



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of Police Accountability and Transparency

OPAT Update to City Council
Spring 2026

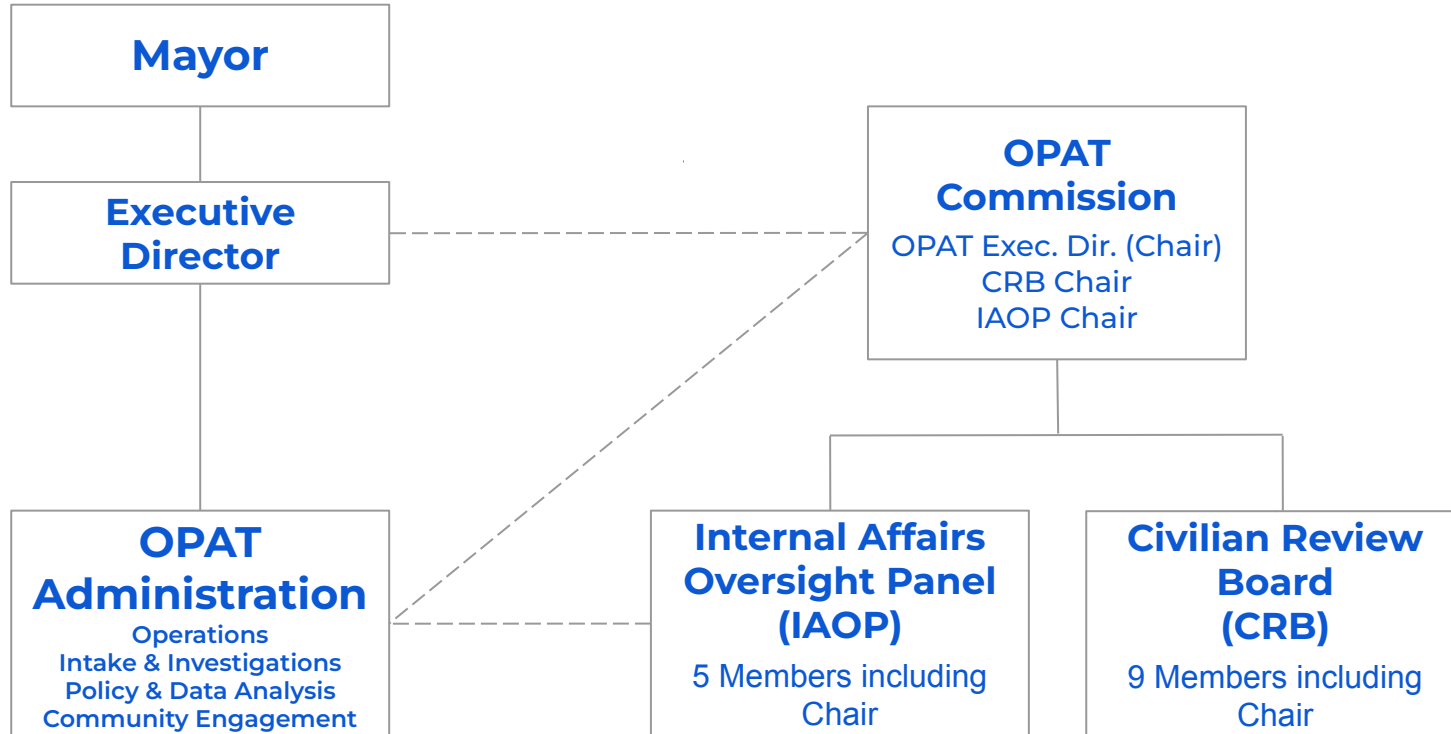
Monday, May 18, 2026

History & Purpose of OPAT



- ❖ The Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT) was created in January 2021, following nationwide protests for racial justice after the murder of George Floyd in May of 2020.
- ❖ Top recommendation of 11-member 2020 Boston Police Reform Task Force
- ❖ To serve as an independent civilian agency to provide oversight over the Boston Police Department.
- ❖ **City of Boston Code, Chapter 12, Section 16**
 - *To provide a single point of entry for individuals with concerns or complaints related to the Boston Police Department and its officers and sworn personnel to be heard and responded to...*
 - *To investigate complaints of misconduct, ensure that the Boston Police Department's internal affairs review process is thorough and fair, and to review Boston Police Department's existing and proposed policies and procedures...to undertake independent investigation and review of policing in Boston.*

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OPAT's Core Functions



- ❖ **BPD Oversight:** Hold BPD accountable by conducting independent investigations and review of misconduct allegations and publishing those findings.
- ❖ **Transparency:** Foster transparency by receiving, analyzing, and publishing critical BPD statistics including stops, arrests, use of force, and civil settlements and public complaints filed with OPAT.
 - Public Website Dashboards: Up-to-date reporting on all data collected and cases brought before OPAT's Civilian Review Board and Internal Affairs Oversight Panel.
 - Publish regular reports to BPD Commissioner, the Mayor, the City Council, and the public.
 - FY25 Annual Report (Released October 2025)
 - FY26 Semi-Annual Report (Released May 16, 2026)
 - Post to boston.gov/opat comprehensive minutes and video of all public board meetings and case reports.
- ❖ **Policy Review & Recommendations:** Review BPD policies and process and make recommendations on changes to improve public safety and law enforcement practices in ways that align with community needs and expectations.
- ❖ **Community Education & Engagement:** Educate residents about their rights and how to utilize OPAT and create spaces for meaningful dialogue around community policing and police reform.



