

CPOC April 2026 Complaint Referral Report

Prepared May 15, 2026

Overview

In April 2026, CPOC received 36 complaints of police misconduct and referred them to the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) Internal Affairs Division (IAD).

Disclaimer

Summaries of the 36 complaints from April 2026 are below. All demographic data is reported by complainants. These complaints represent only those submitted directly to CPOC and do not include those filed directly with PPD.

These summaries include allegations made by complainants; they do not represent any findings of fact or conclusions.

Complaint Summaries

Date Received	Demographics	Division	Summary
04/02/2026	M - B/AA	East	The complainant was approached by four officers in a Chinese store. One officer activated their body-worn camera and asked the complainant to lift his shirt to see if he was in possession of weapons. The complainant told the officer they were not allowed to do that. The officer told the complainant he was getting "emotional". The complainant is very frustrated with the situation and shared that he has been stopped like this twice now in the last 40 days. He feels that what the PPD is doing is illegal and that it's not just these officers who are doing it. He believes it is the entire PPD system and policy that is flawed and illegal.
04/06/2026	M - B/AA	Central	The complainant was stopped by police, and the officers approached the vehicle with their guns drawn and told him to get out of the car. He got out of the car with his hands up, and then an officer ran towards him and slammed him to the ground. Then the officer picked him up again and slammed him again on the ground. After that, he was picked up by his neck and waistband and thrown face-first into a car. The

			complainant was placed in handcuffs and then placed inside a patrol car. Later, he was placed in a different patrol car, transported to the hospital, and then to the district for processing.
04/06/2026	M, NB/TG – B/AA	Central	Police were called to deal with a rowdy bar patron. The complainant observed that a friend of the unruly patron was filming the interaction. An officer walked up, smacked the phone to the ground, and scratched the friend in the face. This person screamed, "Why did you hit me? I'm calling my dad." The complainant understood the person's father to be a police officer. The officer antagonized the person and yelled their badge number at them. This individual was then detained after calling their father and taunting the officer. The complainant observed that the person was eventually released after being held in the wagon.
04/07/2026	F – B/AA	South West	The complainant's son was at a playground with family members when an officer approached them. The officer walked up and asked, "What do you have on you?" and immediately patted down the outside of his clothing without consent. The son stated that the officer did not provide a reason for patting him down or explain why he was engaging with him. The officer argued with him and his aunt for a prolonged period of time and made comments such as "I want you, I'm gonna get you", and "This is gonna keep happening until I get you". The complainant shared that this officer has been continuously harassing her son and members of his family.
04/07/2026	M – W	Central	<p>The complainant was in a store changing room, trying on clothing in an undressed state, when a PPD officer and a store security guard barged into the room. The complainant asked if the officer's body-worn camera was on and asked what they were doing in this fitting room. The officer said, "Your bag," and pointed to his bag in the corner. The complainant asked whether the officer needed to search it, and the officer said no. The officer told him, "Get dressed, they want you out of here". The officer left the door open and watched the complainant get dressed. The officer did not provide their name when asked by the complainant.</p> <p>The complainant attempted to file a complaint at the district, but was told there were no forms left. They were told they could go to the scene of the incident and call for a supervisor</p>

			to come and file their complaint. The complainant called 911 five times and waited for about two hours to file their complaint. Store security, along with three additional officers, then escorted the complainant off the premises.
04/07/2026	F - B/AA	South West	The complainant's son was pulled over by police, the same officers with whom he had an incident from a prior arrest, which is still an open case. The son asked the officers why he was pulled over, but was not provided an answer. Officers stated the vehicle was not registered and could be towed; the car had just been purchased. The son was removed from the vehicle by being forcibly grabbed by the arm. The son asked why he was being detained. Officers stated that the car is not registered and that the plates were registered to a different vehicle. The officers frisked the vehicle without consent. The son was released and asked again why the officer said the vehicle was not registered, even though they had been presented with the "pink slip" from the vehicle's purchase, which should keep the vehicle valid for 90 days. The officer continued to say that the car was not registered, and they could tow it. The complainant feels her son is being targeted and his rights were violated.
04/07/2026	Anonymous	Central	The complainant reported they personally observed and are aware of incidents involving an officer being intoxicated in public and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence. There are photos and videos on social media as evidence.
04/07/2026	Anonymous	Central	The complainant is being harassed by several officers due to their identity and because they have a case against another officer. Officers have attempted to acquire sensitive information about the complainant, like their HIV status.
04/09/2026	M - AI/AN, B/AA	North West	The complainant was experiencing an illegal lockout by their landlord and called the police for service. Two unknown individuals were present at the property, believed to be working for the landlord, and had gutted the home, taking pipes and wires, as well as personal property, such as electronics. The complainant said that after speaking with the two unknown individuals, one of the officers approached him, saying he "had no business being there" and "he doesn't look like a person could live there." The complainant also shared that this officer continuously made comments that questioned his living situation and implied he was a criminal.

