

# Community Engagement Quarterly Report

## Quarter 3, 2017

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

**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.

**Community Partnerships** — Collaborative problem-solving activities and engagement activities between the Department and the individuals and organizations the Department serves to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police.

## Findings

### **NOPD Community and Youth Engagements Partnerships and Events**

Per Consent Decree ¶448(c), the Department shall provide collection and analysis of community engagement including the number and variety of community partnerships, including particular partnerships with youth.

In the third quarter of 2017, the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) participated in 35 partnerships. NOPD partnership participants include city agencies, civic groups, neighborhood associations, and many more. The purpose of NOPD partnerships are to engage with the community and youth, and to problem-solve with the community to address crime and quality of life issues. Many of the partnership activities listed below can be reviewed on Nopdnews.com, NOPD's YouTube page, or NOPD's District Facebook pages.

The partnerships and events are listed below.

1. **Strive NOLA:** The Superintendent invited Strive NOLA Cohort 15 to NOPD on July 25, 2017. Strive NOLA is an economic opportunity program that connects disadvantaged job seekers to businesses and new opportunities. Many NOPD leaders presented to the group. Chief Paul Noel, Deputy Superintendent of the Field Operations Bureau (FOB), and his staff provided an overview of police operations and how technology is playing an important role in the 21<sup>st</sup> century NOPD. From there, the group was joined by Chief John Thomas who spoke about the logistics of running a Department and employment opportunities at NOPD.

Lt. Jonette Williams discussed community policing and engagement and led a dialogue discussion on police-community interactions. Cmd. Doug Eckert discussed the homicide investigation process.

Participants then were invited to lunch with the Superintendent at Café Reconcile. The Superintendent chose the location because of the importance of the workforce development nonprofit's work in the City. Participants and the Superintendent spoke for two hours discussing leadership, goal setting, police-community interactions, and job opportunities.

Participants then spent the rest of the day with Lieutenants, Sergeants, and officers at the Sixth District Station. They discussed roles at the district level and how what was discussed at FOB translates to a District. They also discussed community policing and engagement, police-community interactions, and how to improve communication between the community and police.

2. Interfaith Committee Meeting: Chief Michael Harrison meets quarterly with a group of local pastors to discuss policing issues and community relations.
3. Coffee with Cops: Officers and citizens participated in Coffee with Cops on September 16, 2017. Coffee with Cops is a partnership between local McDonald's franchises and the Department. Coffee with Cops is a new community policing program, launched in June 2016 that aims to bring together police officers and the communities they serve. Coffee with Cops is held every other month in various districts on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Attendees have an opportunity to meet with neighborhood patrol officers and enjoy a free cup of coffee.
4. "What's Going On?": The New Orleans branch of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and the Black Organization of Police partnered to host a community-police dialogue concerning the relationship between the police, the community and the black male.
5. Wild Wayne (Q93) Youth Summer Camp: NOPD participated in the "The Police and Youth" presentation in July, 2017.
6. Career Week: Second District Commander Shaun Ferguson and Officer Robert Ponson presented at First Step Summer Camp on Law Enforcement Day.
7. Community Meeting Outreach: Third District Commander Jeff Walls attended multiple neighborhood association meetings to present information to members who do not normally attend the monthly NONPACC meeting. On July 12, 2017 Commander Walls attended the Gentilly Terrace & Garden Improvement Association community meeting. On July 17, 2017 Commander Walls attended the Lake Vista community meeting.
8. Bicycle Giveaway: Fourth District Officer Alvin Walton partners with Fischer Community Day Camp on July 27, 2017 to issue bicycles to the "outstanding campers."
9. Health Fair: Fourth District officers participated in the "bicycle ride for life" event at Walker/Landry High School on August 4, 2017.
10. Back to School Giveaway: The Fourth District partnered with Senator Troy Carter to distribute school supplies on August 4, 2017.
11. Back to School Supply Giveaway: The Fourth District partnered with the Heroes of New Orleans organization to distribute school supplies on August 12, 2017.

12. Partnerships with Schools: The Fourth District School Resource Officer met with the principal of Crescent Leadership Academy and Harriet Tubman Elementary School to discuss ways to effectively serve the students and community.
13. School Supply Giveaway: Officer Keyana Rodney donated school supplies and backpacks to the 1st grade class at Williams J. Fischer Elementary School on August 31, 2017. School Resource Officer Brittney Jackson also attended to assist with distributing the supplies to 50 students.
14. Community Brunch: Fourth District School Resource Officer attended breakfast with Alice Hart School staff and students on September 7, 2017.
15. Student/Parent Conference: Fourth District School Resource Officer attended the Crescent City Leadership student-teacher conference on September 25, 2017.
16. Back to School Giveaway: Members of the Fifth District partnered with Daughters of Charity in distributing back-to-school supplies at Desire Street Ministries.
17. Second Annual Ninjas vs. Cops: The Sixth District held its second annual Ninjas and Cops event on July 13, 2017. NOPD officer “face off” with young people at XS Martial Arts Dojo.
18. Catching All Kids Program: The Seventh District has partnered with the Youth Opportunity Center in New Orleans in an effort to curb truancy. The Seventh District School Resource Officers met with social workers and coordinators of The Youth Opportunity Center each month to discuss problem-solving regarding truancy. As a result, the Catching All Kids Program was implemented. School Resource Officers perform home visits to speak with parents of chronically truant students. The program’s goal is to have the parents re-enroll the students. The School Resource Officers have also partnered with local businesses. The businesses post signs stating that the business participates in the program, which means the businesses do not sell to school aged kids during school hours.
19. Moton Charter School Getting to Know Your School Event: Seventh District School Resource Officers attended the event on July 27, 2017. The officer introduced herself and presented on the role of the School Resource Officer and how truancy works.
20. Back to School Benefit: The Seventh District hosted a "Back to School" benefit on July 15, 2017 to assist students that were impacted by February's EF-3 tornado. The event included free school supplies, free food, entertainment and other giveaways. The event was sponsored by three local businesses.
21. Track to Trail Walk: Seventh District Officers Montano and Scruggs participated in "Track to Trail" family fun run/walk at Joe Brown Park. The event was sponsored by Youth Run NOLA and The Allstate Sugar Bowl Crescent City Classic.

