



City Council 2023 Police Accountability Board Survey Report

This spring, Rochester City Council conducted a non-scientific, online survey of city residents to gauge feedback on the Police Accountability Board (PAB). With a stated goal of restoring the public's faith in the PAB, residents were asked a range of questions about the Board and its conduct.

City Councilmembers and staff also conducted several in-person public outreach sessions with community groups, taking feedback on the PAB and offering physical copies of the survey.

In this report, City Council details the results of the Police Accountability Board survey. Attached to this report is a copy of the distributed survey.

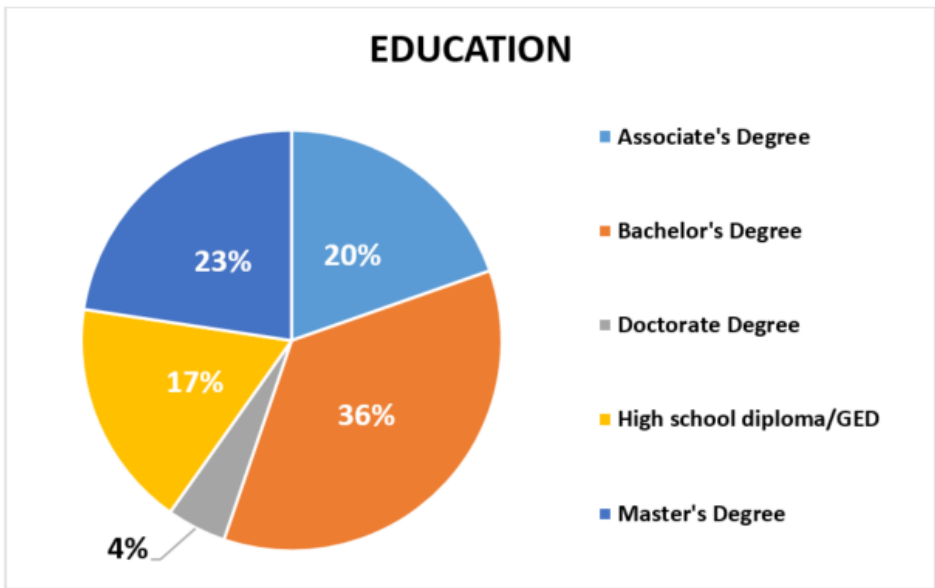
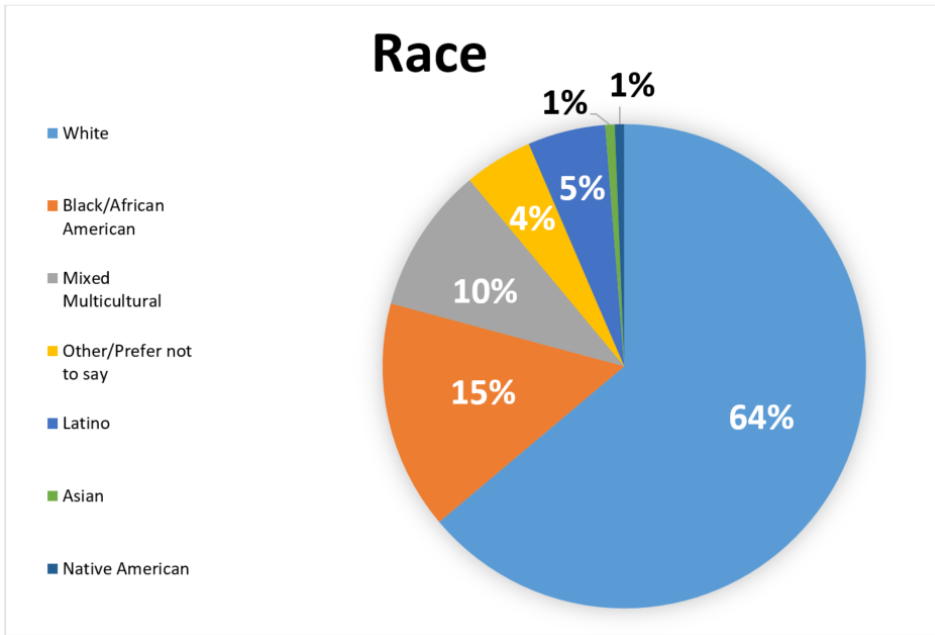
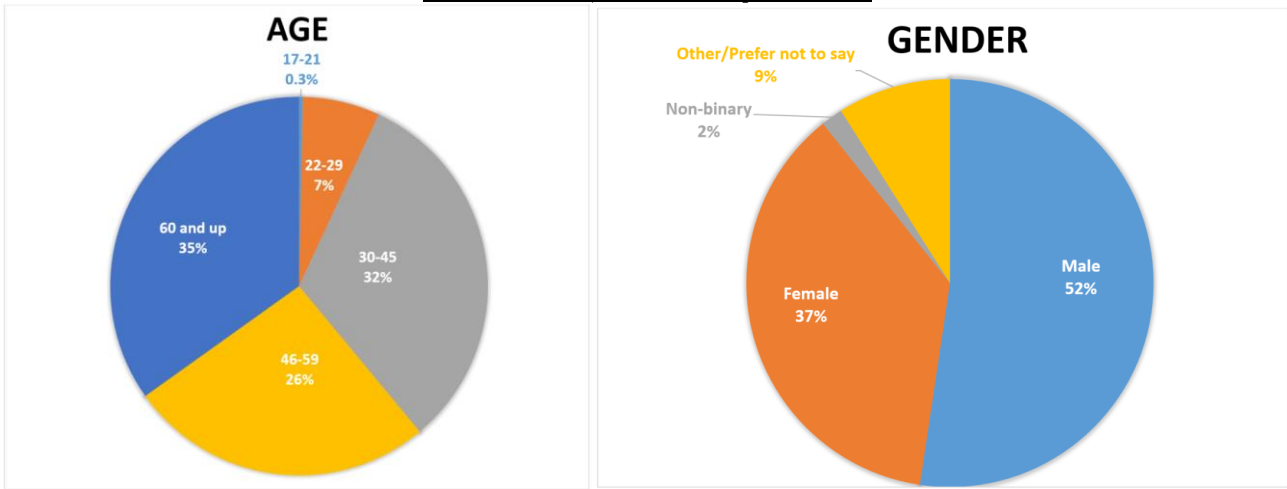
Survey Distribution

