

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

January 14, 2025

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SUBJECT: OFFICER-INITIATED VERSUS CITIZEN-INITIATED CODE COMPLAINTS

The City Council requested an Informal Report on the breakdown of officer-initiated versus citizen-initiated code complaints to better understand the extent of proactive efforts by code officers in the neighborhoods. In fiscal year 2024, 17% of all complaints were initiated by code officers, while 83% were citizen-initiated. These percentages can vary based on factors such as staffing levels, the time of year, the complexity of cases, and special projects.

The chart below illustrates the number of citizen-initiated and officer-initiated complaints for each Council District. Additionally, the chart shows the percentage of complaints initiated by citizens versus officers within each district, as well as each district's contribution to the overall total number of complaints. For instance, in Council District 2, of the 3,866 complaints received, 79% were citizen-initiated and 21% were officer-initiated. This district accounted for 8% of the total complaints in fiscal year 2024.

District	Citizen-Initiated Complaints	Officer-Initiated Complaints	Total Complaints	Citizen %	Officer %	Total %
District 2	3,070	796	3,866	79%	21%	8%
District 3	3,676	277	3,953	93%	7%	8%
District 4	5,353	240	5,593	96%	4%	11%
District 5	4,390	1,089	5,479	80%	20%	11%
District 6	4,263	336	4,599	93%	7%	9%
District 7	4,340	319	4,659	93%	7%	10%
District 8	5,035	1,603	6,638	76%	24%	14%
District 9	4,626	1,239	5,865	79%	21%	12%
District 10	1,769	342	2,111	84%	16%	4%
District 11	3,969	1,949	5,918	67%	33%	12%
Total	40,491	8,190	48,681	83%	17%	

A significant portion of an officer's day is spent addressing violations driven by complaints, as well as proactively identifying and resolving additional code violations in the vicinity of the initial complaint. Examples of proactive enforcement include:

- When a citizen reports high grass, the responding officer also takes action on the substandard building and any other code violations that exist on the property.
- After responding to a junk vehicle complaint, the officer also addresses a junk vehicle at a neighboring property.

The number of known or suspected code violations in an officer's assigned area consistently exceeds the amount of time available to address them due to the complexity and variety of cases officer's encounter. Officers are often required to prioritize complaints based on urgency and severity, leaving less time for proactive enforcement.

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Additionally, many violations are widespread and may require follow-up visits, investigations, or coordination with other city departments. This workload imbalance means that officers are frequently unable to address all identified violations within the time constraints of their daily duties.

For questions regarding this information, please contact Brian Daugherty, Code Compliance Director, at Brian.Daugherty@fortworthtexas.gov or (817) 392-6322.

David Cooke
City Manager