



**PAB**

**POLICE  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
BOARD**

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR  
REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 2026**



*PRESENTED BY:  
DR. LESLI C. MYERS-SMALL  
(SHE/HER/HERS)*



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The past reporting period reflects continued operational stability, strengthened intergovernmental coordination, deepened community engagement, and forward movement on policy and transparency initiatives.

### Key areas of focus have included :

While significant organizational attention is focused on two major presentations this month: Body-Worn Camera oversight and Strategic Plan implementation, staff have continued advancing core Charter responsibilities across divisions.

Key priorities during this reporting period included:



Advancement of the Drones as First Responders: A Proposal for Change

Ongoing preparation related to the Locust Club II appellate decision

Expansion of Board meeting broadcast accessibility beginning March 2026

Development of a *New York State Civilian Oversight Consortium* under NACOLE affiliation

Staff training on national police decertification systems and accountability mechanisms

Continued engagement with City leadership, RPD leadership, and community partners

Despite ongoing legal uncertainty, the PAB remains grounded in its mission: advancing accountability, transparency, and public trust in policing.

## LEGAL & GOVERNANCE UPDATE

### Locust Club II Appeal Update

The agency continues to monitor developments related to the pending appellate decision. Leadership has coordinated with legal and communications partners to ensure readiness to respond promptly upon release of the decision.

#### Preparatory steps include:



- Scenario planning for multiple operational outcomes
- Draft messaging for Board and public release
- Internal staff readiness meetings
- Continued coordination with City Council leadership

The Board will receive formal updates once a decision is issued and reviewed.

## POLICY & OVERSIGHT DIVISION

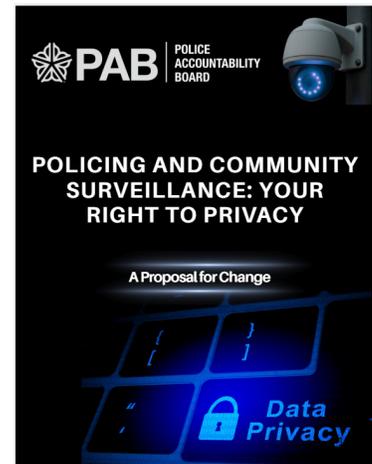
### Drones as First Responders – Proposal for Change

The Policy & Oversight Division finalized Drones as First Responders: A Proposal for Change

The proposal includes recommendations to:

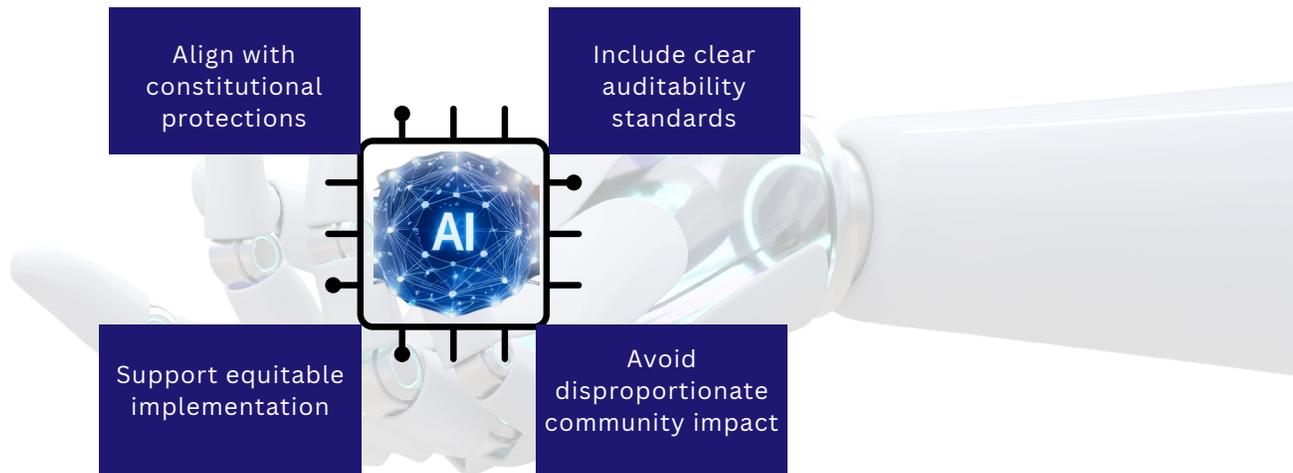
- Require legislative approval and public hearings prior to DFR implementation
- Limit deployments to exigent public safety uses
- Prohibit facial recognition, biometric surveillance, and monitoring of First Amendment-protected activity without judicial authorization
- Establish strict data retention timelines
- Mandate monthly public flight logs and annual transparency reporting
- Require quarterly equity audits conducted by the PAB
- Implement a three-year sunset provision unless renewed by City Council

This work reflects the PAB’s commitment to ensuring that emerging technologies are lawful, narrowly tailored, transparent, and accountable.



