



OFFICE OF THE POLICE MONITOR

What is the Office of Police Monitor (OPM) doing in the Latino community?

The OPM office has a long history of being a resource and participating in activities in the Latino community. A few of the OPM's outreach efforts include participation in Cinco De Mayo, Diez y Seis de Septiembre, and community events hosted by AISD and APD. The OPM is working to establish partnerships with active community groups and relationships with community leaders of color in Austin. For example, in April, many Latino community leaders participated in the OPM breakfast outreach meeting. This was an opportunity for the OPM Director to meet with community leaders to discuss their experiences and thoughts on the police oversight structure in Austin. The OPM has also filmed an informational segment about the office with Univision for broadcast with one of our bilingual staff members.

Does the Office of Police Monitor use "language lines" or do they have bilingual personnel to conduct the intakes and interviews from speakers of other languages, including Spanish?

The OPM does utilize language lines and we are staffed with bilingual personnel to conduct intakes and interviews from speakers of other languages, specifically Spanish.

Similar to number two, does the Office of the Police Monitor have bilingual outreach staff?

Yes, all staff members of the OPM are considered part of outreach staff, which includes the bilingual staff.

Speakers of other languages may be afraid to speak up. How does the Office of the Police Monitor insure confidentiality and privacy?

We have found this fear of reporting to be a concern in the undocumented community. In our informational materials and in outreach events, we make it clear that we do not and will not ask about immigration status.

As with any government agency in Texas, our records are subject to open records laws. To the extent of the law, the OPM maintains the confidentiality and privacy of complainants.

What programs does the Office of the Police Monitor offer and where?

The OPM has partnered with community organizations that share common goals in the Latino community. We have partnerships with La Voz, Telemundo, and Univision. The OPM has partnered with the Austin Police Department's Community Liaisons' office and Amigos en Azul on specific initiatives to promote inclusiveness with the immigrant communities. We have partnered with the Mexican Consulate on outreach events to Spanish speaking communities to provide basic know- your- rights educational information, to explain the police misconduct complaint process, and information regarding the municipal court. Additionally, the OPM has a long standing partnership with AISD and its resources that assist Spanish speaking children and their families throughout the school year.

How does the Office of the Police Monitor insure speakers of other languages know about these programs?

We employ translation services to translate our informational materials into many languages. Currently, we have materials in English, Spanish, Thai, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Arabic. The OPM also attends multiple cultural events throughout the calendar year in an attempt to reach diverse populations in environments they are most comfortable.

As interim, what is your experience in working with non-English speakers and police oversight?

As a Guardian ad litem and attorney in the Public Defender's Office, I have worked with many non-English speakers. As Dean of Students and Associate Vice President of Students at Chicago State University, I was responsible for student needs outside the classroom. The student population included international students from around the world. I have also worked very closely with the DREAMERS at the university.

As Assistant to the Mayor, Richard M. Daley, I worked as the liaison to the Chicago Police Department. In this capacity, I worked on legislation that provided the Independent Police Review Authority access to juvenile records for their investigations. As Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, I worked very closely with the University Chief of Police as we were both responsible for student safety. I also worked to resolve complaints on police misconduct made by students.

As interim, what are your goals for this office?

- Expanded, intentional, and continuous community outreach
 - We must build trust in the community
- Enhanced policy recommendations - a more detailed review of patterns and practices within the police department
- Understanding the barriers to filing a complaint and working to address and remove them
- Greater transparency - Reporting information more frequently - monthly/quarterly
- Neutrality and Objectivity
- Holistic approach to police oversight