

THE OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR



MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2020

Community Letter

Dear New Orleans community,

In the last two months, the Office of the Independent Police Monitor has continued to expand our work to respond to the changing needs of the community and the New Orleans Police Department during this Covid19 pandemic. As part of our police oversight work, we are monitoring how the New Orleans Police Department interacts with the public during this pandemic and through any transition we make as a city. During the month of April, the OIPM focused on three major tenets of work during this pandemic: new NOPD policing strategies during the Shelter in Place order, accounts of police misconduct, and officer involved shootings.

First, the OIPM continued our work with community-based coalitions concerned about the policing strategies being enforced during the Shelter in Place mandate. Policing tactics such as effecting arrests instead of issuing summons and the use of informational checkpoints were of particular concern to the coalition and the community since it could increase the exposure to Covid19 for officers and the public. The OIPM responded to these concerns through a series of meetings with NOPD leadership, contributing to public letters, co-authoring a Letter to the Editor / OpEd for the Advocate, and requesting feedback from the public and the police. As a result, there has been a decrease in arrests and the informational checkpoints have since ceased. OIPM commends the NOPD on these efforts. Moving forward, the OIPM will continue to monitor policing tactics and looks forward to working with NOPD leadership to eventually review and audit data collected during this pandemic.

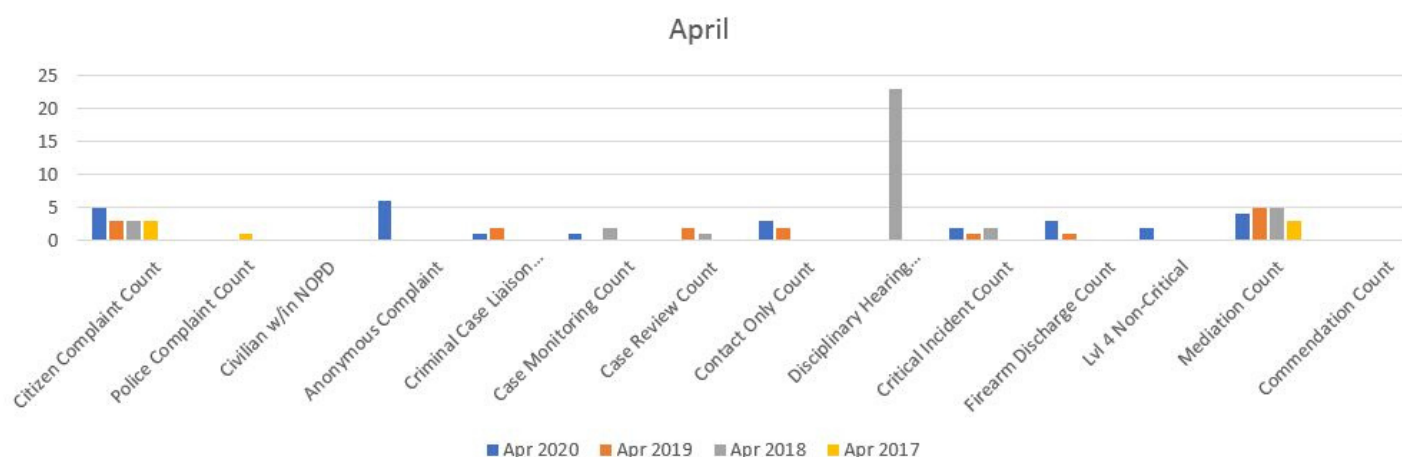
Second, the OIPM received eleven (11) complaints of alleged misconduct from the community this month. These accounts ranged from interactions the public had with the NOPD during calls of service to arrests that the public deemed unnecessary and dangerous during Covid19. Though the increase in complaints is always concerning, the OIPM is comforted that our connection to the community has remained intact during this remote work period and the public can still notify us of their concerns.

Third, there were three (3) officer involved shootings during the month of April and one (1) in the first weekend of May, resulting in the OIPM attending and monitoring the NOPD investigations at the scene. The OIPM will continue to prioritize the monitoring of these shootings and the investigations while working remotely – attending officer statements and reviewing BWC footage. As the city government transitions out of the Shelter in Place Mandate, the OIPM will continue to monitor these investigations and remain on call for any critical incident that may arise.

During this time, the health and safety of our community, the public and the officers, is our first priority and we will continue to serve everyone by ensuring all police interactions are both necessary and safe. The OIPM will continue to serve our community through monitoring, complaint intake, mediation, and policy recommendations. Please follow all public health mandates and we look forward to continuing our work for the people of New Orleans.