## AI in Policing & Emerging Technology Review

Staff continued analysis of artificial intelligence systems and generative AI governance in coordination with City IT. The work focuses on ensuring emerging technologies:



Further updates will be provided as City IT guidance is finalized.

## National Police Decertification Training

Staff participated in a virtual training led by Carlton T. Mayers II, Esq., author of the National Police Decertification Report Card.

The session addressed:

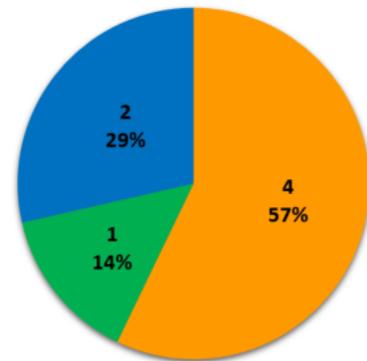
- ✓ Certification vs. decertification processes
- ✓ State-level P.O.S.T. structures (in NYS, DCJS oversight)
- ✓ Mechanisms to prevent “wandering officers”
- ✓ The C.A.T. Method® (Community Empowerment, Accountability, Transparency)

This training strengthens the PAB’s broader understanding of accountability ecosystems beyond local jurisdiction.

## ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY DIVISION

### METHOD OF COMPLAINT RECEIPT

In February 2026, the Police Accountability Board received 7 complaints submitted through various channels, including the online portal, walk-in, and the PAB hotline.



■ Online ■ PAB Hotline ■ Walk-In

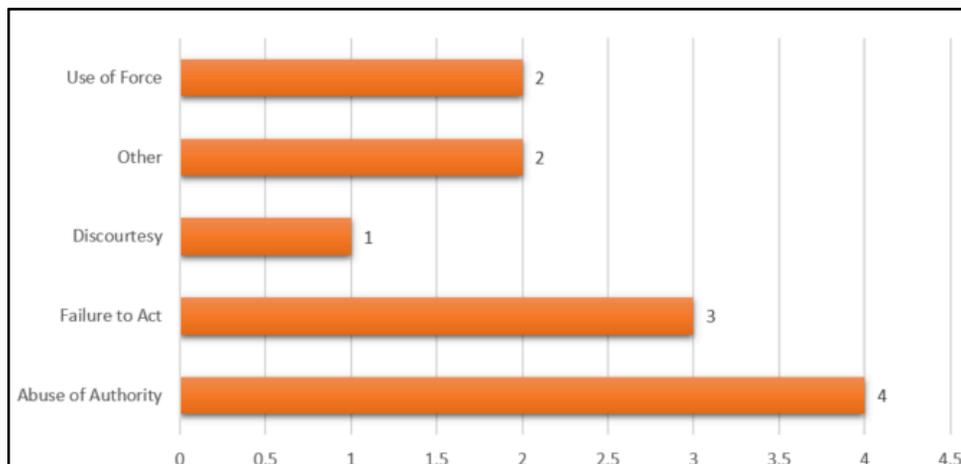
### Complaint Language

The Police Accountability Board is committed to providing accessible services to all members of the Rochester community. In February 2026, we received 7 complaints in English, none in American Sign Language, and none in Spanish.

### Complaint Category

Each complaint received by the PAB is categorized according to the form of misconduct alleged in the complaint. In the month of February, the categories with the greatest number of complaints received were Abuse of Authority (4), followed by Failure to Act (3), Use of Force (2), Other (2), and Discourtesy (1).

### COMPLAINTS BY CATEGORY



**Note:** a single complaint can be assigned multiple categories, depending on the substance of the associated incident. For example, a complainant may allege both Discrimination and Use of Force during an interaction with the RPD, as well as recommend a change to RPD policy. In this case, the complaint would be associated with all three categories. As a result, the total number of complaints by category in the table below (15) is greater than the number of complaints received this month (6). For more information regarding complaint categories, please see the definitions at the conclusion of this report.

### Public Tracking Numbers

Each of the 7 complaints received by the Board in the month of February was assigned a Public Tracking Number (PTN), listed in the table below.

<b>2026-0013</b>	<b>2026-0017</b>
<b>2026-0014</b>	<b>2026-0018</b>
<b>2026-0015</b>	<b>2026-0019</b>
<b>2026-0016</b>	

### Data Access Coordination

The PAB continues discussions with City leadership and RPD regarding improved access to data necessary for Charter-aligned oversight responsibilities. This remains a priority area for strengthening operational transparency and analytical capacity.