04/09/2026	F - B/AA	East	<p>The complainant was walking on the street on the phone. She ended the call and put the phone in her pocket. An officer approached her with their hand on their gun. The officer yelled, "Is that a firearm? Are you licensed to carry?" The officer then drew their gun from the holster. The complainant explained that it was just her phone, and the officer told her to be more careful and walked away. The complainant was left deeply shaken by this incident and felt that the officer needlessly escalated the situation and put her life at risk over the phone.</p>
04/09/2026	F	North East	<p>The complainant had a phone call with an officer that escalated. The officer said dismissive things like "doing this for 20 years" and that the officer "knows the law," while asserting that the complainant "knows nothing." The complainant added that she kept her tone cool and professional while the officer did not. The call almost led her to cry.</p>
04/10/2026	F - B/AA, H/L	Central	<p>The complainant went to the district to request service. The complainant feels officers misled her and coerced her into filing a police report that resulted in her partner being arrested.</p>
04/10/2026	TF - W	Central	<p>The complainant was shopping in a convenience store when they were stopped by a police officer after checking out. The officer asked if they had stolen from the store. The complainant felt targeted and profiled by the officer, as they are a tall Trans woman.</p>
04/12/2026	F - B/AA	North West	<p>While the complainant was driving, they were rear-ended by another driver near an intersection. The complainant began to exchange information with the other driver when they observed signs that the driver may be intoxicated, including the smell of alcohol. Police arrived at the accident scene. The complainant explained to one officer that she could smell alcohol on the other driver, and the driver admitted to drinking. The officer ignored her concerns.</p> <p>The complainant again explained her observations and told the officer that the other driver was likely impaired. They shared that they themselves are a police officer from a neighboring township to attempt to further validate her observations. The officer continued to be dismissive and didn't fully investigate.</p>

04/14/2026	M - W	Central	The complainant requested service to report an individual who is threatening and harassing his family. The officer failed to investigate and was dismissive during their interaction.
04/14/2026	F - B/AA	Phone	The father of the complainant's child physically abused the child, and the complainant reported this to the police. The officer investigating the case unnecessarily delayed the process, causing several issues, including the loss of digital evidence. The detective was also rude and dismissive to the complainant. The complainant feels the officer did not properly investigate her case.
04/15/2026	F - B/AA	North West	The complainant was illegally evicted by her landlord. The complainant explained to the officers that she had a lease, but they didn't ask her any questions. The landlord asked the police officers to retrieve the house key from the complainant, and they complied, taking it from the complainant. Following the incident, the complainant went to the police station and spoke with the officers, who were dismissive. The complainant went to court and was granted permission to re-enter the property.
04/16/2026	M - W	North East	The complainant received an improper citation for their vehicle after it was illegally towed by police. They believe this is a form of retaliation by their neighbor, a retired officer.
04/17/2026	F - B/AA	Central	The complainant's ex-boyfriend's new girlfriend started a physical altercation with the complainant. The complainant didn't engage with or fight back because she didn't want to go to jail. During the altercation outside of Family Court, multiple officers were present who did not intervene, neither during nor after the physical altercation.
04/19/2026	M - B/AA	East	The complainant was side-swiped by another driver while driving their vehicle. They attempted to follow the other driver to get their insurance information. The complainant was then stopped by multiple officers. The officers repeatedly asked if the complainant had a weapon, to which he replied that he did not. The officers instructed him to turn off his vehicle and exit. The complainant alerted the officers that he did not feel comfortable due to the number of officers surrounding the vehicle. Officers forced entry into his vehicle and detained him. The complainant continued to explain that he was the victim of a hit-and-run. While detained, officers searched his vehicle without his consent. After being released, the complainant asked for the officers' names and badge numbers. They were mostly dismissive

