



Seattle Office of
Inspector General

Complaints Against the Chief of Police

OIG's Q1 2026 Report

January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026

Office of Inspector General
City of Seattle
PO Box 94764
Seattle, WA 98124-7064

206.684.3663

oig@seattle.gov

Introduction

This report provides a quarterly update about the status of complaints filed with OPA against the Chief of Police (COP), as required by Ordinance. Specifically, this data includes complaints from the first quarter of 2026 and will also provide full year totals in future quarterly reports for the year.

Complaints Received

In Q1 of 2026, OPA and OIG received 22 COP complaints.¹

Intakes Completed

During Q1 of 2026, OPA and OIG reviewed 13 cases after intake. These intakes were classified as follows:

- 13 cases were classified as a contact log
- No cases were certified as an expedited investigation
- No cases were classified for further investigation

Eighteen cases remain at the intake stage.

Investigations and Certifications

Case Type	Q1 Full Certification Rate	Q1 Total Cases Certified	2026 Full Certification Rate	2026 Total Cases Certified
Expedited Investigation	N/A	0	N/A	0
Investigation	0%	1	0%	1
Total	N/A	0	0%	1

After conducting an intake, when a viable allegation of a Seattle Police Department (SPD) policy violation is made, OPA and OIG classify the case for either expedited investigation or investigation. When a case is classified as an expedited investigation, OPA and OIG agree findings can be reached based solely on information from the intake investigation, and no further investigation is necessary. If, after the intake stage, it is not believed an intake investigation is sufficient for fact-finding, the case is classified as an investigation. All OPA investigations, regardless of whether they are expedited or not, are reviewed by OIG for certification to determine whether the cases are thorough, timely, and objective. Likewise,

¹ While this represents a high number of complaints, 20 of the 22 complaints were submitted by the same two community members.

OIG reviews all OPA classification decisions to ensure appropriate classification.

In Q1 2026, one externally referred investigation, managed by OPA, was completed. OIG partially certified this investigation, ultimately determining the investigation was untimely. The complaint was reported in February 2023, but due to uncertainty about jurisdiction and delays in processing COP complaints, it was not certified until February 2026. This means the full certification rate for COP cases Q1 2026 is 0%.

Closed and Outstanding Cases

At the end of Q1 2026, OIG and OPA had 32 open COP cases. Of these, 18 are at intake, 13 are completed but not closed, and one is currently classified for full investigation.² In Q1 2026, OIG and OPA closed 13 COP cases.

	As of 03/31/2026
Cases at Intake	18
Cases Under Investigation	1
Cases Completed Awaiting Closure	13
Total Open Cases	32
Percentage of Open Cases Pertaining to Current COP	34.4%
Total Closed	13

² Only 34.4% of open cases pertain to the current Chief. All open complaints against the current Chief are at the intake stage or were classified as a contact log and administratively closed in early Q2 2026.