



NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT THIRD DISTRICT

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN: CRIME REDUCTION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

JUNE 2023





**NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT
THIRD DISTRICT**

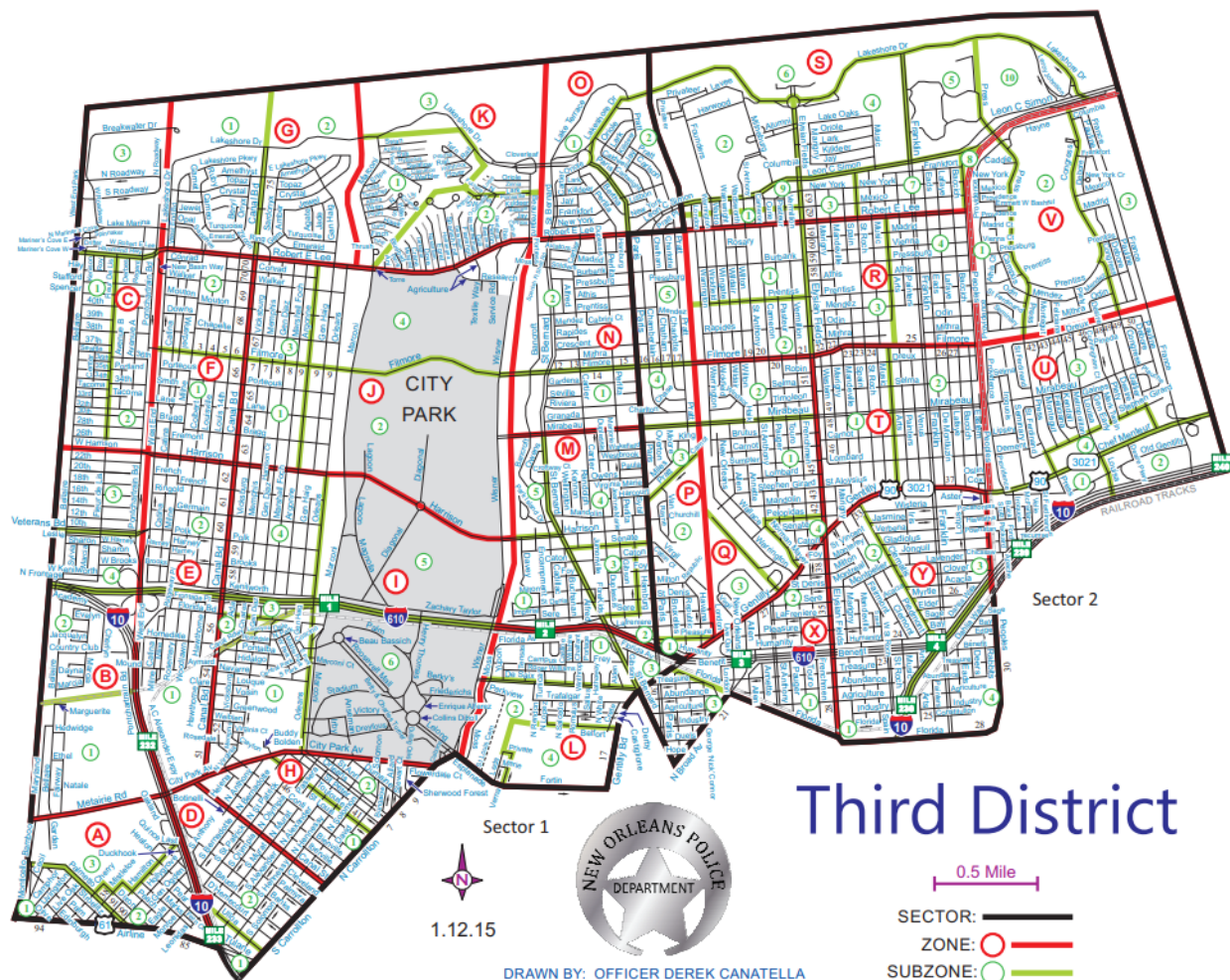
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THIRD DISTRICT OVERVIEW

