



## OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITOR

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### **THE OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITOR RELEASES ITS 2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Office of the Independent Monitor (OIM) publicly released its 2010 Annual Report on Tuesday, March 15, 2011. The report details investigations of 2010 officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths, complaint investigations and findings, the status of OIM goals, and policy initiatives and concerns identified by the Independent Monitor over the course of the year.

The mission of the OIM is to provide fair and objective oversight of public safety and ensure transparency and accountability. The OIM is responsible for (1) monitoring and participating in investigations of sworn police and sheriff personnel; (2) making recommendations to the Manager of Safety, Chief of Police and Undersheriff/Director of Corrections regarding case findings and discipline; and (3) making broader policy recommendations.

#### ***Officer-Involved Shootings and In-Custody Deaths***

There were six officer-involved shootings and one deputy-involved shooting in 2010. In addition, there were six in-custody deaths – four suicides (three in Sheriff facilities and one involving the DPD), and two deaths after uses of force (one Police and one Sheriff). All Internal Affairs (IA) investigations into these incidents were actively monitored by the OIM.

#### ***Complaint Handling and Discipline:***

Citizen complaints against DPD officers decreased slightly from 617 in 2009 to 601 in 2010. There was approximately one complaint for every 775 calls for service (465,511) during the course of the year.

Three DPD officers were ordered terminated by the Manager of Safety (involving one incident), three officers resigned or retired while disciplinary decisions were pending, and seven officers received suspensions of 10 or more calendar days. Details of these cases can be found in Chapter 2 of the report.

With respect to the Sheriff Department, two Deputies were ordered terminated by the Manager of Safety and six Deputies resigned prior to the issuance of a disciplinary order. In addition, six Deputies received suspensions of 10 or more working days. Details of these cases can be found in Chapter 3 of the report.

***Special Initiatives and Policy Concerns Identified by the Independent Monitor:***

**1. DEPARTING FROM THE TRUTH-** The Sheriff Department created a new disciplinary matrix, calling for the presumptive termination of any Sheriff Deputy who is sustained for “Commission of a Deceptive Act.” As of January 1, 2011, the Sheriff Department joins the DPD in adopting this important disciplinary reform.

**2. POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY UPDATE RELATING TO VIDEO EVIDENCE** - At the request of the Monitor’s Office, the Police Department is in the process of implementing a policy to require District-level supervisors to identify and obtain any available video evidence relevant to use of force investigations.

**3. MONITOR’S CONTINUING CONCERNS REGARDING ENTRIES MADE INTO PRIVATE RESIDENCES-** The Monitor continued to pay close attention to cases involving allegations of search and seizure violations, particularly regarding police officer entries into private residences without a warrant. The Monitor continues to work with Patrol Division command staff to ensure District supervisors are familiar with the legal requirements for such entries, and that any need for Monitor intervention in this area will be reduced in future years.

The OIM’s Annual Report, its appendices, and its executive summary, can be accessed online at [www.denvergov.org/oim](http://www.denvergov.org/oim).

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