13, 2026. OPC is currently interviewing internal candidates and hopes to have the position filled by the end of May 2026.

- b. Position 00073080 – Deputy Executive Director

OPC posted this position on the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) job board to recruit candidates with direct experience in the field of civilian oversight of law enforcement. OPC's Executive Director is currently reviewing resumes to fill this position. If there are no qualified candidates who responded to the posting, then OPC will post the position on the DC Careers website. OPC hopes to have this position filled as soon as possible, but by the end of August 2026 at the latest.

2. In FY25, how much money was spent on professional development, and how much is the agency projected to spend in FY26? How much is allocated in the projected FY27 budget for professional development?

In FY25 the agency spent \$18,867 on professional development. The agency used its PCard program to pay for most of its professional development expenses in FY25 because the City Administrator removed the agency's budget for tuition and employee training during the spending and hiring freeze. The agency is projected to spend around the same amount on professional development in FY26. The proposed FY27 budget allocates \$0 for professional development in FY27.

3. How much underspending did the agency have in FY25 and so far in FY26? What are the reasons for this underspending?

In FY25 the agency underspent \$345,728 on personnel services and \$49,980 on non-personnel services. The underspending on personnel services was due to the freezing of vacant positions by the City Administrator and the retirement of the agency's Executive Director in May 2025. The underspending on non-personnel services was largely due to the budgetary cuts and spending freeze ordered by the City Administrator. As of the end of the second quarter of FY26, OPC projects a total surplus of \$172,284 due to salary lapse, including the vacant Deputy Director position at the executive level.

Agency Management Program

4. The Contracting and Procurement (AMP005) budget was completely zeroed out in FY27, specifically, cutting \$72,000. Please explain how this would impact operations at OCP with no funding allocated for contracting and procurement. Specifically, what current or future contracts could not be continued due to this cut?

Completely cutting the Contracting and Procurement budget in FY27 would severely affect the agency's ability to carry out its mission. It would also negatively affect the safety of employees and customers, impede the agency's ability to resolve complaints, and would severely hinder the agency's ability to procure office supplies and cover the routine costs associated with maintaining a functioning government agency. If the Contracting and Procurement budget is completely cut, then OPC will not be able to continue its contracts with DataWatch for secured office access, Lexis Nexis for legal research, and Accurint for locating complainants and witnesses. Approximately \$50,000 of the \$72,000 budget for Contracting and Procurement is allocated to the agency's PCard program. The agency uses the PCard to purchase office supplies, services, and to cover other vital operating costs for the agency.

5. Information Technology Services (AMP012) budget was cut by \$30,000 from \$42,000 in FY26 to a proposed \$12,000 in FY27. What operational impacts would this have on the agency?

The \$30,000 cut to the Information Technology Services budget would also have severe consequences for the agency's ability to carry out its mission. The Information Technology Services budget includes the agency's contract with Versaterm for IAPro licenses. IAPro is the agency's case management software. Without access to a case management system the agency would not be able to track and manage its investigations as effectively and would face significant challenges with respect to data collection for its published reports. The Information Technology Services budget also includes the agency's contract with Star Office Products for printer, copier, and fax maintenance, Zoom for virtual meetings (mediations and complainant/officer interviews), TEMI for transcription services, Microsoft and Adobe licenses, and the agency's IT supplies budget, which is used for purchasing and repairing IT equipment for new hires and current staff. Without the proper tools and equipment, the agency will not be able to investigate police misconduct complaints or publish data as effectively in FY27 as it has in past years.

Complaint Resolution

6. The Investigation (P00702) budget is cut by \$131,000 compared to FY26. Investigations are one of the main functions of the OPC. Could you please explain how this cut would impact the agency's operations?

- a. Specifically, how would this cut impact the timeline for how long it takes to close investigations?

The Investigation (P00702) budget cut of \$131,000 would increase the length of time that it takes for the agency to complete its investigations. This proposed cut to the agency's personnel services budget would decrease the size of the agency's staff by freezing several vacant positions during a time when the agency is experiencing a 25% - 30% increase in complaints from the previous fiscal year. The agency has already begun to see a decline in the number of investigations completed within 180 days, which is a key performance indicator for OPC. The agency is currently in danger of missing the goal for this KPI in FY26 and the trend will likely continue into FY27 with a smaller staff.

- b. Given that the current investigators have more cases than is industry-standard, how would this impact the future caseload of the agency's investigators?

This cut would significantly increase the future caseload of the agency's investigators. The agency's investigators currently have an average caseload of 20 cases, which is more than double the number recommended by industry best practices. The larger caseload is putting a great deal of strain on the investigators themselves, and the agency is concerned about employee retention and the potential for lost institutional knowledge as investigators might be inclined to seek other employment opportunities with a smaller workload. If the funds are restored, then OPC will fill the frozen positions as soon as possible, which will hopefully reverse the trend of growing caseloads for the investigators and result in a more manageable workload for the Investigations Unit.