The Third District encompasses approximately 15 square miles, making it the second-largest police district in the City of New Orleans. Its boundaries are Jefferson Parish to the east, Lake Pontchartrain to the north, I-610 to the south, and the Intercoastal Canal to the west. The District currently serves a population of approximately 30,000 residents. The police station is located at 4600 Paris Avenue. The District has 61 officers as of May 5, 2023. The District phone number is 504-658-6030. The Third District can be contacted by email at NOPD3rdDistrict@nola.gov. For more information about the work of these officers, please follow the Facebook page account: <https://www.facebook.com/NOPDThird/>.



LEADERSHIP



Captain Sandra Contreras oversees field operations for the NOPD Third District, which encompasses the Lakeview, Gentilly and West End neighborhoods, as well as a portion of MidCity. This district also includes City Park, Delgado University, Southern University of New Orleans and the University of New Orleans.

Capt. Contreras was appointed to lead the Fourth District on June 19, 2022. A native of New Orleans and the Algiers neighborhood, she graduated from L.B. Landry High School and received her Bachelor's Degree in Applied Behavioral Science from Our Lady of Holy Cross College. Capt. Contreras is

also a graduate of the School of Police Staff and Command from Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety.

Her diverse experience within NOPD includes serving on district patrol, task force and as a Field Training Officer, as well as a persons and property crimes detective, intelligence and narcotics divisions, Crisis Negotiation Team officer, and a Spanish interpreter.

As a supervisor, she has been a district platoon Sergeant, Quality of Life and Detectives sergeant, district platoon lieutenant and District Investigative Unit lieutenant/assistant district commander of the Third District, captain of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau (PSAB) and captain of the Fourth District.

While in PSAB, Capt. Contreras was the liaison between the Office of the Consent Decree Monitor, the U.S. Department of Justice and the NOPD. She coordinated compliance, implementation actions and facilitated the sharing of data, documents, materials and access among the various personnel and parties related to the Consent Decree. Capt. Contreras also provided technical and subject matter expertise, which facilitates implementation and sustained reforms with 21st-century policing.



Second in command is Lieutenant Avery M. Matthews, Sr., with 28 1/2 years of service with the New Orleans Police Department. Prior to his assignment to the Third District, Lieutenant Matthews served as a Platoon Manager in the Seventh District. Throughout his career he has served in a variety of assignments: Assistant Commander for the Seventh District, Head Quarters as Commander of NCIC, the Records Division and as a Detective (Robbery, Shooting, and Homicide).

Lieutenant Matthews looks forward to continuing his career protecting and serving the citizens of the Third District as the Assistant Commander.

THIRD DISTRICT TEAM



The District Sergeant of Administration, Calvin Banks, has served the City of New Orleans for 14 years. Sergeant Banks is essential to daily operations and supervises the School Resource (SRO) and Community Liaison (CLO) Officers within the Third District. When Sergeant Banks is not busy conducting his administrative duties, he assists both the School Resource Officer and the Community Liaison by attending events hosted within the community. Sergeant Banks also assists Captain Contreras and Lieutenant Avery Matthews with monthly NONPACC meetings.



School Resource Officer Nahlisha Johnson, a 22-year veteran with the department, is responsible for responding to calls for service at all schools located within the Third District. In addition, Officer Johnson coordinates youth engagement events at these schools in hopes of building rapport with the students. From game days to book readings, Officer Johnson makes her role as a School Resource Officer known to the wonderful students she serves and the staff members at the various schools she is assigned.



Community Liaison Officer Marylou Agustin, an 8-year veteran with the New Orleans Police Department. Officer Agustin is responsible for assisting citizens of the Third District with quality-of-life matters. As CLO, Officer Agustin is responsible for hosting monthly NONPACC meetings, attending neighborhood association meetings and proactively identifying Quality of Life issues that may violate civil and criminal statutes. Through this type of community engagement, members of the community are able to get to know Officer Agustin on a more personal level, which better aids in understanding the ailments of specific neighborhoods. Officer Agustin has extensive experience with government agencies which will assist her in identifying and engaging the correct city department on quality-of-life matters. Lastly, Officer Agustin participates in and hosts community engagement events within the Third District.