## OPERATIONS

### Board Meeting Broadcast Expansion

Beginning March 2026, Board meetings will be:



## PUBLIC AFFAIRS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (PACE)

### Community Partnerships

Recent engagement highlights include:

- ✓ Meeting with Dr. Marius Roosevelt (REOC) to develop “Know Your Rights” programming
- ✓ Continued collaboration with Pastor Wanda Wilson and PABA partners
  - Upcoming presentation at Thomas P. Ryan Community Center on Policing & Community
- ✓ Surveillance
- ✓ Ongoing dialogue with nonprofit and faith-based leaders

### Community Engagement Metrics

In January 2026, the Community Engagement Team participated in 10 outreach activities, reaching 286 community members:

Name	Address	Event Type	Date	Contacts
Celebration of Life Community Meeting	1000 Winton Rd, Rochester, NY 14618	Intro/Relationship	1/13/2026	10
Nextcorps	260 E Main St Suite 6000, Rochester, NY 14604	Intro/Relationship	1/14/2026	2
Upper Monroe Neighborhood Association	Upper Monroe Neighborhood	Event Collaboration	1/14/2026	1
NEMNU Annual Meeting	1933 E Main St, Rochester, NY 14609	Intro/Relationship	1/19/2026	13
Connect Hour (Connected Communities)	616 N Goodman St, Rochester, NY 14609	Networking/Tabling	1/20/2026	26
ABC Breakfast	500 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14607	Networking/Tabling	1/22/2026	112
United Way	75 College Ave, Rochester, NY 14607	Intro/Relationship	1/27/2026	33
St Joseph's Community Center	417 South Ave., Rochester, NY 14620	Intro/Relationship	1/28/2026	2
NYCLU Event Planning	121 Fitzhugh St N, Rochester, NY 14614	Event Collaboration	1/28/26	1
RMAPI Legislative Breakfast	161 Chestnut St, Rochester, NY 14604	Networking/Tabling	1/30/26	86
<b>Total Contacts:</b>				<b>286</b>

## BOARD DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

### Training Committee

The Board Training Committee met to explore training opportunities, including:



- Data interpretation training
- Charter-aligned governance education
- NACOLE
- Affordable asynchronous options

Training remains focused on strengthening Board members' oversight capacity in meaningful and sustainable ways.

### Youth & Community Engagement Committee

A revised framework was developed to clarify



- Scope and purpose
- Alignment with the PACE Division
- Realistic expectations for Board members
- Sustainability through June 30, 2026

This restructuring supports strategic engagement without creating unnecessary operational burden.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL & STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT**

### **City Council Coordination**

The Executive Director met with Council President Meléndez to discuss:

- Appeal status
- Data access challenges
- Re-evaluation of the liaison structure

Communication between PAB and Council continues to strengthen.

### **RPD Coordination**

Regular meetings with Chief Smith included discussion of:

- ✓ Community survey planning
- ✓ Officer wellness training
- ✓ Body-Worn Camera review processes
- ✓ Updating the Memorandum of Understanding
- ✓ Complaint referral timelines

These conversations reflect continued professional dialogue and system coordination.

### **New York State Oversight Consortium (NACOLE Affiliate)**

Momentum continues around establishing a statewide civilian oversight consortium under a NACOLE Affiliate model.

The proposed model would:

- ✓ Preserve local autonomy
- ✓ Provide statewide collaboration
- ✓ Strengthen professional alignment
- ✓ Create a scalable framework for other states

New York is positioned to serve as a pilot state for national oversight network development.

## EQUITY & LANGUAGE ACCESS

Staff completed annual Language Access Training to reinforce:

- Legal compliance requirements
- Best practices in communication
- Accessibility standards
- Equity-centered engagement

Additionally, participation in the City's Budget Equity Team affirmed PAB's leadership in documenting equity-focused practices across community engagement and accessibility initiatives.

## STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The strategic planning process has transitioned into implementation mode. Leadership is embedding strategic priorities into:

Dashboard tracking

Division meetings

Governance alignment

Quarterly reflections

A full presentation on Strategic Plan implementation will be delivered separately during this Board meeting.

## CONCLUSION

This reporting period reflects disciplined advancement across policy, governance, training, and community engagement even amid ongoing legal uncertainty.



While two substantive presentations (Body-Worn Camera oversight and Strategic Plan implementation) will be delivered separately, this report provides a comprehensive written record of additional organizational progress.

The PAB remains committed to:

- ✓ Transparent governance
- ✓ Responsible stewardship of authority
- ✓ Equity-centered oversight
- ✓ Strengthening public trust

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small  
(She, Her, Hers)  
Executive Director  
Police Accountability Board