- The survey was announced via a press release, published on the City website, and shared on social media.
- The survey was also distributed to local press, neighborhood associations and business associations.
- The Neighborhood Service Center and Library staff were also made aware of the survey and provided a general overview to respondents with further questions.
- Physical copies of the survey were distributed to libraries, neighborhood service centers and local businesses.
- QR codes of the surveys were printed and distributed to Councilmembers and at the public input sessions.
- The survey was open for five weeks, from March 30 to May 5, 2023.
- 749 responses were filled out in total, but only responses filed by City residents are included in this report. All other survey responses were kept and organized in a chart which can be found on the City Council website.
 - 115 responses were filed by non-residents, leaving a database of 634 responses for this report. These responses are included in the attachment labeled **"PABData_OutsideCity"**

Demographics

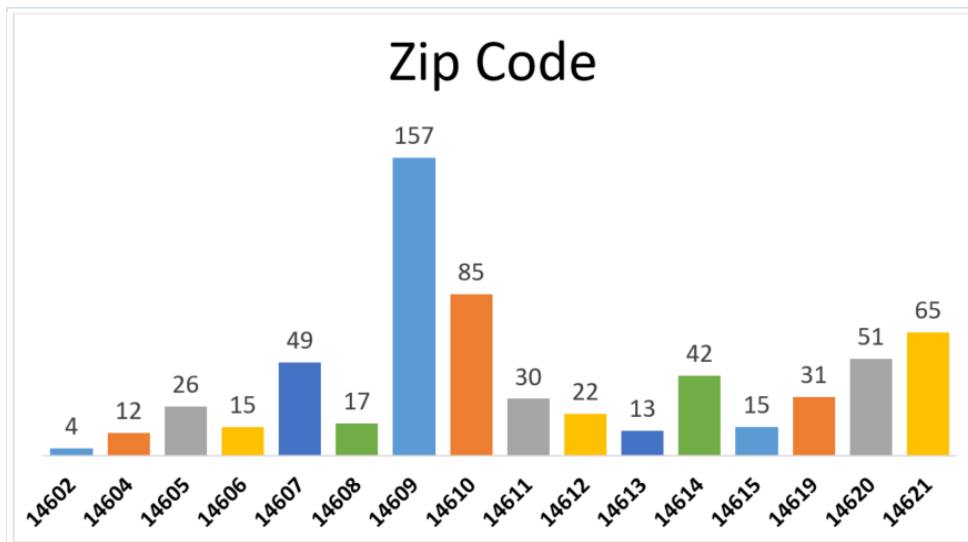
- The PAB Survey was completed by a group that spanned different age, gender educational and racial groups. City Council asked respondents for this information in order to better understand the way the Police Accountability Board is perceived across different groups in Rochester.
 - Age: Respondents ranging from the 17-21 age group to respondents over 60 were represented in the Survey.
 - Race: The Survey was answered by respondents from diverse racial backgrounds, including but not limited to: Black, Latino, Asian, Native American and White.
 - Gender: People who identify as male, female and non-binary were represented in Survey responses, in addition to a significant group who chose not to identify their gender.
 - Educational background: Respondents' education levels included high school and GED; Associates; Bachelor's; Master's; and Doctoral degrees.

Demographic Responses



Zip Code

- The Survey was completed by respondents from across Rochester, representing 16 Zip Codes within the City.
- There were 115 respondents who do not live in a City Zip Code. Those responses were logged and saved separately from City respondents. To see non-City responses, visit the City Council website.



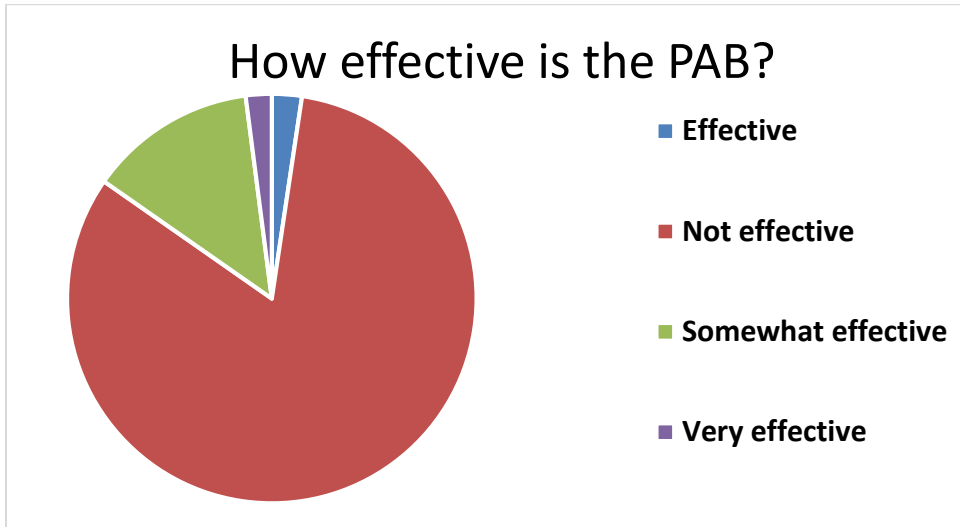
Outreach Presentations

- City Council staff developed a short PowerPoint presentation, given at seven in-person community outreach meetings with local neighborhood committees across the City's four Districts.
- Meetings were held with the Latinx Roundtable, Plymouth-Exchange Neighborhood Association; 19th Ward Community Association; Neighborhood Presidents' Meeting; Atlantic, Culver, East Main Neighborhood Association; Seneca Towers Tenant Association; and Charlotte Community Association.
- Copies of the presentation were provided to the Neighborhood Service Center and Public Library staff. Printed copies were brought and handed out at each public input session.
- QR codes linked to the survey were on each table in the room, and participants were offered physical copies.

