

# Community Engagement Quarterly Report

## Quarter 2, 2016

Within 240 days of the Effective Date, NOPD agrees to develop measurements to assess the effectiveness of its community partnerships and problem-solving strategies, including the effectiveness of the Community Coordinating Sergeant program. NOPD agrees to prepare a publicly available report on at least a quarterly basis detailing its community policing efforts in each District, including developing community partnerships and participating in public meetings, and its problem-solving activities, including specific problems addressed and steps taken by NOPD and the community toward their resolution. This report also shall identify obstacles faced and recommendations for future improvement. At least annually, NOPD agrees to issue a publicly available report that summarizes these problem-solving and community policing activities. [Consent Decree ¶228]

The purpose of this report is to assess the effectiveness of NOPD's community partnership and problem-solving strategies in accordance with Consent Decree paragraph 228.

### Key Definitions

**Centralized Community Coordinator (CCC)** — The Centralized Community Coordinator is a lieutenant responsible for the management, coordination and organization of citywide community policing efforts, as well as interacting with the community in formal and informal settings, including meetings and presentations. The CCC works with various City agencies, serving as a liaison in community engagement efforts.

**New Orleans Neighborhood Police Anti-Crime Council (NONPACC)** — The New Orleans Neighborhood Police Anti-Crime Council meetings occur monthly and are attended by the District Commander and other district personnel. The meetings facilitate conversations regarding neighborhood crime concerns and crime prevention strategies.

**Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB)** — Each District is assisted by a Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB). The PCAB consists of seven citizen volunteers from their respective police Districts. PCAB members serve a two-year term and meet quarterly to address crime and quality of life issues.

**School Resource Officer (SRO)** — A school resource officer is a designated officer within a District who provides specific support to schools. The SRO helps school officials cope with school violence and assists in creating a safe and conducive learning environment in public schools. The SRO is not a school disciplinarian. The SRO is a law enforcement officer, educator, and counselor.

**Quality of Life (QOL) Issues** — Quality of life issues include the following:

- Roads, Drainage;
- Code Enforcement Violations;
- Trash, Recycling;
- Abandoned Vehicles;
- Grass, Tree Service, Park Maintenance;
- Street Lights, Signs, Signals;

- Mosquito, Termite, Rodent Control;
- Taxis;
- Health Related Questions; and
- Recreation programs.

**Community Partnerships** – Collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police.

### Department Wide Community Engagement

Officers participate in events facilitated by their respective Districts; officers also participate in community events which the entire Department is invited to attend. See below.

*Interfaith Committee Meeting:* Chief Michael Harrison meets quarterly with a group of local pastors to discuss policing issues and community relations.

*Ninjas vs. COPS:* NOPD participated in a community event with XS martial arts DOJO, including a padded sword fight. This event provided an opportunity for officers to interact positively with children in the community.

*Citizen's Police Academy:* Thirty citizens learned about community policing, patrol duties, new technologies, specialized divisions, crime lab and more.

*Consent Decree Meetings:* NOPD hosted eight community meetings updating the community on Consent Decree progress.

*New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) Camp Kick Off:* Chief Harrison participated in the kick off activities of NOPD camps.

*Anti-Violence Walk:* NOPD participated in an anti-crime walk with the Mothers Taking a Stand organization.

*Movies in the Park:* Chief Harrison and other members of the Second District participated in the New Orleans Recreation Development commission's (NORDC) Movies in the Park event at Carver Playground. The purpose of the event was to interact with the community and answer any police-related questions.

*Power Ties Program:* The NOPD's Special Operations Division and Chief Harrison hosted 15 eighth graders from schools across the city as part of the Power Ties program. The NOPD is one of several organizations across the city that hosted teenagers for the day and taught them about the police profession.

*Anti-Crime Walk:* Chief Harrison and members of the NOPD Second District participated in a neighborhood crime walk.

