

**RECOMMENDATION REGARDING
OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTINGS IN ALBUQUERQUE
May, 2025
VALLEY COMMUNITY POLICING COUNCIL**

What are we calling for - Recommendation

Quality Improvement - Accomplishment Model

1. The high level executive task force begun in 2023 should be continued by APD on a regular 6 month basis, as it resulted in recommendation of a number of changes which they felt would result in less OIS. We share the hope and belief that APD can find a way to decrease the rate of OIS.
2. The findings of the task force need to be made publicly accessible; we suggest all 6 month OIS reviews and recommendations be included and dated in the “Officer Involved Shooting” section of the APD public facing website, rather than referenced only in APD News.
3. The goal of this improvement process is prevention of the need for deadly force. The method is improvement in police operations with the intent to resolve operations using lower levels of or no use of force. The executive committee, now in its third year, has reported no operational results, either that field operations have adopted their recommended methods, or that changes successfully resolve operations without resort to deadly force. We have been assured that data is being collected by the Analytics Department regarding the operational questions. The data needs to be made public, including analysis of whether individual interventions resulted in improvement.
4. Given officers’ natural hesitation to expose themselves to force review, the department cannot emphasize enough that the purpose of using lower level force is to resolve situations safely, preventing the progression to deadly force.

Quality Improvement - Safety Model

5. In addition to the Accomplishment Model analysis we recommend the Department consider what can go wrong, how it can be prevented, and prepare for the unexpected. No focus on reducing OIS or use of force is intended to result in increased harm or risk to the public or officers.

BACKGROUND rationale for recommendation

From the CABQ.gov/APD Website

In December 2022 APD Chief Harold Medina announced a series of steps to address the “increase in officer-involved-shootings.” This included defining when to use less than lethal force, a statement that the Police Academy would train officers in proper decisions, and the creation of an executive level task force drawing from APD executive staff and the City Attorney’s office to review Officer Involved Shootings (OIS) beyond the Force Review Board under APD standard operating procedures.

The findings of the executive level reviews were announced in *APD News* on the CABQ website March 22, 2023 for all of 2022, and October 4, 2023 for the first 6 months of 2023, together with a number of recommendations for the department based on the findings. Despite assurances from Chief Medina and other executive staff that the 6 month review process continues, as of April 2025 there had been no news releases since detailing review of cases beyond June 2023, nor any evident results of the recommendations from the two executive committees.

A review of [CABQ.gov/police/documents](https://cabq.gov/police/documents) revealed an April 2024 OIS committee report on page 150 of the 161 pages of listed documents, reviewing July-December 2023. Despite the Chief’s original stated intention to make this an ongoing process, the continuing action and transparency have not been evident in APD news or on the [CABQ.gov/police](https://cabq.gov/police) public facing website. Since we raised this issue last month, the above third report and a fourth as-yet undated report reviewing OIS for the first half of 2024 have been placed in the cabq.gov/police/documents queue, while none are in the public facing website.

Why is this an issue?

This is not the first time an issue with the level and number of shootings by APD officers has been raised. An Executive Summary from an ABQ City Council study before the year 2000 states that “the City of ABQ suffers from serious problems related to fatal shootings by APD officers, extremely high tort claims, a citizen complaint system that is not adequately open to citizens, and high levels of tension.” This was again explored in 2014 which led to the current Citizen Police Oversight Agency and the Community Policing Councils.

Albuquerque, and New Mexico as a whole, have been at or adjacent to the top areas for number of people shot by and killed by police per capita. A review of 2024 at statistica.com finds an average of roughly 3.5 people killed by police yearly per million residents in the USA. In the APD Crime Statistics section of our city website is a list of

OIS from 2024, detailing 13 episodes of OIS with 9 fatalities for 2024, for a **rate of 15.6 people killed by APD/million residents in 2024**. When asked, Chief Medina points to the high level of people armed and brandishing firearms in Albuquerque. Even if true, the APD is accountable for their actions, and accountability rests on integrity of the process and transparency.

Reducing Community Violence - action needed beyond that of APD

Improved activity is needed by the other governmental agencies in CABQ and Bernalillo County, as well as by us as citizens and non-governmental actors. We should work to fulfill our responsibility to reduce violence and conflict among people in Albuquerque, including the level of Juvenile Violent Crime.

A clue to possible fruitful areas for CABQ and ABQ Community action from our lived experience is found in APD's data analysis of the **motivating factors for homicides** in ABQ in 2024, with more than 50% of them found to begin with either expressions of personal disrespect (28%), or involve intimate partner violence (23%). To the extent violence is infectious, addressing family violence and exposure to violence may open the door to interventions designed to prevent the propensity for violence in juveniles.