COMMUNITY POLICING AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The New Orleans Police Department's Community Policing and Engagement Program consists of a Community Policing and Engagement Policy, Community Policing and Engagement Manual, and Community Policing Plans.

The Community Policing & Engagement Policy states the New Orleans Police Department shall promote and strengthen community partnerships, engage constructively with the community, ensure collaborative problem solving, ensure ethical and bias-free policing, and increase community confidence in the Department.

The Community Policing and Engagement Manual is designed to be a long term, aspirational document that will enhance the NOPD's community engagement, community policing, and problem-oriented policing procedures. The objectives of this manual are meant to guide officers on how to foster positive community engagement interactions between citizens and NOPD by utilizing community policing ideals, creating opportunities for substantive engagement with the community, and fostering substantive collaboration with the community through civic engagement.



COMMUNITY POLICING PRIORITIES

Given the issues raised by the Community, the primary focus of the Third District Community Action Plan will be:

1. To patrols in areas with increasing abandoned vehicles and illegal dumping.
2. Engagement with youth through school activities and events
3. Community outreach and transparency
4. Increase Real Time Crime Cameras (RTCC) in areas of concern

In 2022, the Third District hosted monthly NONPACC meetings virtually, during which time District Leadership was made aware of public safety concerns and the quality-of-life issues that continue to plague the District. The Community Liaison Officer (CLO) also continued attending various neighborhood association and community meetings to become aware of any other community concerns.

The most common quality of life issues brought up during these meetings were related to abandoned vehicles and requesting RTCC in residential areas. Many community members found abandoned vehicles to be a major nuisance in their communities, as it not only created an eyesore, but they found it to impede their daily operations.

Another topic that is often mentioned in neighborhood association meetings, as well as NONPACC and PCAB meetings, is the nuisance of illegal dumping. Many citizens are complaining that the illegal dumping and debris can cause health concerns for the citizens of the District. Oftentimes, individuals observing these actions will contact their Council Member or submit a 3-1-1 ticket to advise the City of the dumping location and the nature of the debris.



ACTIONABLE ITEMS

Actionable items are concrete steps that the District will take to implement the Community Outreach and Community Action 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 to the community the exact steps that the District executed.

TASKS

Increase patrols in areas with increasing abandoned vehicles and illegal dumping

The Third District will initiate area patrols, including walking beats and directed patrols, to identify common areas of illegal dumping and locations of abandoned vehicles. Increased patrol presence in these areas will be documented. Officers will begin conducting patrols in the neighborhoods consistently, which not only deterred illegal dumping but also allowed residents and officers to build positive relationships.

- A. Implementation of Geographical Deployment will allow officers to be assigned to a specific sector within the Third District. Geo-deployment allows officers to get to know residents within their respective sectors better, allowing community members to feel more comfortable reporting criminal activity.
- B. Officers will conduct proactive patrols and directed patrols, to engage citizens and inquire about illegal dumping and abandoned vehicles in their area.
- C. Officers will document citizen interactions in an NOPD Community Policing Form.
- D. The CLO and District Leadership will partner Sanitation to remove the debris in the identified areas of concern. Then request, if applicable, fencing or other structures to prevent future dumping.
- E. The Department of Public Works will be called to remove and tow vehicles. A 3-1-1 Ticket will also be submitted to be able to track the progress of the cars' removal.
- F. In the event the abandoned vehicles or dumping site is on private property, the CLO will attempt to contact the owner to advise of placing a fence and private property signage around for deterring future activity.
- G. The CLO will determine if the vehicle is stolen or the subject of another crime, she will request the vehicle to be processed and information given to the assigned investigating officer.
- H. The District Captain, or designee, will present updates to the community at monthly community meetings held at the police district station.

