

Civilian Oversight Features

There are four basic types of civilian oversight that are molded into the various types of civilian oversight in practice around the U.S. Most have features that fall into one of the following four types:

Type 1: Citizens investigate allegations and recommend findings to the chief or sheriff. This type tends to be the most expensive due to the inability of civilians to conduct investigations, thus requiring the hiring of experienced investigators.

Type 2: Police officers investigate allegations and develop findings. Citizens then review and recommend that the chief or sheriff approve or reject the findings from the internal investigation. These systems tend to be inexpensive due to the fact volunteers are typically undertaking the reviews.

Type 3: Appeal process. Complainants can appeal the findings of the police department or sheriff to *citizens*, which subsequently review and recommend their own findings to the chief or sheriff. This model can be less expensive because of the use of volunteers.

Type 4: An auditor investigates the complaint process of the law enforcement agency, thus reporting on the thoroughness and fairness of said process to both the department and the public. This type of model falls in the mid-price range because of the need for expertise and time to conduct an appropriate audit.

→Board of Directors: Are focused on the long-term path of the organization that are overseeing and are involved with disciplinary processes and the hiring and firing of the police chief. They focus on topics other than the civilian oversight process, as more of a regulatory agent.

Board of Directors

- Appeal process
- Subpoena power
- Mediation
 - In-house
 - Contracted
- Outreach
 - Monthly meetings
 - Public forums
- Recommendation capacity
- Oversees other aspects of the police department (County of Hawai'i, HI)
 - Budget & Finance
 - Office Management
 - Rule & Policies
 - Public Relations
- Reviews incidents involving Use of force
 - All Use of Force
 - Those only resulting in death
 - Only if receives a formal complaint about it

- Discretionary
- May only review complaints upon request of: (Eugene, OR)
 - Complainant
 - Police Auditor
 - Majority vote
- Governing authority of auditor's office (Albuquerque, NM)
- Evaluates/oversees the auditor's office (Eugene, OR)
- Members
 - Citizens
 - Representative of the surrounding community
 - One from each City Council District
 - Selection
 - Applications
 - Applications with City Council members allowed to recommend one person (given preference)
 - Mayor Appointment with City Council affirmation
 - Requirements/Selection Criteria
 - Complete the Citizens' Police Academy
 - Annual attendance of NACOLE conference
 - Not previously employed by law enforcement within the past year
 - Never employed by the police department or have any relative that is or was employed by it
 - No foreseeable conflict of interest/bias
 - Level of previous community involvement
 - Ride-alongs
 - Problem solving and conflict resolution skills
 - Yearly civil rights training
 - Attendance of yearly Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) (Albuquerque, NM)
- Public Documents
 - Yearly Reports
 - Mid-year reports
 - Monthly Reports
 - Research documents
 - Trends & analyses
 - Recommendations

