

# OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



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## SUMMARY OF OIPM 2016 ANNUAL REPORT: STATISTICAL REVIEW OF NOPD'S USE OF FORCE

### Access to Information:

- OIPM has requested that NOPD provide direct access to the database that powers IAPro. This type of connectivity would allow OIPM to directly query the data in the same way that NOPD does in order to populate *data.nola.gov*.
- NOPD has taken the liberty of regrouping and reclassifying some bits of data before uploading them to *data.nola.gov* and before providing them to OIPM. This was done in an effort to make the data more understandable. OIPM was given the opportunity to see the queries that performed this manipulation during one in-person meeting. To date, OIPM has not received a copy of these filters for closer analysis.

### Data Quality

- As a part of our review of use of force, we asked the NOPD for information about arrests. OIPM found that the NOPD does not have a single, reliable method for calculating the number of arrests the department performs on an annual basis. OIPM made recommendations about how to make arrest data more accurate.
- NOPD determines all uses of force to be either effective, ineffective or limited. OIPM is unsure as to how NOPD arrives at those classifications nor whether the definition is standardized across the department.
- After close collaboration between the two offices, NOPD and OIPM were ultimately able to come to consensus over the total number of force incidents that occurred in 2016.
  - OIPM has discovered a large number of fields marked “null”, “undefined”, “other”, “blank,” or simply left blank all together. The vagueness of these classifications deserves further explanation.

### Statistical Findings

- Of the over 1,500 individual uses of force conducted by NOPD officers, NOPD statistics show that only one was found to be unauthorized. OIPM compared that number to the number of complaints around the country about force being used and found that on average at least six cases are found to be unauthorized in a department of the size of the NOPD each year. OIPM will continue this review to determine if all of NOPD uses of force should in fact be classified as ‘authorized’.
- The number of incidents in which force was used was down by 135 from 2015, to 589 incidents. However, the amount of force used during those incidents increased by nearly 46%.
- The greatest increase in the types of force used was an officer pointing a gun at an individual. Prior to 2015, NOPD did not collect statistics about the number of times officers pointed a firearm at an individual. OIPM applauds NOPD for collecting this data now.

- The number of times that an officer used their hands on an individual went down in 2016.
- SWAT used the most force, primarily pointing weapons at individuals, followed by the Seventh and Eighth districts respectively.
- Fourteen percent (14%) of UOFs occur while serving a warrant, 26% during arrest, and 36% of UOFs occur during a call for service.
- The top five(5) officers who reported the most uses of force were SWAT officers. The racial mix of the officers was two (2) white males, two (2) black males, and one (1) Asian male. They were responsible for 9% of the force in the NOPD.
- Resisting arrest is the most common reason for force at 34%.
  - “Other” is a close second at 33%, but “other” is not defined, which is concerning given that a third of cases are classified as “other.”
- Older officers and more experienced officers use more force than younger officers.

	Percentage of police force	Contribution to UOF	Contribution to FTN
Black	54%	47%	46%
White	38%	43%	45%

- Police and the people they use force on get injured at about the same rate.
- The majority of NOPD force is used against black people:
  - 12 out of 12 months saw a majority of force used against black people when compared to the city-wide population.
  - Given that black people make up a sixty percent (60%) majority of the city’s population, one might expect that black people would experience a similar majority of police force. However, because black people were involved in 83% of all UOFs and 72% of all Force Tracking Numbers (FTNs), the amount of force used against black people appears to be disproportional.