



## OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITOR

March 15, 2010- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **THE INDEPENDENT MONITOR ANNOUNCES THE ISSUANCE OF ITS 2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Office of the Independent Monitor (OIM) publicly released its 2009 Annual Report on Monday, March 15, 2010. The report details investigations of 2009 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***

The OIM rolled out to 10 incidents in 2009. Specifically, the Monitor's Office rolled out to three DPD officer-involved shootings and two DPD in-custody deaths in 2009. In addition, the OIM also rolled out to the County Jail for the one suicide and four medical deaths that occurred during the course of the year. All Internal Affairs (IA) investigations into these incidents were actively monitored by the OIM.

There were three officer-involved shooting incidents in 2009. The number of shootings continues a downward trend from 11 in 2006, 7 in 2007, and 6 in 2008.

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

Citizen complaints against DPD officers increased slightly from 605 in 2008 to 622 in 2009.

One DPD officer was ordered terminated by the Manager of Safety, one was demoted, seven officers resigned or retired while disciplinary decisions were pending, and ten 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, six Deputies were ordered terminated by the Manager of Safety and two Deputies resigned prior to the issuance of a disciplinary order. In addition, eight

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-** During the course of 2009, the Monitor recommended that the Manager of Safety and Director of Corrections immediately implement a policy of presumptive termination for any Sheriff Deputy who is sustained for “Commission of a Deceptive Act.” The Manager of Safety, however, has chosen to wait until the adoption of the new Sheriff matrix before making such a violation subject to the penalty of presumptive termination.

**2. POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY CHANGE REGARDING IDENTIFYING OFFICERS INVOLVED IN REFERRALS TO “DENVER CARES” DETOX CENTER-** At the request of the Monitor’s Office, the Police Department created a new process to assist Internal Affairs investigators in identifying officers involved in complaints from community members who were detained and sent to the Denver Cares Detoxification Center.

**3. POLICE DEPARTMENT LIMITS DISCRETION BY VICE UNIT-** At the request of the Monitor’s Office, the Police Department’s Vice Unit adopted policy changes to ensure officers who are identified as having been involved in unlawful vice or narcotics activities are held accountable by the Department and through the criminal justice system.

**4. 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 asked that District command staff familiarize themselves with these issues as well.

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

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