



**NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT
FIFTH DISTRICT**



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAN JUNE 2021



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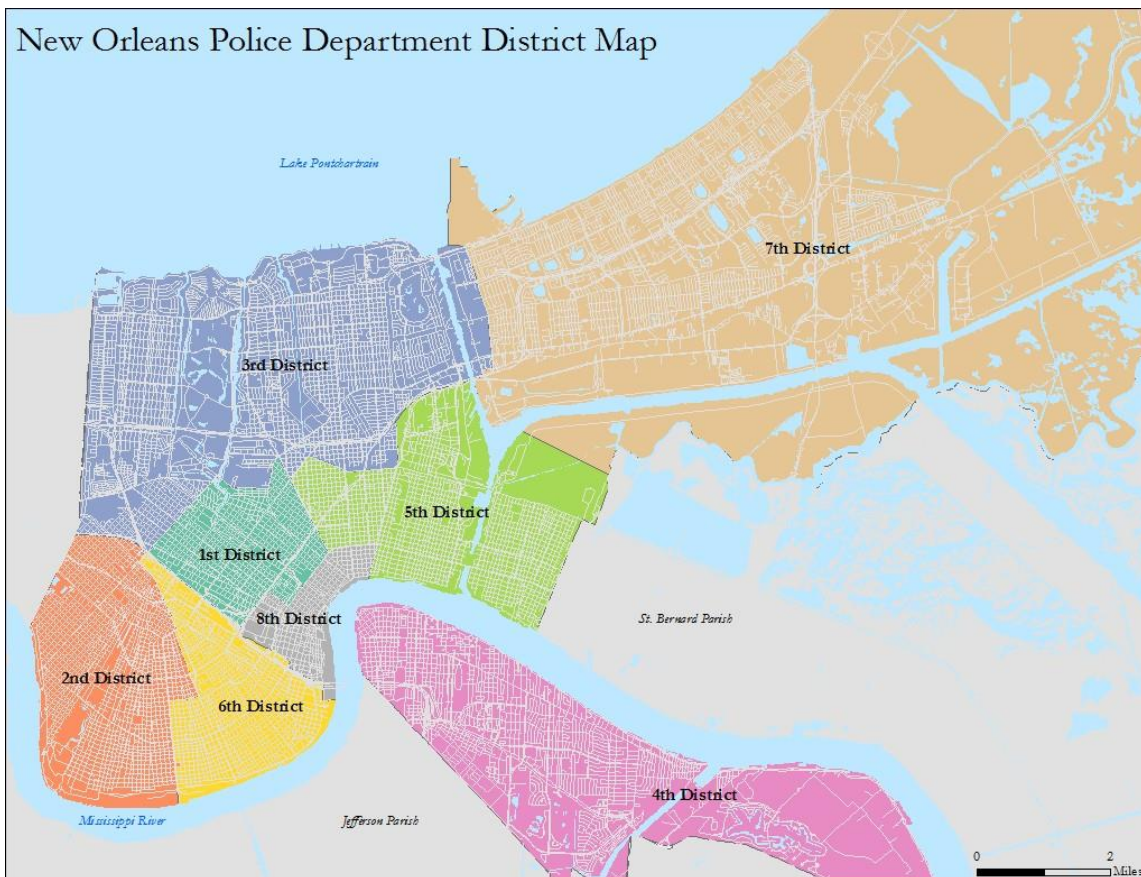
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OVERVIEW

The Fifth District encompasses approximately 8.7 square miles, making it the 4th largest police district in the City of New Orleans. The Mississippi River is from Almonaster Blvd and St. Bernard Ave to Orleans Parish / St. Bernard Parish Line. Located at 3900 North Claiborne Avenue, the Fifth District employs 78 officers and serves 28,631 residents. To contact the Fifth District by phone, dial (504) 658-6050 or email at nopd5thdistrict@nola.gov. For more information about the work of our officers, please follow our Facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/NOPDFifth> and Twitter account: <http://twitter.com/NOPD5thDistrict>.



LEADERSHIP



Captain Gwen Nolan, Gwendolyn M. Nolan, a 27-year law enforcement veteran, was appointed as the Captain of the Fifth District in November 2021. Captain Nolan served in several Districts as a supervisor in Intelligence, Recruitment, and Records Divisions and the Commander of the Public Integrity Bureau. Captain Nolan has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Loyola University.

Lieutenant Andrew Palumbo is the Second in Command and a 22- year veteran of the NOPD who was appointed to the District in August 2019. Lt. Palumbo has worked with NOPD in the Traffic Unit and the Special Events Section as a supervisor before his assignment in the Fifth District.



Administrative Staff



Sergeant Bianca Boone, District Systems Administrator, a 19 1/2-year veteran, was newly assigned to the Fifth District. She was previously assigned to the Fourth District. She is responsible for supervising and managing administrative requirements for the Fifth District and direct supervision of community outreach initiatives done by the Fifth District's community liaison officers and school resource officers.