Engagement with youth through school activities and events

The Third District values the importance of youth engagement and mentorship. The School Resource Officer will participate in and host various activities and events with students, which will foster positive interactions with law enforcement. Third District Officers/Rank will attend these events as well. These youth events are integral to the Community Action Plan because they facilitate an early and positive relationship between law enforcement and children, hopefully lasting into adulthood.

- A. Through interactions, officers will have open discussions with youth to foster trust. Officers will also engage with youth in district churches, day camps, and sports activities.
- B. The SRO will partner with PALs to initiate Conversations with Cops at neighboring schools and all youth activities to humanize the badge and foster community relationships.
- C. The SRO will provide additional support on field trips with selected schools, if available.
- D. Designate officers and volunteer to participate in Department youth sport activities, i.e. Midnight Basketball Summer Initiative.
- E. Partner with SOD to provide safety and equipment demonstrations to youth.
- F. All interactions will be documented via NONPACC (monthly community meeting at the police district station) and updated Facebook posts.
- G. The SRO and District Leadership will participate in D.A.R.E. programs to provide students with drug awareness and prevention information. The Third District will also invite available parents to be included in these conversations.

Community outreach and transparency

The Third District will continue to provide community outreach and awareness through advertisement of Community Events and Meetings via Facebook posts, monthly virtual “New Orleans Neighbors and Police Anti-Crime Council” (NONPACC) meetings, while attending other community meetings, and during walking beats.

- A. The District will continue to inform respective neighborhood association presidents, civic clubs, school administration, and churches of upcoming NONPACC virtual meetings. Links to attend these meetings virtually are provided to these members.
- B. The Third District publishes a monthly newsletter with community events, scheduled walking beats, crime prevention measures, and 3-1-1 information to community leaders.

- C. Community events attended by Third District officers/rank will be shared with the community via Facebook posts, which will promote accountability and visibility for the district, as well as promote awareness of the district's civic activity.
- D. Officers assigned to the Third District will engage with community members and assist them with crime prevention tips during walking beats and area patrols. Officers will document these initiatives by using the Community Policing Signals.
- E. Officers will promote crime prevention strategies by educating residents and business owners on topics such as increased lighting, door security, security cameras, and loitering signage.
- F. The Third District will implement "Sunday Funday". A social gathering where officers and community members can engage together and discuss quality of life concerns and/or upcoming events.

Increase Real Time Crime Cameras (RTCC) in areas of concern

The residents and business owners of the Third District have requested Crime Cameras in their neighborhoods due to an increase in crime. The RTCC will provide an additional deterrence measures and an extra level of security for the District, while providing Detectives with resources to solve crimes.

- A. The CLO will identify areas of citizen concern that could benefit from a RTCC being installed and operating in the area. Draft a list of priority areas and submit to the District Captain for review and approval.
- B. The District Captain will submit a request the RTCC Center for installment of the cameras in the selected areas.
- C. The CLO will determine if existing cameras in particular areas are needed and request that the camera location is relocated to an area of need.
- D. Encourage citizens and businesses to get cameras on their homes and businesses to assist with crime deterrence and investigative support.
- E. Inform individuals and businesses of the SafeCam NOLA project to provide NOPD with an additional resource to solve crimes.
- F. Utilize the RTCC Center to capture illegal activities including, illegal dumping and property crimes committed in the area.

APPENDIX

Bi-Annual Survey Results

This questionnaire was emailed to the PCAB members, all Third District Neighborhood Association Groups, and stakeholders in the District on May 3, 2023. The responses collected are below.

- 1. In your opinion, what are the greatest problems in your neighborhood and how can the police department help? Please provide your neighborhood association and specific examples.**
 - a. Car Break ins and Speeding Arc's on weekend
 - b. Speeding on Press drive
 - c. Hollygrove-Dixon Neighborhood. New groups of teenage males, dressed in black, displaying guns in their waistbands.
 - d. No crime cameras
 - e. I live in the Banks St Bar area. The biggest problems in my neighborhood are drug dealing and juvenile crime. Specifically, there is one house on my block (duplex) where the residents deal drugs and have a teenager who is engaged in various crimes (bike cycle theft, porch pirate, stealing from yards, etc.)
 - f. Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association/Blighted Lots, Pop-up Car Mechanic Shops (Mendez & Monteguet)
 - g. Illegal business operations, blithe property, parking of commercial vehicles, and speeding.
 - h. People parking abandoned vehicles, junk cars, trash, RV's, trailers, etc. on vacant lots in the neighborhood.
 - i. Lack of regular police presence. I used to see police units cruise up and down the streets in the community several times a day. Now, you won't see one even if you call for assistance.

