



**NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
EIGHTH DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN: CRIME REDUCTION AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

**JUNE 2023**



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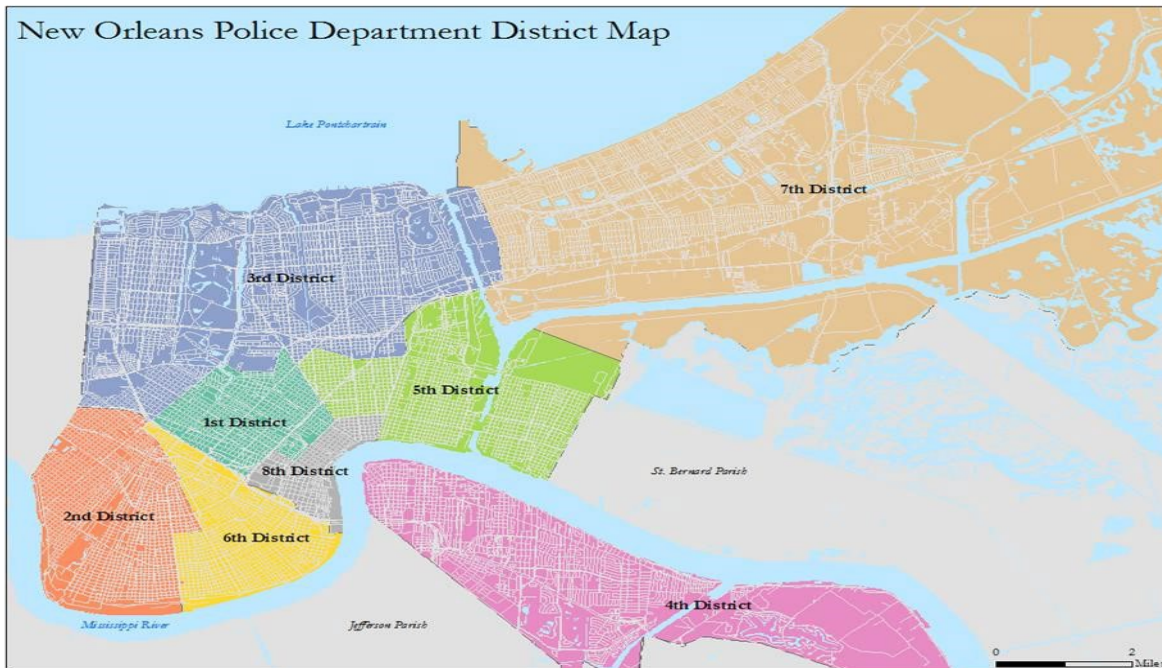
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## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) shall promote and strengthen community partnerships, work constructively with the community, ensure collaborative problem solving, ensure ethical and bias-free policing, and work to increase community confidence in the Department. The New Orleans Police Department will effectively engage the community in collaborative problem solving. NOPD will partner with the residents and stakeholders to identify and solve problems that contribute to crime, fear of crime and quality of life problems in communities. The Department is committed to proactively solving problems as well as reacting to their harmful consequences.

## **EIGHTH DISTRICT**

The Eighth District encompasses approximately 7.5 square miles, making it the smallest police district in the City of New Orleans. Its boundaries are the River to S. Claiborne, and Calliope to Elysian Fields Ave. The District currently serves a population of approximately 20,000 residents. The Eighth District, which includes the French Quarter, is the most visited tourist area in Louisiana. The Eighth District is also the home to some of Louisiana's oldest and historical monuments. The police station is located at 334 Royal Street. The District has 102 officers as of June 1, 2021. The District phone number is 504-658-6080. The 8th District can be contacted by email at [nopd8thdistrict@nola.gov](mailto:nopd8thdistrict@nola.gov). For more information about the work of these officers, please follow the Facebook page account: NOPD Eighth.



## LEADERSHIP



**Commander Lejon Roberts** oversees the Eighth Police District, which includes the Historic French Quarter, the Downtown Development District (DDD), and part of the Faubourg Marigny. The Eighth District also encompasses the Caesars Superdome, the Smoothie King Center, and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Captain Roberts’s NOPD career includes Commander of the First District and the Special Operations Division which oversaw the Situational Response Team (SRT), the Violent Crime Abatement Investigative Team (VCAIT), SWAT, the Violent Offenders Warrant Squad (VOWS), Major Case Narcotics, K9, Mounted, Regional Transit Authority (RTA), and Traffic (Hit & Run, Fatality, DWI, and Motorcycle platoon). Captain Roberts, throughout his career, has also worked in the Fourth, Fifth, & Sixth Districts.