OPAT Civilian Review Board (CRB)

Members: Chair Samuel Harold, E. Peter Alvarez, Natalie Carithers Utley, Joshua Dankoff, Tanisha Deleon, Reginald Smalls, Amaury Perez, Bernard Fitzgerald, Dieufort J. Fleurissant

■ **CRB Powers and Duties (Section 12-16.9)**

◆ **Core Role:**

Investigate complaints of Boston Police Department (BPD) misconduct, recommend disciplinary measures where appropriate, and review existing or proposed BPD policies and procedures and provide recommendations for revisions.

◆ **Public Meeting Requirements:**

Meet quarterly to assess cases and review BPD policies and procedures (at least 4 times - or more at Board's discretion).

◆ **Reporting Requirements:**

Issue reports to the Mayor, City Council, and Police Commissioner on case outcomes and recommendations.



OPAT Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP)

Members: Chair Anthony Fugate, Christina Miller, Jamika Hobbs, Quoc Tran, Eron Hackshaw

■ **IAOP Powers and Duties (Section 12-16.13)**

- ◆ **Core Role:** Provide external oversight of the Boston Police Department Internal Affairs Division (IAD) investigations for thoroughness and fairness.
- ◆ **Case Reviews:** Review completed Boston Police Department Internal Affairs Division investigations for thoroughness and fairness.
- ◆ **Policy Reviews:** Periodically review policies and procedures and report to the BPD Commissioner, the Mayor, and the City Council regarding the integrity of the IAD process.
- ◆ **Public Hearing Requirements:** Meet quarterly to assess cases and review Internal Affairs policies (at least 4 times - or more at panel's discretion).
- ◆ **Reporting Requirements:** Issue reports to the Mayor, City Council, and Police Commissioner on case outcomes and recommendations.

Capacity Building & Community Engagement FY26



Police Accountability
and Transparency

❖ Hiring

- Director of Administration and Finance
- 2 Investigators
- Community Engagement Specialist

❖ Community Engagement

- Bi-weekly Executive Director Coffee Hours
- Monthly OPAT Open Door Days
- Regular OPAT attendance at public safety task community meetings
 - Nubian Square Task Force, Ella Baker House, Task Force
 - Youth Job Fairs
- Speaking Engagements and Media Appearances citywide
 - Black Ministerial Alliance
 - Healing Lab at Vine Street Community Center
 - Charlestown High School Road to Success Program
 - NAACP Boston Chapter
 - Spark FM, Java with Jimmy, The Other Page

❖ Social Media Presence

- Weekly social media engagement with the community through Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook





❖ **Civilian Review Board**

- Held 9 public meetings (4 full board & 5 policy subcommittee)
- Heard 17 cases
- Sustained 4 cases - 15 total sustained rule violations
- Issued letter to BPD Commissioner re: Authority of OPAT Investigations and CRB Findings Under MA Law

❖ **Internal Affairs Oversight Panel**

- Held 4 meetings
- Reviewed 15 IAD investigations and determinations
- Issued letter to BPD Commissioner Cox requesting the Department begin automatically referring to them the categories of cases defined in ordinance section 12-16.15

❖ **OPAT Commission**

- Held 6 public meetings
- Developed new OPAT regulations
- Subpoenaed BPD officers and staff for first time in OPAT's history



In FY27, in order to provide effective oversight of the Boston Police Department, OPAT will:

1. Solidify subpoena process and continue to utilize it to increase transparency and accountability
2. Execute successful Summer Youth Advisory Council
3. Execute Mediation of Cases
4. Continue to Execute a robust Community Engagement and Communications Plan
5. Continue Update and Develop OPAT Regulations, Policies, and Procedures
6. Community Survey



City of Boston
Police Accountability
and Transparency

IN COLLABORATION

GEORGE FLOYD - BREONNA TAYLOR - AHMAUD ARBERRY - ATATIANA JEFFERSON - PHILANDO CASTILE
ALTON STERLING - BOTHAM JEAN - ERIC GARNER - TAMIR RICE - JOHN CRAWFORD III - TRAYVON MARTIN

IN MEMORY

WE MOVE

5K RUN/
WALK (1.5 MI)



QUESTIONS?
CONTACT COREY JORDAN
(617) 861-5216 |
COREY.JORDAN@BOSTON.GOV



SATURDAY
MAY 23RD



8:00 AM



BLAIR LOT
NUBIAN SQUARE,
ROXBURY



WE HONOR THEIR LIVES.
WE MOVE FOR JUSTICE.
WE BUILD A BETTER BOSTON.



ALL ARE WELCOME. ALL ARE NEEDED.



THANK YOU
Questions?