

Summary of Mischaracterizations by Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty on Think Out Loud and the Commissioner and others during the Portland Committee on Community-engaged Policing virtual townhall.

There's no way to make a bad system good.

City Council amends policies and programs every week to improve them, and the police oversight system is no different. Ours is not a bad system but one that can and should be improved. Independent Police Review is only one part of the accountability process, so calling it the "IPR system" is misleading.

Independent Police Review was meant to be placeholder.

It was created in 2001 has been assigned to the Auditor's Office with the Auditor's consent since then. The City [Code](#) has also been amended several times over those nearly two decades, most substantively by former Auditor LaVonne Griffin-Valade. Its formation was the result of a stakeholder workgroup convened by Mayor Katz in 2000. That group produced a [majority report](#) and a [minority report](#). The ~~majority~~ minority report said some ideas were not adopted because they were not researched or supported by evidence.

Independent Police Review is not truly independent.

It is located in the Office of the Auditor, who is the sixth elected official in the City of Portland. The Auditor's Office is independent from other elected officials except for budget and answers only to the public. The Auditor's Office is advancing steps to increase Independent Police Review's ability to directly access Police Bureau data and documents and hold officer interviews without Internal Affairs' assistance. Some of those steps require changes to City Code and state law.

Independent Police Review does not conduct investigations.

We conduct preliminary evidence-gathering for all community complaints and complete about one-third of full investigations. We monitor and sign-off on the remaining investigations, which are conducted by Internal Affairs.

Independent Police Review does not interview officers.

Officers are required in City Code to appear for our interviews, and they do. If an officer does not participate truthfully in an Independent Police Review interview, they will be disciplined.

Discipline is not good enough.

Discipline decisions are made by the Police Commissioner, not Independent Police Review or the 11-member volunteer Citizen Review Committee.