

OIG SPOTLIGHT

Independent Civilian Oversight



Thursday, January 29, 2026

Dear Oakland Community,

Reflecting on my first 14 months as Oakland's Inspector General, I am encouraged by our progress in strengthening oversight, enhancing transparency, and fostering constitutional policing. Under my leadership, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has operated with independence and in accordance with the City Charter. This period has been defined by the publication of high-impact reports, including policy analyses of the [Crisis Intervention Program](#) (DGO O-1.1), responses to [Persons with Mental Illness](#) (DGO O-1), and a compliance inspection regarding [Integrity Tests](#) (NSA Task 3). To ensure these findings lead to systemic change, we launched the OIG Recommendations Tracker (in the OIG's [Annual Report](#)). This tool monitors OPD's implementation progress, ensuring our work translates into measurable improvements and adheres to national best practices for accountability.

Building on this foundation, the OIG is prioritizing reviews of certain technology policies. Our objective is to ensure the Oakland Police Department (OPD) balances legitimate data privacy concerns with the necessity of modern investigative tools. To strengthen this effort, we established strategic partnerships with subject matter experts at the Samuelson Law, Technology, and Public Policy Clinic and the Criminal Law & Justice Center. We also requested OPD demonstrate how they utilize the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) and deploy Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones) to gain direct technical insights into these technologies. This work ensures our evaluations are both rigorous and centered on the public's desire for constitutional policing.

Since effective oversight must reflect the lived experiences of Oakland residents, we have expanded our outreach to ensure our work remains grounded in local realities. We opened new channels for community dialogue, launching the "First Thursdays" program and the Summer Listening Tour, while partnering with [Youth Alive](#) to hear directly from impacted residents. Our collaboration with the [Center for Youth Development through Law](#) integrated Oakland youth into our office as summer interns, allowing their unique insights to inform our outreach efforts. Beyond these programs, we have engaged groups like the Melrose Neighborhood Council and presented with the "Siblings in Oversight" initiative, a partnership with the Office of the City Auditor and the Public Ethics Commission. We have also prioritized officer education, training new OPD graduates on the requirements of the Negotiated Settlement Agreement (NSA) and the vital role of civilian oversight. These diverse engagements ensure that every facet of our work is informed by the people we serve.

To maintain high standards of professional practice, our staff have attended several key conferences, including the [National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives](#) (NOBLE) Conference, the [Association of Inspectors General](#) (AIG) Conference, and the [National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement](#) (NACOLE) Conference. These trainings provided the innovative strategies and professional credits necessary to sustain our office's expertise.

As we enter the next phase, the OIG remains rooted in fairness and independence. We have contracted an external firm to audit seven additional NSA tasks and will continue to expand our community engagement. Our audits, outreach, partnerships, and professional development serve one singular purpose: to help Oakland build a policing system that is effective, transparent, and grounded in constitutional principles.

In this newsletter, you will find more information about:

- 1. Samuelson Law, Technology, and Public Policy Clinic**
- 2. Summer Listening Tour Results**
- 3. OIG in Action**
- 4. Community Corner**

I am grateful for people's trust in this office and look forward to continuing this vital work with integrity and dedication.

With appreciation



Zurvohn A. Maloof, JD, CIG
Inspector General



1. Samuelson Law, Technology and Public Policy Clinic



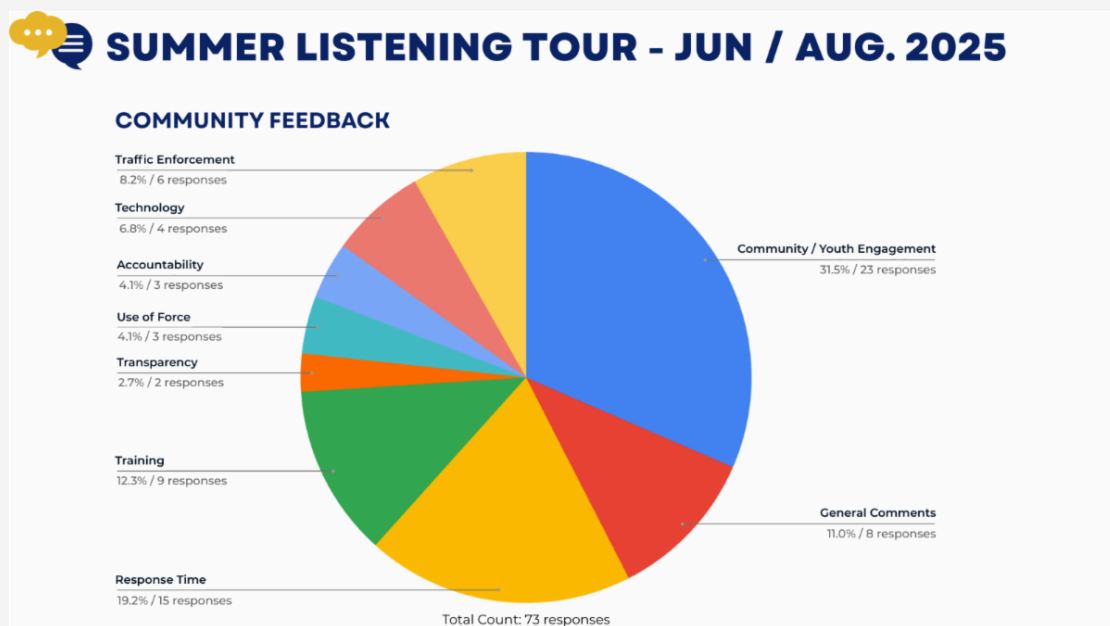
Next Generation of Lawyers Support the OIG