			and threatened to tow his vehicle. The officer stated he would be getting a citation for improper window tint. However, the complainant believes the vehicle meets all state law requirements.
04/19/2026	NB/TG – AI/AN, B/AA	East	Police responded to a wellness check for the complainant. There were an overwhelming number of officers, and the complainant felt they did not help to de-escalate the situation.
04/20/2026	F – B/AA	East	The complainant was the victim of a car accident. The complainant was told that PPD had been pursuing the driver of a stolen vehicle and had allegedly committed an aggravated assault on police. The complainant was told by one officer that she could call a private towing company and leave the scene. When her tow truck arrived, the operator told her police would not allow them to tow her car. She spoke with a new officer who told her they were now in control of the scene. This officer informed her that she could no longer leave and that the vehicle might be kept as evidence. The complainant spoke with her mechanic and reviewed applicable law and believed she had a right to remove her vehicle. The officer acted very intimidatingly, asked the complainant if she had a firearm, and demanded her keys. The complainant felt this officer was unprofessional and dismissive. She eventually retrieved her vehicle after police released it, stating they no longer needed it as evidence.
04/20/2026	M – not listed	Central	The complainant observed officers parked in the bike lane getting food from a food truck. This created a hazard for bicyclists to travel safely and is a parking violation.
04/21/2026	M – W	North East	Police entered the complainant's home without his consent, and he believes they did not have the proper warrant or authorization to do so.
04/21/2026	M – W	North East	The complainant is in the midst of a dispute with his neighbor. Police have been called to his house on several occasions, and he feels the neighbor has a connection at PPD and is using the police to harass him.
04/23/2026	F – B/AA	Central	The complainant's car was vandalized by her neighbors. This escalated into a physical altercation with her neighbor. When the officers arrived, they claimed the complainant had a knife, which she denied. She felt the officers listened to the neighbor, but did not take her story seriously. She claimed

			that without significant investigation, she was forcibly pushed onto a gate, handcuffed tightly, and improperly arrested.
04/23/2026	M – B/AA	South	The complainant was pulled over by police. He asked why he was being pulled over, stated he did not feel safe, and requested that a supervisor be called. The officer ignored his request and demanded that the complainant get out of his vehicle, saying, “Either get out of the car, or I’ll drag you out of the car.” The complainant complied, walked to the back of the vehicle, and placed his hands on the trunk, following the officer’s commands. The vehicle’s passenger was then requested to step out of the car, and the vehicle was searched without consent. After the officer made passive-aggressive, antagonistic remarks to the complainant, the officer released the complainant and told him he could leave. The complainant again asked why he was being pulled over, but the officer still did not provide a reason. The officer assured the complainant that he’d receive a ticket in the mail detailing the reason he was being pulled over.
04/23/2026	M – not listed	Central	The complainant is dealing with an ongoing landlord/tenant issue. Their tenant is a police officer whom they attempted to legally evict for nonpayment of rent. Police told the complainant they would not evict the officer since he is a “Vet with PTSD”. During a later interaction, this tenant officer approached the complainant’s workers, asked for their IDs, and repeatedly said, “Immigration is coming.” This created distress and fear for the workers. The complainant feels the officer is using their authority to intimidate his workers as a form of retaliation for being evicted.
04/24/2026	F – B/AA	South West	The complainant is dealing with an illegal eviction by their landlord. The complainant’s daughter later called the police for service, and the officer was verbally abusive and threatened her by telling her they would “lock her up” and arrest her if she didn’t leave the premises.
04/24/2026	Not listed	Central	The complainant observed a police vehicle illegally parking in the bike lane.
04/25/2026	Anonymous	Outside Philly	The complainant witnessed an officer publicly intoxicated and overheard the officer talking about driving while drunk.
04/25/2026	F – B/AA	Central	The complainant was standing on the sidewalk holding take-out food, waiting for friends. An officer walked by and knocked the complainant’s food out of their hand, causing it

			to spill all over the ground. The officer accused the complainant of smoking marijuana. The complainant believes the officer misgendered her as a black man and profiled her.
04/25/2026	M - B/AA	Central	The complainant was counterprotesting, and an officer told him he was not allowed to use amplified sound, as he did not have a permit. The officer was rude and dismissive.
04/29/2026	M - H/L	East	The complainant's neighbor's dog escaped and bit a family member and their dog. The complainant called 911 for police service. The officer made the complainant and the family member who was bitten return to the scene of the incident. The neighbor was being verbally abusive and insensitive. The situation escalated, and an officer only escalated it more, threatening the family member with arrest.
04/30/2026	F - B/AA	South West	The complainant and her husband were pulled over by the police. The complainant's husband asked the officer why the stop occurred. The officer informed them that he had not used his turn signal properly. After some time, the husband asked the officer if they could issue a citation so they could be on their way. The officer became upset and verbally abusive, so the husband requested a supervisor. The situation escalated with the officer even pointing their firearm at the complainant's husband. More officers responded to the scene. The complainant and her husband were detained, and their vehicle was searched. The police towed their vehicle for an expired emission sticker and refused to allow them to retrieve their belongings. While waiting for the tow truck, the officer was rude and dismissive.
04/30/2026	F - B/AA	East	The complainant reported being raped to the police. Officers were rude and dismissive and did not provide service.

- Date received refers to the date the complainant filed their complaint with CPOC.
- Demographics refer to the gender, race and ethnicity of the individual filing the complaint.
- Division refers to the police division where the incident occurred.
- Summary is the summary of the complaint against police made by the complainant.