



PAB

**POLICE
ACCOUNTABILITY
BOARD**

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
REPORT**

JANUARY 2026



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



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the Board’s January meeting, the Police Accountability Board has continued to navigate a period marked by operational transition, legal uncertainty, and continued community engagement, while also addressing practical challenges affecting oversight operations.

Key areas of focus have included :



Despite ongoing challenges, staff have continued to maintain service delivery and community engagement while preparing for potential operational shifts depending on the appellate outcome.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Transition to 57 St. Paul Street

The organization continues to stabilize operations following relocation to 57 St. Paul Street. Staff are adjusting to the new space, and operational issues continue to be addressed as they arise. Leadership continues working with City partners to ensure the environment supports both staff productivity and public-facing services.



Department of Labor (DOL/PESH) Site Visit

In response to employee safety concerns, representatives from the New York State Department of Labor conducted a site visit in January. The visit included testing and review of environmental and safety concerns, including asbestos and radon assessments. Several issues were addressed immediately, and additional follow-up documentation has been provided to the City.



Formal findings are expected within the next one to two months. Leadership remains committed to ensuring staff safety and compliance with all workplace standards.

LEGAL AND OVERSIGHT ENVIRONMENT

Locust Club II Appeal Update

The appellate court decision regarding PAB investigatory authority is anticipated in the near term. Leadership and legal counsel have prepared communication and operational response plans for either outcome. Once a decision is issued, leadership will review implications and convene staff to ensure clarity regarding next steps.



Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Access Limitations

The Rochester Police Department has formally confirmed that PAB staff will continue to have view-only access to body-worn camera footage, without download capability.

This limitation impacts the PAB's ability to apply analytical tools necessary for systemic policy review, including ongoing work related to vehicular pursuit analysis. Without the ability to download footage, analytical review, pattern identification, and redaction processes are significantly constrained. Leadership is continuing discussions with City partners and will engage City Council leadership to explore potential solutions. The Board will be asked to provide guidance regarding next steps should access limitations persist.



Statewide Collaboration Efforts

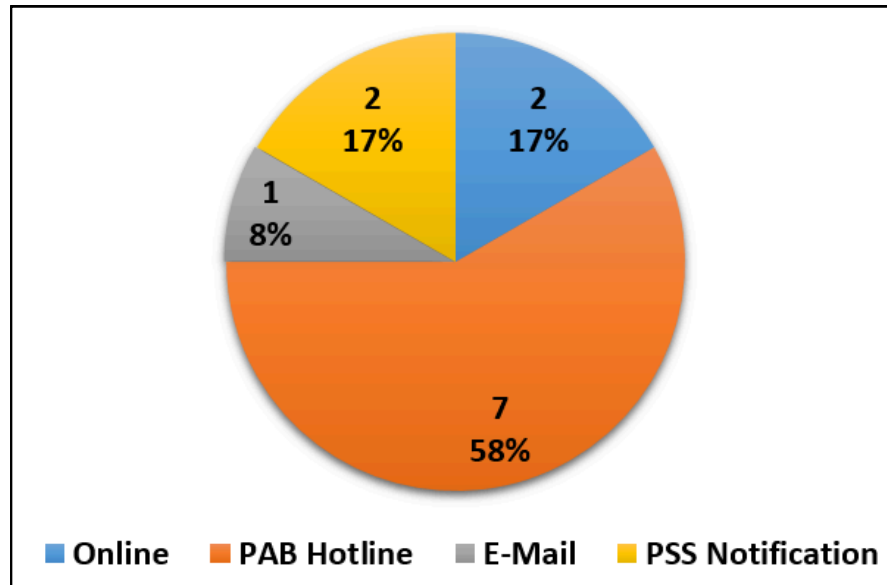
Leadership participated in discussions with NACOLE and representatives of the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board regarding development of a New York State Civilian Oversight Consortium. Discussions focused on governance options, collaboration structures, and potential alignment with NACOLE.