*Job Corps Event "Partners 4 Peace Rally":* Chief Harrison kicked off the New Orleans Job Corps Center's second annual "Partners 4 Peace Rally." The event promotes students being a part of the solution to

violence in New Orleans. Job Corp participants, ages 17-24, and eighth graders from a local junior high school attended the event.

*Coffee with Cops:* The purpose of this monthly event is to bring members of our community together with officers across the city to build better community relationships. The Department intends to host this every other month on a Saturday to provide community members and officers an opportunity to meet and enjoy a free cup of coffee together.

*Candle Light Vigil:* A prayer vigil was held in honor of the one-year anniversary of the death of fallen NOPD Officer Daryle Holloway. Officer Holloway was a 22-year veteran of the NOPD who was tragically killed in the line of duty on June 20, 2015. The vigil included a candle lighting and a balloon release, and friends of the Holloway family attended.

*Sexual Assault Panel Discussion:* Sex crimes detectives participated in a panel discussion on sexual assaults at Algiers Technology Academy.

### Community Partnerships

The Department has developed multiple formal and informal partnerships with the community. Below are some of the partnerships developed and active in the second quarter.

#### *First District- Community Mediation Services Partnership*

In the first quarter of 2016, the First District partnered with Community Mediation Services to help facilitate a listening group between the Department and the community. The First District Commander, administrative sergeant, and a school resource officer met with Community Mediation Services, representatives from St. Peter Claver church, and community members to discuss a plan of action regarding implementation of a community listening session. The two implementation plans discussed were:

- To communicate with the community to receive recommendations regarding NOPD policies, and
- To hold small listening sessions that are not focused on policy changes, but on the necessity to support the community and how that can be accomplished.

In the second quarter of 2016, the First District continued developing its partnership with Community Mediation Services to help facilitate a listening group between the Department and the community to obtain ideas about how community might better engage with law enforcement.

Officers and community members within the focus group have been tasked with the following responsibilities:

- Police members of the focus group will identify police officers to participate in the listening group.
- Civilian members of the focus group will identify community leaders who can meet with NOPD group members.
- Civilian members of the focus group will draft a community survey.

The listening sessions are projected to start in the third quarter of this year.

#### *NORDC Partnership*

The New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC) and NOPD partnered this summer to form a Teen Basketball Sports League for youths 14-18 years old. Eight NOPD officers volunteer as coaches for youth sports teams across the city. Each team is scheduled to play one or two games per week.

#### *Victim-Witness EXPO Partnership*

The Victim Witness Unit partnered with several social service agencies to hold a Survivor Services Expo<sup>1</sup> hosted by the Child Advocacy Center. The Expo consisted of various information sharing strategies in which a manual was created and distributed to all agencies. This partnership ensures that all survivor services providers are aware of other programs in the city for referral.

The Victim Witness Unit provides many resources and services, including referrals to outside social services agencies and contacts community members involved in serious crimes, providing information about the various services available to the community. In the second quarter, the Unit made 679 contacts and 26 counselling referrals.

The Victim Witness Unit also participates in community events to bring awareness to the Unit and its services. In the second quarter, the Unit participated in the National Crime Victims' Rights the week of April 10, 2016, attending a Prayer vigil for victims of crime, a memorial service and a community health fair.

#### *Health Department Partnership*

Mayor Landrieu, the New Orleans Health Department and NOPD held its first NOLA FOR LIFE youth-police dialogue as part of an effort to engage with youth on violence prevention and help young people understand the role of NOPD in their communities. Youth-police dialogues provide participating youth with an opportunity to break down stereotypes, remove communication barriers, and build mutual respect and understanding. Students from the following New Orleans schools participated: Paul Habans Charter School, KIPP New Orleans Schools, St. Augustine High School, Crescent Leadership Academy, and ReNEW Accelerated High School. The dialogue took place at the Rosenwald Recreation Center at 1120 South Broad Street in the B.W. Cooper neighborhood.

#### *Public Safety Discussion*

NOPD and NOFD partnered to discuss public safety in the St. Roch neighborhood and provide residents with safety tips.

