



Ordinance Proposal:

INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT *of* PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

PROGRAM GOALS



- Strengthen **transparency, accountability, and public trust** in all of Tulsa's public safety services
- Ensure departments continue to **operate effectively** in service of the community
- Help Tulsa **identify systemic problems** earlier and save taxpayer dollars by reducing public safety system risk
- **Give Tulsa residents confidence** that someone is providing a thorough review on their behalf



OIM Concept Introduced
at Mayor/Council Retreat

FEB 2019

FY 2020 Budget Approved with
\$250K of \$500K set aside for OIM

JUN 2019

Special Meetings on Equality
Indicators' Justice Theme

JUN 2019

**JUL
2019**

OIM Ordinance
Presented at
Committee

SEP 2019

Five-Point Plan Launched Instead, including
Community Policing Evaluation

Councilor
Proposal for
OIM Charter
Amendment/
Legal Opinion
Follows

**MAR
2020**

MAR 2022

Council Declines to Propose
Charter Amendment
Creating an OIM

MAY 2022

CNA Presents Final Community
Policing Evaluation Report/TPD
Presents Short-Term Action Plan

MAY 2022

Council Trust & Accountability
Working Group Makes Formal
Recommendations

PROPOSAL DETAILS



**SCOPE OF THE
OFFICE**



**WHO RUNS THE
OFFICE**



**FUNCTIONS OF THE
OFFICE**



**ROLE OF THE
COMMUNITY**





SCOPE *of the* OFFICE

Definition of Public Safety

Public Safety includes departments & personnel performing:

- Law enforcement
- Fire prevention and fire suppression
- Rescue
- Hazardous-materials response
- 911/emergency communications
- Emergency management
- Animal control
- Security
- Code enforcement

*Public Safety **does not** include judicial functions of the Municipal Court or powers assigned by the City Charter to independently elected officers.*





WHO RUNS *the* OFFICE

Director of the Office

- Full-time, supported by professional staff, in the classified service

Qualifications

- Must demonstrate independence, professional competence and impartiality
- Cannot be current or former public safety officers in the Tulsa metro area, nor have immediate family who have served in those positions

How the Director Is Selected

- Personnel Director certifies eligible candidates
- An advisory committee interviews candidates and make recommendations
- Mayor appoints the Director from certified candidates

The Seven-Member Advisory Committee includes:

- Chair of the Civilian Oversight Board
- A judge
- Experts in investigations, oversight, civil rights, community engagement
- A resident representing community interests
- A police officer and a fire officer