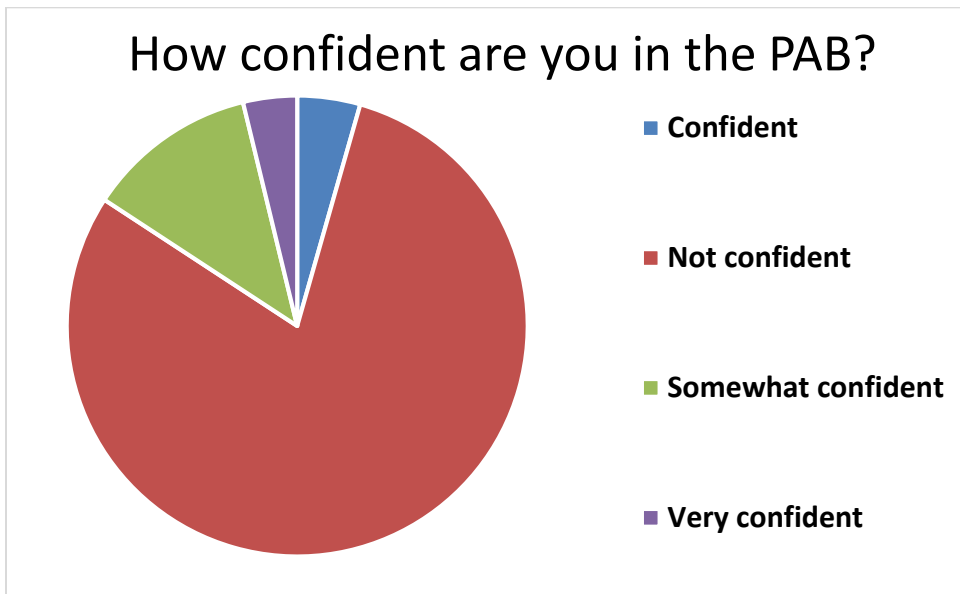
Survey Questions

- Survey respondents were asked to complete a series of nine questions about the Police Accountability Board. The first six questions were multiple choice, with the final three soliciting respondents for their written thoughts on the PAB.
- Multiple choice responses are represented below as numerical data. Long-form answers are represented as a set of key takeaways and common themes among responses. A separate document including every full response received by City Council is attached to the end of this report.

Multiple Choice Responses

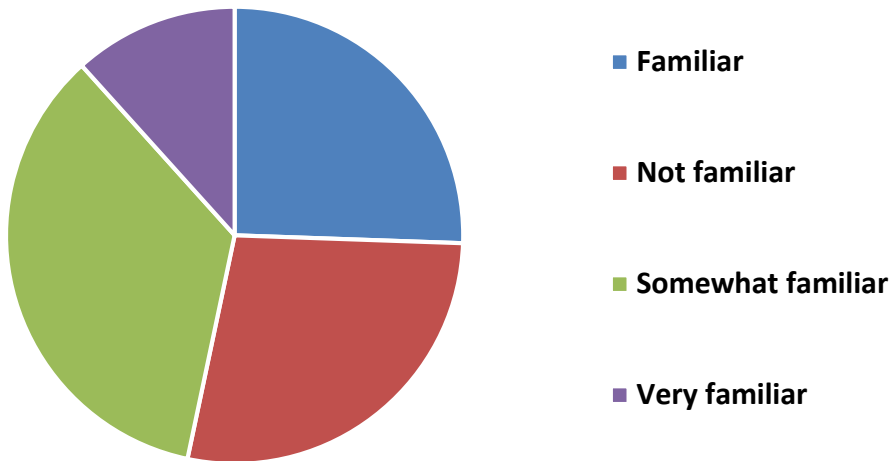


- Question 1: How effective do you think the PAB has been at holding the RPD accountable
 - Responses:
 - 1: Effective: 15
 - 2: Not Effective: 522
 - 3: Somewhat Effective: 84
 - 4: Very Effective: 13