#### *Medicine Drop*

Event in which the community dropped off unwanted medications, no questions asked. Residents brought unused, expired, or unwanted drugs to the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI). A Drug Drop-Off box is located in the NOPD's Central Evidence &

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<sup>1</sup> NOPD agrees to develop and implement partnerships to provide immediate and ongoing support to families of victims of homicides and other serious crimes. Consent Decree ¶227.

Property (CE&P) facility. “This is a safe solution to disposing of unused and unneeded prescription drugs and keeping them out of the hands of people who could potentially harm themselves or others,” said NOPD Superintendent Michael Harrison.

## Community Policing and Problem-Solving

### *Tracking the Department’s Response to Quality of Life Issues*

In the second quarter of 2016, NOPD created a new call for service signal to track the Department’s response to quality of life issues. NOPD also implemented new strategies to reduce the amount of calls for service to which officers have to respond, with the goal of freeing up officers’ time so that they can engage with the community more during their shifts. These tracking mechanisms and new strategic initiatives are discussed below.

- In the second quarter, the Department responded to 532 situations classified under a 21Q signal, 301 of which were self-initiated items proactively addressed by the Department.

### *Facilitating Communication with the Community*

The Department created District email addresses to provide the community another option to communicate with their districts. The public can utilize these email addresses to inform the Department about issues in their neighborhood and community meetings and provide other feedback. The District email addresses are listed below:

- **1st District:** [nopd1stdistrict@nola.gov](mailto:nopd1stdistrict@nola.gov)
- **2nd District:** [nopd2niddistrict@nola.gov](mailto:nopd2niddistrict@nola.gov)
- **3rd District:** [nopd3rddistrict@nola.gov](mailto:nopd3rddistrict@nola.gov)
- **4th District:** [nopd4thdistrict@nola.gov](mailto:nopd4thdistrict@nola.gov)
- **5th District:** [nopd5thdistrict@nola.gov](mailto:nopd5thdistrict@nola.gov)
- **6th District:** [nopd6thdistrict@nola.gov](mailto:nopd6thdistrict@nola.gov)
- **7th District:** [nopd7thdistrict@nola.gov](mailto:nopd7thdistrict@nola.gov)
- **8th District:** [nopd8thdistrict@nola.gov](mailto:nopd8thdistrict@nola.gov)

### *The Assignment of a Centralized Community Coordinator*

The creation of the Centralized Community Coordinator (CCC) is integral to enhance community policing and problem-solving initiatives. The CCC provides an array of services to both the community and the Department to help incorporate community policing in all aspects of the Department’s operations and respond to the needs of the community. The CCC will track the District email addresses to ensure that the officers are engaging in problem-solving with every email. The CCC will also assess 21Q trends and work with the Department to recognize QOL issues that may need a problem-solving strategy to reduce the frequency of QOL issues. Additionally, the CCC will also help the Department develop a comprehensive community engagement plan that will help facilitate comprehensive, effective community policing and engagement.

In the second quarter, the CCC has facilitated many programs and partnerships between the community and NOPD as well as among different entities and the NOPD.

The CCC initiated the first citizen's academy since 2014. The Citizen's Academy is an eight-week interactive learning experience that provides participants with an insider's perspective on the NOPD and the criminal justice system.<sup>2</sup> Participants get to learn more about community policing, patrol duties, new technology the NOPD is utilizing, specialized divisions, and more.

The CCC also initiated a partnership between the New Orleans Health Department and the NOPD. Together, the Health Department and the NOPD held a "Youth Dialogue." Many schools participated in the Youth Dialogue event.

### Obstacles and Recommendations for all Districts

NOPD is working to develop additional tracking mechanisms for documenting community policing activities more consistently and thoroughly. Improving the collection of community engagement and policing data, reporting on this data in internal and external meetings, and utilizing this data to improve our community engagement and policing are critical goals for NOPD in 2016 as we strive to improve our partnerships with the community and our community engagement efforts.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nola.gov/nopd/community-services/citizen-s-police-academy/>