



NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT

THIRD DISTRICT

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN: CRIME REDUCTION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

JUNE 2025





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THIRD DISTRICT**

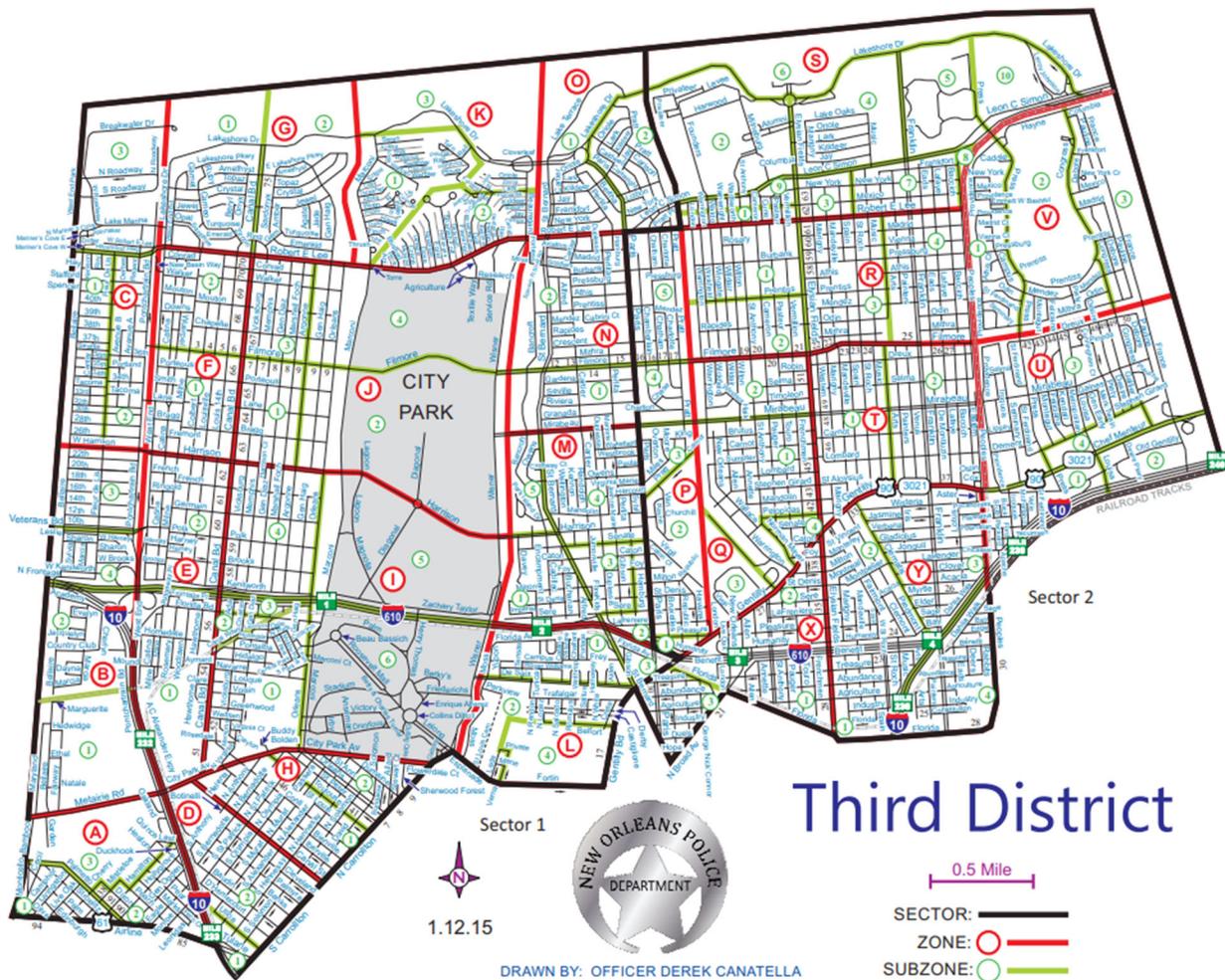
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THIRD DISTRICT OVERVIEW

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 58 officers as of June 1, 2025. 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 Merlin Bush joined the New Orleans Police Department in July 1997. His first assignment was the Third District. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in December 2004. Capt. Bush has held various assignments in the New Orleans Police Department's Third, Fifth, and Sixth Districts. He worked in the C.O.P.S. Unit, Task Force, Homicide, Narcotics, and SWAT Team as a police officer and team leader.

In 2006, then-Supt. Warren Riley selected Bush to run the Crime Abatement Team, which was composed of NOPD officers and DEA agents. In 2007, Bush returned to SWAT Team as a sergeant and team leader, where he led the Second Tactical Platoon for seven years. Bush was then temporarily assigned as the acting lieutenant of the Special Operations Division before moving to the Violent Offender Warrant Squad.

In 2016, Bush became the commander of the Canine Division. He was successful in decreasing Canine's bite ratio from an average of 60% to 0% over a three-year period.

In March of 2019, Bush was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and was assigned to the First District as the assistant commander. In this position, he was responsible for more than 90 officers. He additionally led the First District investigations unit and played a major role in the reduction of violent crime during his time there.