Sincerely,
Susan Huston

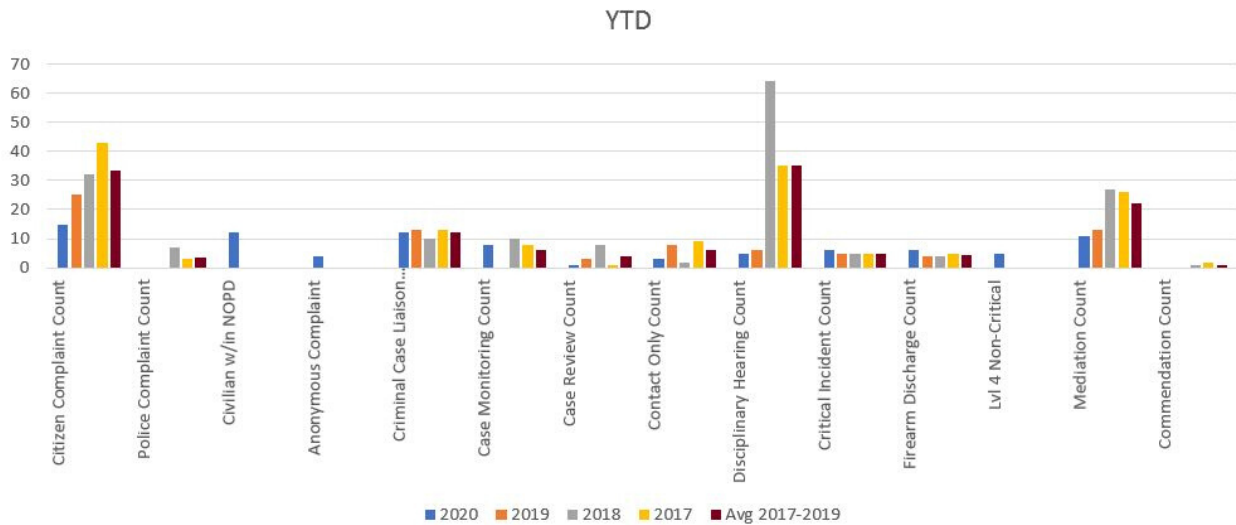
April Overview



	Apr 2020	Apr 2019	Apr 2018	Apr 2017	Avg 2017-2019
Citizen Complaint Count	5	3	3	3	3.00
Police Complaint Count	0	0	0	1	0.33
Civilian w/in NOPD*	0	-	-	-	-
Anonymous Complaint*	6	-	-	-	-
Criminal Case Liaison Count	1	2	-	-	-
Case Monitoring Count	1	0	2	0	0.67
Case Review Count	0	2	1	0	1.00
Contact Only Count	3	2	0	0	0.67
Disciplinary Hearing Count	0	0	23	0	7.67
Critical Incident Count	2	1	2	0	1.00
Firearm Discharge Count	3	1	0	0	0.33
Lvl 4 Non-Critical*	2	-	-	-	-
Mediation Count	4	5	5	3	4.33
Commendation Count	0	0	-	-	0.00
Grand Total	27	16	36	7	14.33

*indicates a new category

Year to Date Overview



	2020	2019	2018	2017	Avg 2017-2019
Citizen Complaint Count	15	25	32	43	33.33
Police Complaint Count	0	0	7	3	3.33
Civilian w/in NOPD*	12	-	-	-	-
Anonymous Complaint*	8	-	-	-	-
Criminal Case Liaison Count	12	13	10	13	12.00
Case Monitoring Count	8	0	10	8	6.00
Case Review Count	1	3	8	1	4.00
Contact Only Count	3	8	2	9	6.33
Disciplinary Hearing Count	5	6	64	35	35.00
Critical Incident Count	6	5	5	5	5.00
Firearm Discharge Count	6	4	4	5	4.33
Lvl 4 Non-Critical*	5	-	-	-	-
Mediation Count	11	13	27	26	22.00
Commendation Count	0	0	1	2	1.00
Grand Total	88	77	170	150	132.33

*indicates a new category

April Overview

Mediation	
Mediation cases are confidential.	
Mediations Held: 3	

Level 4 Non-Critical Use of Force	
UF2020-0004	The officer was escorting an individual with a mental health crisis in handcuffs. The individual places his mouth on the officer's arm and the officer pushed the individual with an open hand. No injuries were reported.
UF2020-0005	The reserve officer stated he observed two (2) suspicious subjects at a residential location. The officer fired one (1) round in to the ground.
Level 4 Non-Critical Use of Force: 2	

