

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Vocabulary List

1. **Transparency**: the state or quality of being clear or thin enough to see through; an honest way of doing things that allows other people to know exactly what you are doing.¹
2. **Accountability**: the quality or state of being accountable; especially: an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions <public officials lacking accountability>.²
3. **Fairness**: marked by impartiality and honesty: free from self-interest, prejudice, or favoritism.³
4. **OIPM**: The New Orleans Office of the Independent Police Monitor (OIPM) is an independent, civilian police oversight agency created in 2008 and which opened in August of 2009. Its statutory mission is to ensure New Orleans Police Department accountability, transparency, and responsiveness to the community it serves. Our vision is to improve police service to the community, citizen trust in the NOPD, and officer safety and working conditions.⁴
5. **Inspector General**: The New Orleans Office of Inspector General (OIG) was established in 2006 by City Code Ordinance §2-1120 pursuant to section 9-401 of the Home Rule Charter. The OIG serves the citizens of New Orleans and provides independent and objective reporting to the Mayor, City Council, New Orleans residents, and other interested parties. Its mission is to prevent and detect fraud and abuse, and to promote efficiency and effectiveness in City operations and programs.⁵
6. **Independent Oversight**: Oversight is “watchful and responsible care” or “regulatory supervision”⁶ and Independent is defined as “not subject to control by others” and/or “not affiliated with a larger controlling unit”.⁷ In context of the New Orleans OIPM, independent oversight means the agency is not affiliated with NOPD and is responsible for watching NOPD and reporting about what it sees.
7. **Critical Incident**: All incidents involving the use of deadly force by an NOPD officer; all uses of force by an NOPD officer resulting in an injury requiring hospitalization; all head strikes with an impact weapon, whether intentional or not; all other uses of force by an NOPD officer resulting in a death; and all deaths while the arrestee or detainee is in the custodial care of the NOPD.⁸

¹ “Transparency.” *Macmillan Dictionary.com*. Macmillan Publishers Limited, 2012. Web. <http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/transparency>. 2 July 2012

² “Accountability.” *Miriam-Webster.com*. Miriam-Webster, Incorporated, 2012. <http://mw1.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/accountability>. 2 July 2012.

³ “Fairness.” *Miria-Webster.com*. Miriam-Webster, Incorporated, 2012. <http://mw1.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fairness>. 2 July 2012.

⁴ New Orleans Independent Police Monitor. (n.d.) OIPM Mission Statement. Retrieved from http://www.nolaipm.org/main/inside.php?page=our_mission. 2 July 2012.

⁵ New Orleans Inspector General. (n.d.) Overview. Retrieved from <http://www.nolaig.org/main/inside.php?page=overview>. 2 July 2012.

⁶ “Oversight.” *Miriam-Webster.com*. Miriam-Webster, Incorporated, 2012. <http://mw1.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/oversight>. 10 July 2012

⁷ “Independent.” *Miriam-Webster.com*. Miriam-Webster, Incorporated, 2012. <http://mw1.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/independent>. 10 July 2012.

⁸ New Orleans Independent Police Monitor



8. **Excessive Force:** Excessive force by a law enforcement officer is a violation of a person's 4th Amendment right against **unreasonable** "seizures." Excessive force is not subject to a precise definition, but it is generally beyond the force a **"reasonable"** and prudent law enforcement officer would use under the circumstances. Force should be used in only the minimum amount **"reasonably"** needed to achieve a legitimate purpose. The reasonableness must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20-20 vision of hindsight, because officers may have had to make a split-second judgment in circumstances that were tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving.⁹
9. **Canvass:** a) to examine in detail; b) to go through (a district) or go to (persons) in order to solicit orders or political support or to determine opinions or sentiments.¹⁰
10. **Complaint:** In the context of the OIPM, a complaint is a person's formal assertion that an NOPD officer has violated rules or the law and a request that their allegation be investigated.
11. **Misconduct:** 1: mismanagement especially of governmental or military responsibilities; 2: intentional wrongdoing; specifically: deliberate violation of a law or standard especially by a government official : malfeasance¹¹
12. **Responsibility:** 1: the quality or state of being responsible: as a: moral, legal, or mental accountability b: reliability, trustworthiness; 2: something for which one is responsible: burden. ¹²
13. **Commendation:** the act of praising or approving of someone or something, words of commendation [=approval, praise]. 2: something (such as an official letter) that praises someone publicly.¹³
14. **Comply:** to do what you have been asked or ordered to do.¹⁴
15. **Mutual respect:** Upon completion of the US Department of Justice curriculum "Mutual Respect in Community Policing", police learn the following principles of mutual respect: 1. Recognize that we are all influenced by past experiences and that treating people with dignity and respect is the foundation of good communication. 2. Recognize that a police officer's actions and demeanor shape the image of their agencies and of law enforcement in general. 3. Recognize that good law enforcement practices involve investigating patterns of criminal behavior and that the use of race as a reason to stop someone is illegal. 4. Recognize that gaining community support and acceptance requires mutual trust and respect between the citizenry and the police. 5. Recognize that establishing positive community partnerships is an effective use of police authority.¹⁵
16. **Reasonable suspicion:** An officer may briefly detain a person if they have reasonable suspicion that the person has been, is, or is about to be engaged in criminal activity. The suspicion must be based on specific and articulable facts taken together with rational inferences. In other words, he must not only have a reason but be able to state it. If you feel you are being profiled, ask the officer

⁹ Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386 (1989).

¹⁰ "Canvass." *Miriam Webster.com*. Miriam-Webster, Incorporated, 2012. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/canvass>. 2 July 2012.

¹¹ "Misconduct." *Miriam Webster.com*. Miriam-Webster, Incorporated, 2012. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/misconduct?show=0&t=1341249006>. 2 July 2012.

¹² "Responsibility". *Miriam Webster.com*. Miriam-Webster, Incorporated, 2012. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/responsibility>. 2 July 2012.

¹³ "Commendation". *Miriam Webster Learners Dictionary.com*. Miriam-Webster, Incorporated, 2012. <http://www.learnersdictionary.com/search/commendation>. 2 July 2012.

¹⁴ "Comply". *Miriam Webster Learners Dictionary.com*. Miriam-Webster, Incorporated, 2012. <http://www.learnersdictionary.com/search/comply>. 2 July 2012.

¹⁵ United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Mutual Respect in Policing: A Lesson Plan. 19 October 2001. Retrieved from: <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Publications/e0601146.pdf>. 17 July 2012.



“What did I do to provoke your suspicion” and listen to his response. This standard was created in the Terry v. Ohio Case.¹⁶

17. Probable cause: This is the standard by which an officer or agent of the law has the grounds to make an arrest, to conduct a personal or property search, or to obtain a warrant for arrest. Most arrestees have the right to a probable cause hearing within 72 hours of arrest. In this hearing, a judge determines if he agrees that the officer had probable cause for the arrest.

18. Frisk: A police procedure where an officer passes their hands over someone to search for something that may be hidden in clothing. A proper frisk DOES NOT involve squeezing, patting, or reaching into one’s clothing, bag, or other personal property. The Supreme Court validated frisking in Terry v. Ohio.

¹⁶ Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1 (1968).