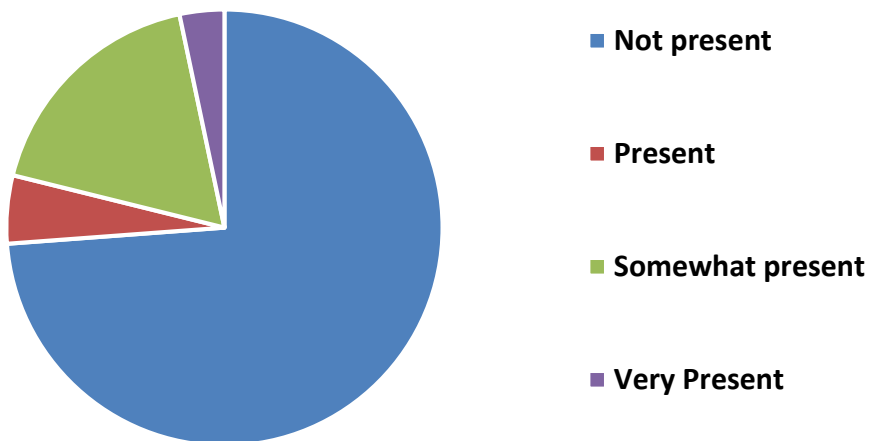
- Question 2: How much confidence do you have in the PAB's ability to carry out its mission
 - Responses:
 - Confident: 2
 - Not Confident: 506
 - Somewhat Confident: 76
 - Very Confident: 24

Are you familiar with the reporting process?



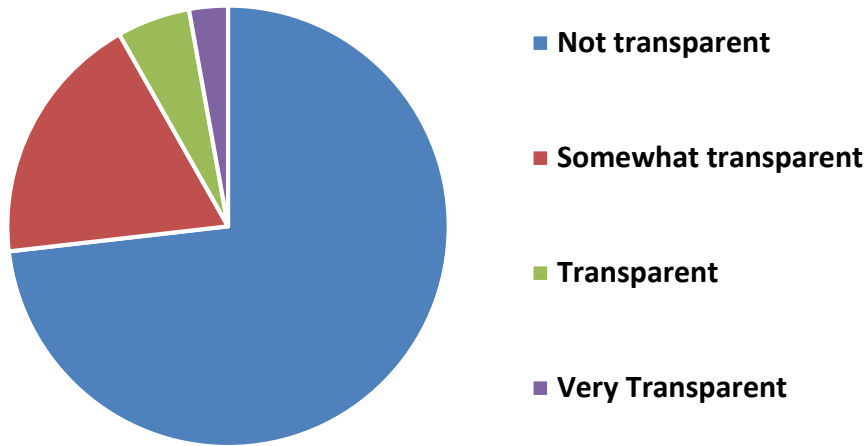
- Question 3: How familiar are you with the PAB Complaint/Reporting process
 - Responses:
Familiar: 162
Not Familiar: 176
Somewhat Familiar: 222
Very Familiar: 74

Is the PAB active in the community?