Captain Roberts holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Upper Iowa University, and a Master of Public Administration Degree from the University of Phoenix. Captain Roberts is a graduate of the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety, School of Police Staff and Command in Evanston, Illinois, and is an Instructor for the International Association of Chiefs of Police, “Leadership in Police Organizations” training and development program.



Second in Command is **Lieutenant Travis C. Ward**, a 20-year veteran of the NOPD, who was appointed to the Eighth District in April of 2023. His current assignment as Assistant-Commander of the Eighth District includes the management and direction of patrol strategies and the District Investigative Unit.

Lieutenant Ward has served within the NOPD in various positions, such as District Patrol, Task Force and the Eighth District Investigative Unit. He has an extensive background in investigating Homicides, Suicides and Unclassified Deaths from his time as a Detective in the Homicide Section and investigating Officer Involved Shootings and Serious Use of Force Incidents during his time in the Public

Integrity Bureau / Force Investigation Team. He has tactical experience from his service in the Special Operations Division as a tactical operator in the Tactical Platoon and as a supervisor in the Violent Offenders Warrant Squad / U.S. Marshals Service Task Force. He is a graduate of Loyola University New Orleans where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice as well as a Master's Degree in Criminology & Justice.

### **DISTRICT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR**



**Sgt. Kenneth Marchese** joined the New Orleans Police Department in 1992. Sgt. Marchese started in the Second Police District serving as a patrolman and a detective. He was promoted to sergeant in 2012 and supervised officers in the 6th Police District, 8<sup>th</sup> Police District and the Traffic Division.

Sgt, Marchese has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Phoenix.

### **COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS**



**Officer Bronson Gettridge** is a 18 year veteran with the New Orleans Police Department. Officer Gettridge has been assigned as an 8<sup>th</sup> District Community Liaison Officer since November of 2020. Officer Gettridge has previously served in the Department's 7<sup>th</sup> District on the Task Force and the Narcotics unit. Officer Gettridge has also been assigned to the Street Gang Unit and Special Operations Division. Officer Gettridge is Radar, Mounted and DUI certified. Officer Gettridge received a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology from Fresno State University.



Officer Johnnie Brumfield has been a member of the New Orleans Police Department since June 3, 2001. Officer Brumfield has served as part of the 8th district's Community Liaison team since November 1, 2020. Officer Brumfield served in the 2nd Police District for 7yrs and the 8th Police District for 14yrs. Officer Brumfield is Scooter certified. Officer Brumfield received his Bachelor's Degree in Christians Leadership from Faith Evangelical Seminary in 2014.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

On April 20, 2023, the NOPD hosted a forum with the 8<sup>th</sup> District Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB) at the 8th District Police Station, located at 334 Royal St. The purpose of this event was to identify and prioritize public safety concerns voiced by community members. PCAB members reviewed New Orleans Neighborhood-Police Anti-Crime Coalition (NONPACC) agendas, crime stats and citizen concerns to form a list of issues that the 8<sup>th</sup> District should consider in the new Community Action Plan. 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 2 years to update and prioritize these issues. Thus, we will continue to establish transparent, actionable items and update them on a monthly basis to show community members the district's efforts in resolving community concerns.

## **DISTRICT COMMUNITY POLICING PLAN PRIORITIES**

After viewing issues raised by the community, the primary area of focus in the 8<sup>th</sup> District Community Policing Plan, drafted for June 2023, are:

1. Public safety is the top priority in the Eighth District. The mapping and documentation of existing cameras and owner contact information will allow for more time on cases and decrease the time locating cameras.
2. Consistent homeless population (Hwy 90 overpass (Canal St. to Gravier St.), Shelters, French Market corridor, and the River Walk)- Many of the city's homeless reside under the Hwy 90 overpass. The 8<sup>th</sup> district and other city agencies collaborate to ensure the area is sanitized and safe. The 8<sup>th</sup> district also partners with social service agencies (Unity of New Orleans) and the City's Health Department to provide care and Social Service resources for those in need. The 8<sup>th</sup> District community also recognizes homelessness is not a crime. The causes of homelessness are rooted in a systematic breakdown in a number of societal safety nets.
3. Graffiti is a critical part of the 8<sup>th</sup> district priorities. Quality of life issues are key elements with ensuring the overall landscape of the 8<sup>th</sup> District is maintained. The 8<sup>th</sup> district is different than any other police district in the city of New Orleans. The 8<sup>th</sup> District sees hundreds of thousands of visitors per year and maintaining the city's reputation as a "Great Place to Live" is a top priority.
4. Create new community partnerships with stakeholders, residents, and business owners to establish relationships and maintain public trust.

