

# PAB will still investigate police misconduct

## Board facing new lawsuit from union in Rochester

**Kayla Canne**

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The Police Accountability Board said it will continue to investigate community complaints of police misconduct despite a new lawsuit from Rochester's police union.

The Rochester Police Locust Club claims a state Court of Appeals decision

that stripped the PAB of its disciplinary powers last year also abolished its ability to investigate RPD officers accused of wrongdoing. In a lawsuit filed earlier this month, the Locust Club accused the oversight agency of illegally releasing the results of 31 PAB investigations this fall.

The PAB and the Locust Club have had a contentious relationship since the inception of the oversight agency in 2019.

"The suit recently filed by the Locust Club against the City challenges the core functions of the PAB, as approved by the voters and City Council," the PAB said in

a statement. "The Court of Appeals decision on PAB disciplinary power did not diminish our ability to investigate complaints of police misconduct. Our commitment to ensuring transparency and accountability continues, and we will defend our mission to uphold civilian oversight in the face of this latest legal challenge."

The PAB's charter included some of the broadest oversight powers in the country, including the ability to investigate, compel witnesses and make public its findings on complaints of police misconduct. Many of those roles have been

challenged by the city's own lawyers over the last year.

The Locust Club has asked the state Supreme Court to determine which sections of the agency's charter were invalidated by the Court of Appeals decision — and which portions are still in effect.

*Kayla Canne covers community safety for the Democrat and Chronicle, with a focus on police accountability, government surveillance and how people are impacted by violence. Follow her on Twitter @kaylacanne and @bykaylacanne on Instagram. Get in touch at kcanne@gannett.com.*