

**Office of Professional Standards
Annual Report for 2025**

The Office of Professional Standards of the Knoxville Police Department falls under the direct command and control of the Chief of Police. The Office of Professional Standards is led by our Deputy Chief and Unit Commander with three sworn investigators and three civilian employees under their leadership. The focus of the office is to investigate and monitor allegations of misconduct that come from concerned citizens, employees, and/or supervisory personnel within the city. While the Office of Professional Standards is primarily focused on misconduct within the police department, the unit can conduct investigations within other city departments. The Office of Professional Standards is committed to maintaining the integrity of the Knoxville Police Department. This is accomplished through fair and impartial investigations that recognize the rights of employees while holding them accountable for their actions.

All complaints received by the Office of Professional Standards are thoroughly investigated and the findings are classified in one or more of the following areas:

SUSTAINED

All or part of the alleged conduct, as set forth in the complaint or otherwise brought to the attention of OPS, did occur, based on a preponderance of the evidence, and said conduct did violate one or more established policies, rules, or procedures.

NOT SUSTAINED

The alleged conduct, as set forth in the complaint or otherwise brought to the attention of OPS, can neither be proved or disproved based on a preponderance of the evidence.

EXONERATED

The alleged conduct at issue occurred; however, the conduct did not violate established policies, rules, or procedures.

UNFOUNDED

By a preponderance of the evidence, the alleged conduct at issue, in fact, did not occur.

During 2025, the Office of Professional Standards received 39 referrals. Based on those referrals, the Office of Professional Standards conducted 39 internal investigations after confirming the complaints warranted an investigation.

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CASES DISPOSITIONS

Sustained.....	23
Not Sustained.....	1
Exonerated	6
Unfounded.....	1
Resignation... ..	7
Pending... ..	22

CASE TOTALS

Sworn Personnel.....	29
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Total Investigated by OPS: 39

In 2025, the Office of Professional Standards received numerous additional phone calls, walk-ins, or e-mails that were addressed, but did not warrant an official investigation. In most of these cases, the complainants were advised by a member of OPS or referred to the proper division or district. In some cases, complainants were referred to the appropriate agency when the subject of the complaint was not employed by KPD.