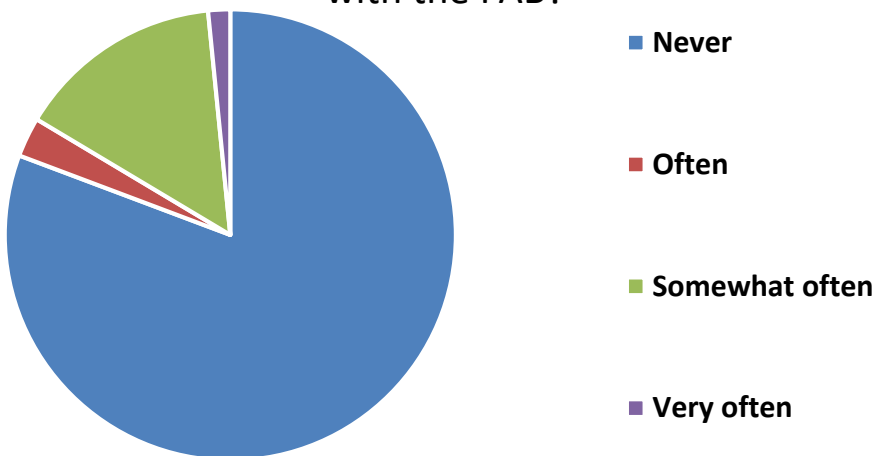
- Question 4: Do you feel the PAB has an active presence in the community it serves?
 - Responses:
Not present: 468
Present: 32
Somewhat Present: 113
Very Present: 21

How transparent is the PAB?



- Question 5: How transparent do you feel the PAB is to the public?
 - Responses:
Not Transparent: 464
Somewhat Transparent: 118
Transparent: 34
Very Transparent: 18

How often have you recently interacted with the PAB?



- Question 6: In the past twelve months, how often have you engaged with the PAB?
 - Responses:
Never: 511
Often: 18
Somewhat Often: 2
Very Often: 8

Long Answer Responses

Please see attachment labeled “**PAB Long Responses – City**” to read all long answer responses received.

- Question 7: Please note any current PAB practices that you would like to see continue and/or expand.
 - Responses: 152
 - Takeaways:
 - The most common responses suggested either dissolving the Police Accountability Board or indicating that none of its practices should expand or continue.
 - A number of responses indicated that the PAB should focus on its stated purpose and avoid distractions such as infighting and “fluff.”
 - Other responses indicated the PAB should work more diligently to communicate effectively with the community and increase transparency.
 - Some respondents indicated they would like to see the powers of the PAB expand to allow the Board to discipline RPD officers.

- Question 8: Please suggest any improvements you would like to see in the PAB.
 - Responses: 163
 - Takeaways:
 - The most common responses suggested disbanding, abolishing or defunding the Police Accountability Board
 - A large number of responses urged the PAB to become more transparent and communicate more effectively with the public.
 - A number of respondents called for the PAB to be restructured, or to have its employees more stringently vetted.
 - Many responses urged the PAB to halt infighting and focus on the work the Board is charged with performing in the City Charter.

- Question 9: Please note any further questions or comments.
 - Responses: 99
 - Takeaways:
 - Responses to this question were overwhelmingly negative.
 - Many respondents characterized the PAB as a “waste” and called for the PAB to be defunded or disbanded.
 - Others noted that the PAB was established with good intention, but said it has been dysfunctional in practice.
 - Some respondents called for City Council to fill vacant PAB seats.

Main Takeaways

The Police Accountability Survey has provided valuable information to City Council, which will be taken into consideration as Council continues to work to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the PAB. Below are some major takeaways from the Survey:

- Confidence in the Police Accountability Board is low among a majority of the Survey respondents.
- Respondents overwhelmingly found the PAB to be:
 - Ineffective
 - Lacking in community engagement
 - Opaque
- A vast majority of respondents indicated they have never personally interacted with the PAB.
- Over 25% of respondents indicated they were not familiar with the PAB.
- A large number of long-form responses included calls to disband or defund the PAB.
- A plurality of responses came from the 14609 area code, located in Rochester's Northeast District.
- The majority of respondents were male.
- The majority of Respondents were white.
- A plurality of respondents were over the age of 60.
- Most respondents had an education level of at least a Bachelor's degree.

*****PLEASE NOTE: The Survey is non-scientific and was conducted by the Rochester City Council Office in order to gauge public sentiment regarding the PAB*****