Senior Police Officer Larry Dace, Community Liaison Officer, a 14-year veteran, has been assigned to the Fifth District for his entire career. Officer Dace has been the CLO for the Fifth District since 2015. He works directly with the community to strengthen relationships and partners with City Agencies to improve the quality of life in the District. Officer Dace was previously assigned to the Fifth District Task Force.



School Resource Officer

The school resource officer's duties are to work in elementary, middle, and high schools within the Fifth District. They are responsible for providing security, educational training, and relationship-building services in their assigned schools.



Senior Police Officer Abram Pedesclaux, a 20-year veteran, has been an SRO in the Fifth District since 2011. He was previously assigned to the Sixth District and the COPS Unit. Officer Pedesclaux attended the DARE Training Program.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

On May 26, 2021, the NOPD hosted a forum with the Fifth District Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB) via the Webex platform. This event aimed to identify and prioritize public safety concerns voiced by community members. PCAB members reviewed 311 data collected year-to-date- in the Fifth District. They reviewed New Orleans Neighborhood-Police Anit-Crime Coalition (NONPACC) citizen concerns to form a list of issues the Fifth District should address. The Community Liaison Officers collected feedback from the PCABs and analyzed the feedback to identify trending problems that could be developed into robust problem-oriented policing plans.

We will continue to survey the community every two years to update and prioritize these issues. Thus, we will continue to establish transparent, actionable items and update them monthly to show community members the District's efforts in resolving community concerns.

DISTRICT COMMUNITY POLICING PLAN PRIORITIES

Given the issues raised by the community, the primary area of focus in the Fifth District Community Outreach and Public Information Plan, drafted for June 2021, will be to:

- 1. Expand Outreach and Engagement**
- 2. Address Public Health and Environmental Concerns**
- 3. Establish Safe Places for Youth**
- 4. Continue District Sector Walks**

ACTIONABLE ITEMS

Actionable items are specific steps the District will take to implement the Community Outreach and Public Information Plan. Actionable items will be quantified or qualified through data analytics and anecdotes. The purpose of actionable items is to ensure transparency. To that end, the actionable items will be updated monthly to demonstrate the exact steps the District executed for the community. These items will be shared with the community through the Community Policing Dashboard, at the monthly NONPACC Meetings, at the Quarterly PCAB Meeting, and through social media sites like Facebook.

Expand Outreach and Engagement

Establishing community trust is one of the most critical components of effective law enforcement. It is crucial for police officers to maintain a positive relationship with members of the community in which they serve. As we've seen with recent events, community trust must be built and maintained through positive interactions. The Fifth District will expand community relations by accomplishing the following:

- Captain Gwen Nolan will continue to attend local organizational events to engage and inform community members of upcoming meetings and Fifth District Station events.
- CLO Larry Dace will continue to respond to community members' Quality of Life issues and act as a liaison between citizens, businesses, and local organizations.
- Officer Larry Dace will update the progress with the Community Policing Plan Updates Form monthly. The updates will also be placed on the Community Policing Dashboard and discussed during the monthly MAX Meetings, NONPACC Meetings, and the quarterly PCAB Meetings.
- Officer Dace will follow up on 311 citizen complaints by contacting the complainant and providing a status update or a final disposition on the given issue.
- Initiate live feeds via Facebook at District MAX meetings that can be viewed anytime.
- Document officer involvement/mentorship in local youth organizations such as Boys & Girls Club or other after-school programs using the Community Policing Plan Update Forms.

Public Health

Police officers aim to prevent and reduce crime through crime prevention methods. One strategy to prevent crime is to ensure that public health needs are met by prioritizing the overall environment. Studies have proven that blighted property, excess debris, and other code enforcement violations adversely affect the community. Officers partner with city agencies to eradicate quality of life issues. Some of these issues involved the removal of toxic materials and human waste from illegal dump sites and abandoned homes and vehicles. These health issues can be harmful to the community as well as the officers. Many neighborhoods are plagued with disposed syringes and other drug paraphernalia. These items are easily accessible to neighborhood kids as well as pets. Locations identified as abandoned will be converted to green space for community outreach activities or neighborhood garden projects.

The Fifth District will take the following actions:

- Monitor locations known for illegal dumping or provided to the District by community members as locations of illegal dumping and take enforcement action. Enforcement will include the issuance of a summons for Municipal Codes such as 17271M.C.S 66-282 Littering and 17271M.C.S. 66-283.5 Illegal Dumping.
- Collaborate with the Sanitation Department to participate in large-scale organized cleanups.

- Officer Larry Dace will work with City Code Enforcement in responding to blighted properties in the area.
- Officer Dace will participate in bi-weekly sanitation cleanups with the Health and Sanitation Department, where debris, human waste, and drug paraphernalia will be removed. After removal, the area will be sanitized with cleaning agents and water.
- Officer Dace will partner with places of worship and participate in cleanup activities in the community.
- Captain Nolan and Officer Dace will collaborate with the Fifth District PCAB members to participate in community engagements such as job fairs and gardening education activities. These events will help them better understand what issues are facing the community through citizen feedback.
- Officer Dace will partner with the Health Department to gain information on programs available to individuals with substance use disorders and share these resources at roll call training so that patrol officers can be aware and provide information to citizens on scenes.
- The priorities listed above will be tracked monthly. The community will provide an update at in-person NONPACC and PCAB meetings and on the NOPD's website and social media pages.