UC Berkeley School of Law's [**Samuelson Law, Technology, and Public Policy Clinic**](#) (the Clinic) does more than just teach law; it prepares the next generation of lawyers to protect public interest in our rapidly changing digital world. They blend classroom learning with real-world services, teaching students how to see legal services as community advocacy. Their work centers on three areas: protecting civil liberties, promoting balanced intellectual

property laws and access to information, and ensuring a fair criminal legal system. Catherine Crump (Clinic Director) and Jennifer Urban (Clinic Director of Policy Initiatives) serve as mentors, guiding students through vital duties— including filing briefs, drafting legislation, creating policy reports, participating in regulatory matters, and counseling clients. Their supervision allows students to sharpen their practical skills.

The Clinic leans into public policy work because it offers students the chance to help communities shape the rules that govern them. From working with public agencies like the California Privacy Protection Agency to nonprofit agencies like the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Creative Commons, the Clinic is driven by a mission to help others. They are dedicated to being a resource for their clients, helping law students grow, and always showing up for the public good. We are truly excited to have their support and specialized insight as they assist the Office of the Inspector General with our critical oversight work.

2. Summer Listening Tour Results



During the summer of 2025, our Office launched the Summer Listening Tour to gather community insights about OPD's policies, practices, and procedures. Instead of a survey, we developed a feedback board, inviting community members to offer insights on different policy boards. Our office wants to thank the Oakland Public Library for giving us the space to visit eight different branches and to the Center for Youth Development through Law, who allowed two of their fellows to support our office.

In total, we received 73 responses, with the majority of responses related to community and youth engagement. [Listen](#) to our report to the Police Commission. The report is from 1:55:24 – 2:00:10.

3. The OIG In Action

A. First Thursdays Program

Meet with the Inspector General virtually to discuss OPD policies, practices, and procedures.

First Thursdays of the Month

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

30-minute appointment

Can't make the appointment?

Call or email oig@oaklandca.gov to reschedule your virtual meeting.



Office of the Inspector General
independent civilian oversight

First Thursdays Program



Your Voice Matters

You have the right to provide feedback and raise concerns about OPD policies and procedures.

Online Registration Required

B. Community Outreach

This holiday season, the OIG came to community events to share our mission and spread the holiday spirit. Thank you to all who welcomed and hosted Inspector General Zurvohn A. Maloof.

Would you like the OIG to speak at your next meeting? Please email Monica Pelayo Lock at mpelayolock@oaklandca.gov to arrange a presentation.



Melrose Holiday Parade
Oakland, CA
December 8, 2025



Be-a-Mentor
Oakland, CA
December 20, 2025

C. Professional Development

During the second week of November, Inspector General Zurvohn A. Maloof and Deputy Inspector General Charlotte Jones attended the Association of Inspectors General (AIG) conference in order to learn the newest trends in oversight, earning Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits necessary to maintain AIG certifications.



AIG Conference
San Diego, CA
November 11-13, 2025

D. OPD Officer Education

This month, Inspector General Maloof and Director of Communications and Engagement Monica Pelayo Lock had the opportunity to present to the 195th OPD Academy about the Negotiated Settlement Agreement and civilian oversight. During the training, new officers engaged with how oversight actually supports their work and strengthens the community.



195th Academy Transition Training
Oakland, CA
January 22, 2026

4. Community Corner

Mayor Barbara Lee's "Protect the Town" Executive Orders

Today, Mayor Lee signed two executive orders to protect Oakland's immigrant residents. One order establishes the "Protect the Town" Task Force, [prohibiting federal officials from using Oakland property](#) for immigration enforcement operations, while the second maintains [OPD's independence from any federal forces](#).



Judge Evelio Grillo Joins the Police Commission

On January 20th, City Council approved the appointment of Judge (retired) Evelio Grillo to the Oakland Police Commission. He served on the Alameda Superior Court for more than 20 years. He is filling the seat formerly held by Brenda Harbin-Forte. Commissioner Grillo was sworn into office on January 28th and will participate in his regular Police Commission meeting on February 12, 2026. To read his full biography, visit the [Police Commission](#) website.



Advance Transparency & Police Accountability in Oakland

Attend Police Commission Meetings

The Police Commission oversees the Oakland Police Department's policies & practices to ensure constitutional policing.

They meet the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month in the Council Chamber. Ad hoc meetings also occur. Visit their webpage for [meeting schedules & agendas](#).



File a Police Misconduct Complaint with the Community Police Review Agency

The Community Police Review Agency independently investigates allegations of misconduct by sworn members of the Oakland Police Department.

Oakland residents can [file a complaint](#) online or through a downloadable form.



Questions and/or Recommendations? Email oig@oaklandca.gov!

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City of Oakland, Office of the Inspector General | 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza Ste. 6306 | Oakland, CA 94602
US

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