In July 2020, Bush became the assistant commander of the NOPD's Homicide Division. He supervised more than 40 detectives and civilians during this time. The unit finished the year with a 34% solve rate in 2020 and the Cold Case unit solved 2 cases during the same year. Under Bush's leadership in 2021, the Cold Case unit solved 22 cases, which was a 1000% increase over the prior year. The Homicide Unit additionally ended 2023 with a 55% solve rate. The city also had a reduction of 73 murders from the prior year.

In March of 2024, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and assigned as the commander of the Third District. Captain Bush has 26.5 years of police service with the New Orleans Police Department. He is a certified FBI trained instructor and adjunct instructor at the New Orleans Police Academy. Captain Bush has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from the University of Columbia Southern.



Second in command is Lieutenant Jeffrey Giroir, with 26 years of service with the New Orleans Police Department and currently oversees the NOPD Third District Investigations Unit. Prior to his assignment to the Third District, Lieutenant Giroir was assigned as the Commander of the Bourbon Street Promenade as well as Platoon Lieutenant in the NOPD 8th District. Lieutenant Giroir looks forward to continuing his career protecting and serving the citizens of the Third District as the Assistant Commander.

THIRD DISTRICT TEAM



Third District Sergeant of Administration, Shunika Buckles, has served the City of New Orleans for 21 years. Sergeant Buckles is essential to daily operations and supervises the School Resource (SRO) and Community Liaison (CLO) Officers within the Third District. When Sergeant Buckles is not busy conducting her administrative duties, she assists both the School Resource Officer and the Community Liaison by attending events hosted within the community. Sergeant Buckles also assists Captain Bush and Lieutenant Giroir with monthly NONPACC meetings.



School Resource Officer Nahlisha Johnson, a 23-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 John Wild, a 17-year veteran with the New Orleans Police Department. Officer Wild is responsible for assisting citizens of the Third District with quality-of-life matters. As CLO, Officer Wild 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 can get to know Officer Wild on a more personal level, which better aids in understanding the ailments of specific neighborhoods. Officer Wild has extensive

experience with government agencies which will assist him in identifying and engaging the correct city department on quality-of-life matters. Lastly, Officer Wild 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 Walking Beats
4. Increase Real Time Crime Cameras (RTCC) in areas of concern

In 2024, the Third District hosted monthly NONPACC meetings virtually, the first Monday of every month, during which time the 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 eye-sore, but they found it to impede their daily operations. As well as speeding and repeated traffic violations in residential areas.

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.

The 3rd District residents and stakeholders have had similar complaints regarding quality-of-life and criminal activity concerns since the 2021 Community Policing Plan. The 3rd District Command Staff is going to continue to strategize plans to improve their areas of concern.



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. The CLO will identify frequently used areas for dumping and coordinate with Department of Public Works to put up “No Dumping” signs to deter this activity.
- C. The CLO communicates with shift supervisors to ensure patrols are being conducted mainly overnight when a high volume of illegal dumping takes place. Officers are instructed to determine and identify illegal dumpers in order to issue citations and prosecute offenders.
- 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 CLO will coordinate with Sanitation and the Health Department to be present when the debris is removed to inform the original complainant and residents in the area.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.

- 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 initiate Conversations with Cops at neighboring schools and all youth activities to humanize the badge and foster community relationships.
- C. Designate officers and volunteers to participate in Department youth sport activities and promote these events at designated schools to increase participation attendance.
- D. All interactions will be documented via NONPACC (monthly community meeting at the police district station) and updated Facebook posts.
- E. 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.
- F. Coordinate with “Officer Friendly” and collaborate with schools to promote the STAR initiative with elementary schools in the district.

Community Outreach and Walking Beats

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 titled “From the Captain’s Desk” with community events, scheduled walking beats, crime prevention measures, and 3-1-1

information to community leaders and the progress of community problem solving measures.

- C. The CLO will schedule weekly walking beats with District Personnel in designated area where quality of life complaints have recently increased. During these walking beats the officers will discuss the recent complaints and give citizens tips on combating the issues, provide resources, if possible, and give updates on continuing projects in the District, i.e. 18DE (Directed Traffic Enforcement).
- 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 CLO will use information gathered from the weekly walking beats and NONPACC meetings to coordinate POP Project (Problem Oriented Policing Project) where needed.

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 additional deterrence measures and an extra level of security for the district, while providing Detectives with resources to solve crimes.

- A. The CLO will determine if existing cameras in particular areas are needed and request that the camera location is relocated to a different area of need. The CLO will use crime stats and crime reduction stats to determine if this relocation strategy is useful.
- B. Encourage citizens and businesses to get cameras on their homes and businesses to assist with crime deterrence and investigative support.
- C. Inform individuals and businesses of the Safe Cam NOLA project to provide NOPD with an additional resource to solve crimes.
- D. Utilize the RTCC Center to capture illegal activities including, illegal narcotics activity, set up of homeless encampments, and localized property crimes committed in the area.
- E. The District Captain will submit a request the RTCC Center for installment or relocation of the cameras in the selected areas.
- F. Research outside funding sources to access additional cameras for specific areas in the district.