The goal is to strengthen civilian oversight capacity statewide while maintaining flexibility and sustainability for participating agencies. Additional updates will follow as discussions progress.

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY DIVISION

In January 2026, the Police Accountability Board received 12 complaints submitted through various channels, including the online portal, email, PSS notification, and the PAB hotline.

METHOD OF COMPLAIN RECEIPT



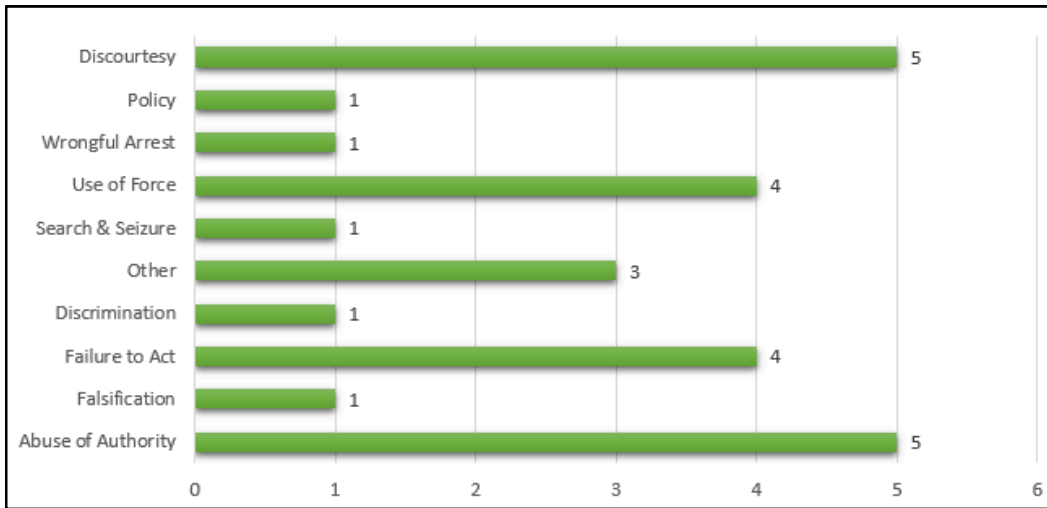
Complaint Language

The Police Accountability Board is committed to providing accessible services to all members of the Rochester community. In January 2026, we received 12 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 January, the categories with the greatest number of complaints received were Abuse of Authority (5) and Discourtesy (5), followed by Failure to Act (4), Use of Force (4), Other (3), Falsification (1), Search and Seizure (1), Policy (1), Wrongful Arrest (1), and Discrimination (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 12 complaints received by the Board in the month of January was assigned a Public Tracking Number (PTN), listed in the table below.

2026-0001	2026-0007
2026-0002	2026-0008
2026-0003	2026-0009
2026-0004	2026-0010
2026-0005	2026-0011
2026-0006	2026-0012

POLICY & OVERSIGHT

During the January 2026 Board meeting, the Policy & Oversight (P&O) Division presented to the Police Accountability Board a policy project titled Surveillance Technology and Privacy Impact Assessment: A Proposal for Change.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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
Total Contacts:				286

LOOKING AHEAD

Priorities in the coming weeks include:

- ✓ Responding to the appellate court decision and implementing operational next steps
- ✓ Continuing stabilization efforts in the new office space
- ✓ Addressing limitations impacting policy and oversight analysis
- ✓ Advancing statewide collaboration discussions
- ✓ Maintaining strong community engagement and transparency efforts

Despite ongoing uncertainty, staff continue to demonstrate resilience and commitment to the PAB's mission and responsibilities.

CLOSING REFLECTION



This period continues to require patience, adaptability, and steady leadership. Regardless of legal or operational challenges, our responsibility remains clear: to support accountability, transparency, and public trust in Rochester.

I remain grateful for the dedication of our staff, the engagement of the Board, and the continued partnership of community stakeholders as we navigate this critical period together.

Respectfully submitted,

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