Safe Places for Youth

Juvenile delinquency has been a reoccurring problem in the City of New Orleans and across the Country. Juvenile offenders are often unsupervised when they engage in criminal activity; therefore, a lack of supervision and guidance plays a tremendous role in this trend. Studies have shown that when juveniles are allowed to participate in after-school events, they're less likely to participate in criminal activity. The Fifth District will take the following steps to provide juveniles with safe spaces:

- Assigning Fifth District officers to be present at youth athletic practices and games at St. Roch Park and Hardin Park to deter violent crime and ensure drug-free spaces for children.
- Fifth District School Resource Officer Abram Pedesclaux will attend after-school events.
- Partner with NOLAPAL (New Orleans Police Activity League) to organize district sporting events. (Baseball, basketball, volleyball, etc.)

District Sector Walks

Building strong relationships within the community is crucial to forming and maintaining public trust. Generally, when police officers encounter community members, they respond to a criminal complaint or perform other law enforcement-specific duties. This sometimes leads to negative preconceptions about the officer's role in the community. District Sector Walks allow the public to communicate with officers directly and express their concerns about issues in their neighborhood. The Fifth District will do the following to accomplish this:

- At the direction of Captain Gwen Nolan, Fifth District officers will participate in Sector Walks in each of the District's four sectors.
- The Sector Walks will occur once every quarter of the year (Jan. – Mar., Apr. – May, Jun. -Aug, & Sep. – Dec.) if COVID-19 protocols allow.
- The walking routes will be pre-determined to ensure that officers cover a large portion of the selected sector.
- During the Sector Walks, community members will have the opportunity to communicate directly with the Fifth District officers who patrol their community. This will allow officers to obtain feedback from the community and provide responses to their concerns.
- During the Sector Walks, Fifth District officers provide community members with links to our Facebook Page, information on our public NONPACC Meetings, and distribute other pertinent information that will allow them to connect with the Police Department and other City Services.
- Support Units such as Mounted (Horse mounted patrol), Community Engagement, PIO, Traffic, Special Victim's Section, and the Superintendent's Office will also be invited to participate.
- Captain Nolan will invite outside City agencies such as the Mayor's Office, City Council's Office, the District Attorney's Office, HANO, and any other City affiliated organizations that wish to participate.
- Captain Nolan will also invite local Religious institutions and nonprofit groups that offer assistance in the community, such as the Fifth District PCAB members and places of worship.

APPENDIX

Annual Survey Results

The first question posed was, “In your opinion, is one of the greatest problems in the Fifth District?” Responses were:

- a. The public would like decreased response times to non-emergency calls, a persistent problem.
- b. Crimes committed by juvenile offenders are an ongoing problem in the Fifth District.
- c. Community policing efforts should be bolstered. Community members would like to see officers at more events, and they have provided positive feedback
- d. The community would like more access to the tools available to the NOPD and the City of New Orleans.
- e. Gun violence is a persistent problem that can be cured by poverty alleviation.
- f. Reckless and speeding motorists on Saint Claude Ave, North Robertson St., and North Claiborne Ave. The Fifth District has fewer traffic cameras, so we need more enforcement. The bike lane on Saint Claude is also a problem since parked vehicles are regularly obstructed.

The second question was, “How can the community collaborate with the Fifth District to address these issues?” Responses were:

- a. PCAB members would like to act as an intermediary between the public and the Police Department.
- b. PCAB members would like to take a more active role in partnership with the Police Department and believe they could achieve this goal if they were marketed better.
- c. PCAB members suggested that a grant might be able to help achieve this.
- d. By helping citizens build the trust to call the police. Trust is built on transparency, and some crime data isn’t readily available.

The third question posed was, “What does the dept. do well in terms of community policing and engagement?” Responses were:

- a. One of the PCAB members responded that he was raised in the Fifth District and that his interactions with the Police Department weren’t always pleasant, as he believed he was profiled. The member stated that community relations between police officers and community citizens have greatly improved.
- b. PCAB members stated that they hadn’t received any complaints about officers misbehaving and generally received positive community feedback after interacting with the community.
- c. The Command Staff at the NOPD is dedicated to increasing engagement efforts in the community and wants to do better.

The fourth question was, “What could the Fifth District do better regarding community engagement?” Responses were:

- a. Place a community substation in the Sanchez Center.
- b. Have more police presence in the neighborhoods.

- c. Officers should treat all calls seriously. The respondent stated that he once waited half an hour for an officer to respond to an accident report, only to be told that he could've driven to the Station. He believed this was unacceptable in other jurisdictions.

The fifth question was, "What activities should the Fifth District undertake to improve relationships with youth? Responses were:

- a. Youth should be invited to the Fifth District Station.
- b. Day at the Park events should return to foster relationships.
- c. Officer Friendly program should return to schools.
- d. A Police Explorers Program would benefit the community.

Ensure that the engagement is sincere and has a purpose.