Firearm Discharge	
FD2020-0004	Same as CI2020-0005
FD2020-0005	Same as CI2020-0006
FD2020-0006	Same as UF2020-0005
Firearm Discharge Count: 3	

Contact Only	
CO2020-0009	Individual spoke to OIPM regarding her experience of stopping at a NOPD informational checkpoint and the officer not wearing PPE and leaning into her car.
CO2020-0010	Individual reached out to OIPM to discuss a NOPD checkpoint on St. Charles and State.
CO2020-0011	OIPM reached out to NOPD leadership on behalf of an individual seeking information regarding the training academy.
Contact Only Count: 3	

April Overview

Critical Incident	
CI2020-0005	Officers responded to a call for service for subjects pulling on door handles. When officers attempted to make contact with subjects, the subjects fired shots at the officers & the officers returned fire. Two officers and one perpetrator were struck. One perpetrator was arrested and the other is still at large.
CI2020-0006	Officers were conducting a wanted subject check at the location. Upon entry, the officers made contact with the wanted subject. He fired shots at the officers and the officers returned fire. One officer was struck and transported to an area hospital. The wanted subject was taken into custody without further incident.
Critical Incident Count: 2	

Citizen Complaints	
CC2020-0013	Complainant alleges that the officer accosted him and threatened to arrest him for wearing a protective mask while the complainant was delivering meals to residents.
CC2020-0014	Complainant states that she has been trying to retrieve her firearm from NOPD evidence since July 15, 2019 and they continue to give her "the run around."
CC2020-0015	Complainant alleged NOPD did not thoroughly investigate her complaint of simple battery. The complainant also alleges the officer was rude in his communication with the complainant.
CC2020-0018	The complainant alleges that a member of her family was sexually
CC2020-0019	The complainant alleges that three NOPD officers conducted an illegal stop which led to the search of his vehicle and a summons for possession of marijuana when the officer found a small amount of marijuana.
Citizen Complaints Count: 5	

April Overview

Criminal Liasion	
CL2020-0019	Individual reached out to OIPM for assistance with getting information regarding a recent experience with NOPD and two other law enforcement agencies.
Criminal Liasion Count: 1	

Case Monitoring	
CM2020-0008	Complainant reached out to OIPM for a status update regarding the 6th District investigation of his allegation of misconduct.
Case Monitoring Count: 1	

Anonymous Complaint	
CC2020-0013	According to the complainant, the NOPD officers are rude to individuals experiencing housing instability in the CBD during the Shelter in Place Public Health mandate.
CC2020-0014	Complainant alleges a police officer engaged in a sexual relationship with members of his family which began while on duty and his communications and actions after the incident violated NOPD policy.
CC2020-0015	Complainant stated she witnessed the NOPD surround, stop, and search a young black male for rolling a blunt. The complainant also stated that none of the officers had on any PPE.
CC2020-0018	An anonymous complainant alleges an officer violated Chief Ferguson's order to reduce arrests by arresting an individual for possession of a small amount of marijuana instead of issuing a summons. It is unknown if the officer was wearing PPE at the time of
CC2020-0019	An anonymous complainant alleges an officer violated Chief Ferguson's order to reduce arrests by arresting an individual for misdemeanor warrant (the individual received a ROR from court). It is unknown if the officer was wearing PPE at the time of the interaction.
AC2020-0010	An anonymous complainant alleges an officer violated Chief Ferguson's order to reduce arrests by arresting an individual for misdemeanor warrant (the individual received a ROR from court). The arrested individual has extensive health risks and resides with an elderly grandmother. The anonymous complainant alleged this arrest put both at unnecessary risk. It is unknown if the officer was wearing PPE at the time of the interaction.
Anonymous Complaint Count: 6	

Complaints and Discipline

The OIPM serves as an alternative site for civilians and police officers alike to file complaints of misconduct against the NOPD. These complaints and allegations are compiled into referrals by the OIPM and provided to the Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) for them to investigate. The OIPM monitors and reviews the classification and investigation conducted by PIB. If the complaint continues into a disciplinary proceeding, the OIPM will continue to monitor and review the disciplinary process. OIPM monitors and reviews disciplinary proceedings conducted by NOPD to ensure accountability and fairness. The OIPM reviews the disciplinary investigation and attends the subsequent disciplinary hearings where the OIPM will provide systemic and individualized findings and recommendations based on NOPD's investigation. The OIPM conducts a thorough review of the proceedings, findings, and recommendations that is available for review by both the NOPD and the New Orleans community.