22. Youth-Police Dialogue: Seventh District Officer Eddie Dema visited St. Mary's Academy elementary school on September 20, 2017. Officer Dema held a youth-police dialogue session with students, answering any inquiries the students asked about policing.
23. Blue Day: Seventh District officers participated in the Blue Lion Karate Academy's "Blue Day." Blue Day is a family friendly engagement promoting peace, positivity and empowerment.
24. New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC) Back to School Event: Seventh District Sergeant Glover and Officer Montano participated in NORDC's Back to School Community event.
25. Kipp Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial School's Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony: Seventh District School Resource Officer Arnisha Ambrose participated in the Dedication Ceremony on August 24, 2017.
26. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Omicron Lambda Omega Chapter's Back to School Expo: Lieutenant Lewis-Williams provided an insightful presentation to youth on understanding their rights. A youth-police dialogue followed; Lieutenant Ray Byrd was also present to answer questions.
27. Family Fun Night: The Seventh District attended an event hosted by the Family Justice Center. The goal of the initiative was to bring local programs and services directly to the Seventh District community.
28. Community Meeting Outreach: Superintendent Harrison and Seventh District Commander Lawrence Dupree attended East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission (ENONAC) general meeting at St. Maria Goretti Church on August 8, 2017.
29. Homer A. Plessy Welcome Day: The Eighth District welcomed first graders from Homer A. Plessy Community School on September 20, 2017. The students toured the station with Commander Nick Gernon and Sgt. Ernest Luster.

## **NOPD Collaborative Problem-Solving Partnerships**

The information below highlights NOPD’s problem-solving activities, including specific problems addressed and steps taken by NOPD and the community toward their resolution [Consent Decree ¶228].

1. **New Orleans Neighborhood Police Anti-Crime Council (NONPACC) Meetings:** Each District is assisted by a New Orleans Neighborhood Police Anti-Crime Council (NONPACC). The NONPACC meets monthly, facilitating conversation and a forum for residents to voice their concerns directly to the District Commander and other key NOPD personnel. In particular, the District Commander presents key activities and information related to crime prevention and community policing in order to receive feedback and additional information from the community.
2. **Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB) Meetings:** Each District is assisted by a Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB). The PCAB consists of seven members who are 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. PCABs provide written recommendations to NOPD Commanders. In 2017, the PCABs continued to host quarterly meetings to problem-solve with NOPD leaders.
3. **Family Justice Center:** The NOPD has partnered with the New Orleans Family Justice Center to provide a “one-stop-resource” to victims of sexual and domestic crimes. The NOPD Sex Crimes and Domestic Violence Units are housed at the location, along with attorneys, social workers, and victim advocates. All of the partners can work proactively, in close quarters to assist victims of sexual and domestic crimes.
4. **Victim Witness Unit:** The Consent Decree requires immediate and ongoing support to families of victims of homicides and other serious crimes [Consent Decree ¶227].

The Victim/Witness Assistance Unit provides the following assistance:

- Safety Planning
- Victim Advocacy
- Crisis Intervention
- Crime Victims Reparations
- Grief and Trauma Counseling
- Community Resource
- Referrals
- Case Update Information
- Information on the Criminal Justice Process

In the Third Quarter, 11 victims and/or witnesses received counseling. In addition to counselling services, the Victim Witness Unit also contacts victims directly after receiving NOPD's daily major offense log, which is a list, composed of major incidents such as armed robberies, aggravated burglary, rape and other violent offenses, informing them of their rights and services that the department provides. At times, the Unit collaborates closely with Homicide detectives and the social workers that assist victims of sexual assaults under the NOPD's Sex Crimes Unit.

5. Community Policing Plans: Most of the Department's every-day community policing and engagement occurs in each district's community policing plans. The Plans are a district-specific collaborative partnership with the community. The Community Policing Plans address the unique needs of the community and prioritize public safety concerns voiced by the community members present. Many of the patrol officers participate in implementation of the community policing plans. The priorities chosen are reassessed regularly with the community to determine if new priorities should be addressed. Monthly updates are posted online and presented monthly at each District's NONPACC meeting.

To view the Community Policing Plans and extensive monthly updates by district, visit [nopdnews.com](http://nopdnews.com).

### **Obstacles and Recommendations**

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 2017 as we strive to improve our partnerships with the community and our community engagement efforts.