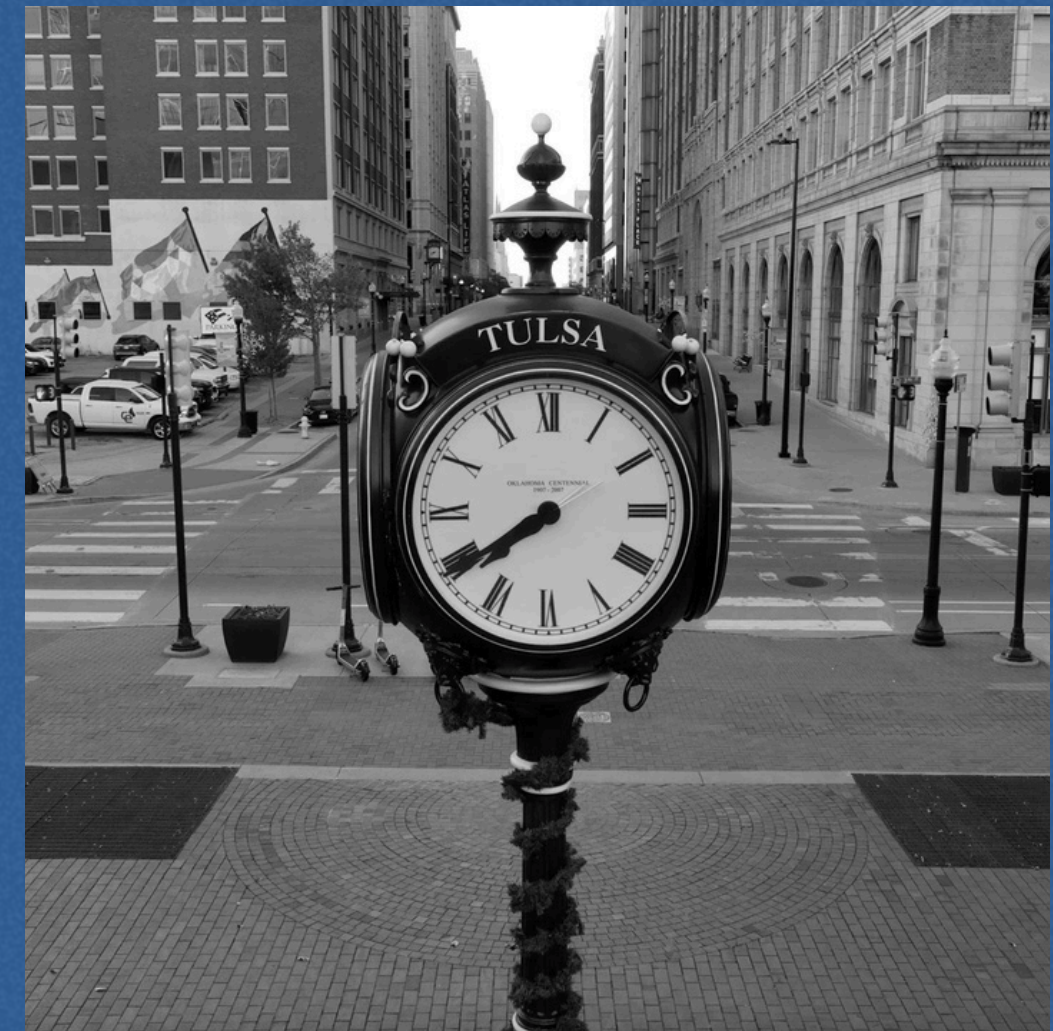


FUNCTIONS *of the* OFFICE

Mandatory Oversight Activities

The Office must Monitor and Review investigations involving:

- Discharge of firearms or deadly force
- Deaths occurring in custody
- Duty-related deaths
- Uses of force causing death or serious injury
- Conduct that may constitute a felony or misdemeanor involving force



FUNCTIONS *of the* OFFICE



The Office also:

- Receives all investigative materials within set timelines
- Produces written review reports within 10 business days
- Identifies policy, training, supervision and systemic issues
- Makes recommendations to department leadership

Limits on Authority

- Findings are advisory only
- Cannot impose discipline or direct operations



INVESTIGATION GUARDRAILS

Monitors investigations **without directing, controlling, or interfering** with the underlying investigation.

Independently **reviews completed investigations** for completeness, objectivity, compliance with applicable policies and procedures, and broader policy or systemic issues.

May identify investigative deficiencies and **recommend additional investigation or changes** to policies, training, supervision or departmental practices.

Findings and **recommendations are advisory and do not transfer disciplinary, personnel, or operational authority** from existing City officials and departments.





REPORTING *and* TRANSPARENCY

The Director must publish:

- Annual public report by September 30 each year
- May issue periodic updates, trend reports and policy recommendations

Confidentiality Rules:

- Access to sensitive investigative records is allowed only as needed
- Must safeguard nonpublic records and comply with laws on confidentiality, open records and privileges





CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT BOARD

Eleven-member Board

- Representation from every City Council district and two at-large members
- Should reflect Tulsa's racial, socioeconomic, geographic and professional diversity
- Appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council

Board Duties

- Evaluates the effectiveness of the Office
- Engages with the community and public safety departments
- Makes policy-level recommendations





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Civilian Oversight Board shall hold:

- Three public town halls per year, including one after the annual report
- A minimum of ten meetings per year
- Quarterly public meetings with public safety leadership
- Meetings that comply with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act



THANK YOU