A vast majority and collective effort is needed to approach the multifaceted challenges of the Eighth District. The men and women of the Eighth District have listened intently to the concerns of the community and have rigorously reached out to Agencies across the city to have these needs and concerns met.

## **ACTIONABLE ITEMS**

Actionable items are concrete steps that 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 actionable items are transparency steps that will be updated monthly to demonstrate to the community the exact steps that the District executed.

- 1. The Eighth District will partner with the community groups within the district to document existing cameras on residences and businesses. The purpose of this is to have documented locations within the Eighth District that have cameras as well as to obtain contact information on the owners of those cameras. This information will be documented and mapped. This will decrease the need for detectives to conduct a physical canvass of an area after a crime is committed. The Eighth District looks to expand their existing map of the French Quarter to also include the Marigny and the Downtown Development District. The documentation of all**

**existing cameras will save manpower hours that would have been used to locate cameras each time a crime is committed. This additional documentation will also help the Eighth District make better decisions on where to place future RTCC cameras.**

Task #1 The Eighth District will work with community groups and residents to survey all cameras in the area.

Task#2 The Eighth District will seek permission to document the network information for those cameras and the contact information their owners.

Task #3 Once all visible cameras have been identified and documented, the map will be created and dated for historical use in the event more cameras are added. Officers will promote this tactic to other businesses and residents to provide to others for their assistance in the matter.

Task #4 This map will be shared with 8<sup>th</sup> District Detectives for use in investigating and solving crimes.

## **2. The Eighth District will continue to work with the Homeless Assistance Unit and the City's Health Department to mitigate homelessness.**

Task #1: The Eighth District will dispatch Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) to respond to calls concerning vagrancy and homelessness that include mental health concerns.

Task #2: The Eight District will continue to work the Law Enforcement Assistant Diversion Unit (L.E.A.D) to offer alternatives to arrest. This program will address the root problems to homelessness in lieu of arrest.

Task #3: The Eighth District will partner with local nonprofits that are helping homeless youth, such as Covenant House, on mentorship programs and connecting them with Homeless Assistance Unit within the 8<sup>th</sup> District to obtain services such as rides to the Department of Motor Vehicles to receive a driver's license.

Task #4: The Eighth District will connect homeless individuals with Travelers AID and UNITY of New Orleans to provide assistance with obtaining identifying documentation, housing (temporary and permanent), and continuing social services for those in need and those requesting resources to maintain their personal quality.

## **3. The Eighth District will partner with local agencies to mitigate graffiti on public property and historical buildings.**



The Eight District has recognized that graffiti is becoming a constant nuisance in the district. As a result, the 8th district has partnered with local non-profits to address the issue. This will be done by continuing the following:

Task #1: Locating and removing any graffiti reachable for its removal. The Eighth District will partner with community organizations, to identify “tags” and defaced properties for restoration.

Task #2: Identify if those locations can benefit from more lighting in the area. Document this information and relay it to City Agencies and Vieux Carre of the locations for their attention, using crime prevention through environmental design techniques. (CPTED).

Task #3: Partner with city agencies and the Vieux Carre Graffiti Abatement Program to maintain graffiti free zones.

Task #4: The Eighth District Captain and Community Liaison Officers will continue to communicate with community organizations to address and document concerns associated with neighborhood improvements.

**4. Create new partnerships to establish a well-rounded relationship with organizations to improve the quality of life within the 8<sup>th</sup> District and maintain trusting relationships.**

Task #1: Request information of new organizations forming in the District with goals to improve and maintain the culture of the French Quarter and Downtown Development District (DDD).

Task #2: Increase the advertisement of community meetings and events through the District’s social media platforms and the NOPD’s social media platforms. Also, participating in community organization meetings to advertise the District Community Meetings.

Task #3: Partner with neighboring districts to provide feedback and request information regarding new and existing organizations that can assist the Eighth District with community concerns, resources, and community projects.