- 2. How can the community collaborate with the Police Department to address these issues?**
 - a. Have more meetings.
 - b. Identify the problem and have the issues addressed in the community meeting.
 - c. community should call the police non-emergency number.
 - d. Offer, or provide cameras.
 - e. There's mistrust between the police department and community, which is been built up for years how to change it overnight I don't have the answer.
 - f. It's hard to know the best way to collaborate with the police department to address these issues. I've recently been reporting any criminal activity I've seen via crime stoppers and communicating with the NOPD community liaison officer, who has been very responsive.
 - g. Need direct contact information, 311 slow, 911 is not always needed. Also, more patrols are needed.
 - h. I has learned that many of the illegal business operations are hidden by conducting out of street view and parking on vacant lots.

- 3. What does the Police Department do well in terms of community engagement? Please provide specific examples.**
 - a. Coming to the neighborhood association meetings.
 - b. Patrols in the community,

- c. Show up at our meetings and respond to our concerns.
- d. I guess this is the first step.
- e. I think our community liaison officer is excellent. However, I only was able to obtain her information after reaching out to my city councilman. NOPD should make more information public -- maybe on its website -- about what the community liaison officer role is and how to contact your community liaison. I think this survey is also a great start re community engagement.
- f. They are supportive of this community, continue attending our meetings. Communication and follow up.
- g. When responding to calls they are professional.
- h. Outside of the association meetings I do not see any police engagement in the community.
- i. Most of the commanders, liaisons & officers are very willing to engage with our neighborhood associations. Many of your meeting times are in the middle of the day when the average citizen is at work.

4. What could the Police Department do better in terms of community engagement? Please provide specific examples.

- a. Attend our community events.
- b. frequent patrols and faster response times...I realize you are undermanned.
- c. Just stop by our neighborhood and engage with our youth, citizens.
- d. I think making the liaison officer's information more public and perhaps hosting more events on crime prevention. Right now, it feels like crime prevention is not top of mind -- we are more focused on responding to crime that has already happened. For example, I've reported the problem house on my street numerous times. The police finally came out when a kid showed up at the house with a guy to shoot someone. Perhaps if the police had already shown a presence with the reports of drug activity and break-ins, this might not have happened.
- e. Please be more visible, vigilant and familiar with the neighbors and neighborhood.
- f. Give SPECIFIC answers when the community asks about incidents that occur in the community. Was it random or was it a crime of known individuals. Put to rest the rumors about crimes that receive a lot of attention.

5. What activities should the Department undertake to improve relationships with youth? Please provide specific examples.

- a. Assist with the development of our Youth Master Plan
- b. increased patrols
- c. They have no opportunities, no places for recreation, no hope, most have no one a home to correct them, no education...it almost seems hopeless. I wish you the best.
- d. Come to one of our outdoor movie nights in June.
- e. This is a hard one. Youth are obviously being recruited to commit crimes. They also take issue with authority. For example, when I confronted a kid that was clearly casing my house, I was told I was tripping, and his mother did nothing when I spoke to her. I think what could be helpful is for the police to drive around a bit more in residential neighborhoods and when they see large groups of kids congregating, the police could engage them. It doesn't have to be confrontational, but it does alert the youth that they are being watched and that there is a police presence.
- f. Engage more with NORD activities. Bring back "Officer Friendly."
- g. Establish youth programs ~ such as Explorer Law Post
- h. Reenact the Office Friendly Program in public schools, taking time to talk with them when time permits.

- i. Community event on some Saturday's, in conjunction w/PPNA to provide food, talks, games, instill pride in doing the right thing...