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**CITIZEN
COMPLAINTS**

0

**DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS**

0

**POLICE INITIATED
COMPLAINTS**

6

**ANONYMOUS
COMPLAINTS**



Community-Police Mediation

Mediation is an alternative to the traditional process of resolving complaints of police officer misconduct. Mediation is a process facilitated by two professionally-trained community mediators to create mutual understanding and allow the civilian and officer to be fully heard and understood in a non-judgmental way.

3

REFERRALS
FOR
MEDIATION

I liked the chance to talk
and that the mediators
were good listeners. The
process turned out good.”
– Officer Participant



4

MEDIATIONS
HELD

“ This was a good opportunity to
express my concerns of how things
were handled with the officer. I learned
not to categorize the entire department
because of one officer’s mistake. The
officer learned to take time to listen
before acting. This program should
continue. Please don’t stop!”
–Civilian Participant

3

MEDIATIONS
PENDING

Use of Force

The OIPM is required by City Code 2-1121 to monitor the quality and timeliness of NOPD's investigations into use of force and in-custody deaths. If an incident occurs, the OIPM is notified and a member of the incident and will report immediately to the scene. The OIPM will stay engaged from the occurrence of the incident, through investigation, and Use of Force Review Board hearings.

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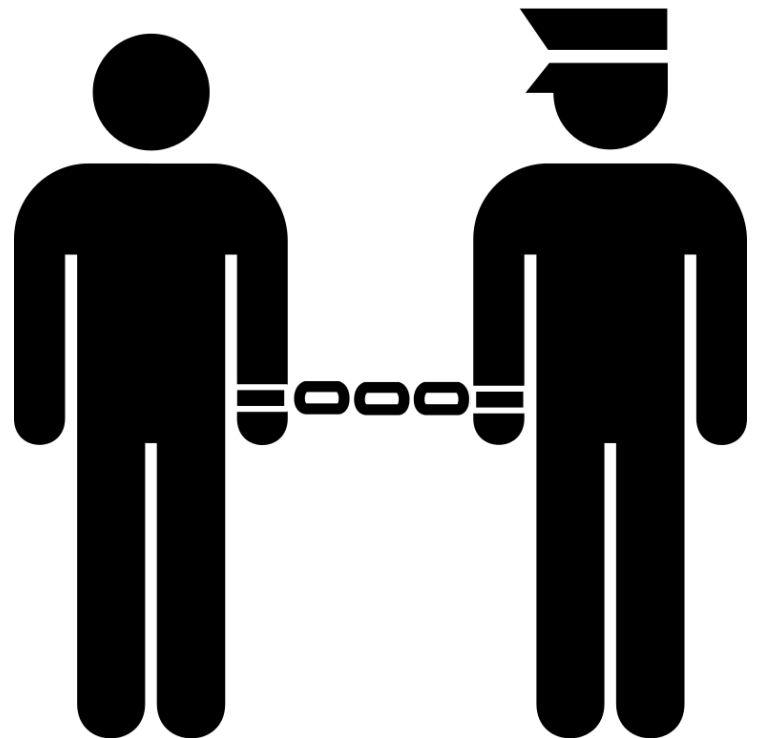
**CRITICAL
INCIDENTS**

3

**FIREARM
DISCHARGES**

2

**LEVEL 4
NON-CRITICAL
INCIDENT**



Community Relations

OIPM participates in community events to help extend the message of the OIPM and participates in activities to impact the nature of the relationships the community has with police officers. OIPM is committed to being present in the community, but also presenting helpful information to the public.

Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center Tenant Rights Webinar

The OIPM participated in a webinar regarding tenant rights in landlord tenant disputes and illegal eviction during Covid19. We discussed the role of OIPM and how to provide feedback regarding police interactions with tenants – good or bad – to our office and how to file a complaint if needed.

Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center Landlord Informational Webinar

The OIPM participated in a webinar regarding landlord laws and obligations in Louisiana particularly during Covid19. We discussed the role of OIPM and how we monitor police involvement in housing disputes to ensure it is consistent with policy. We also explained how to report police misconduct to our office.

The Advocate OpEd regarding Arrest Reduction During the Pandemic

Independent Police Monitor Susan Hutson co-wrote an OpEd / Letter to the Editor for The Advocate regarding the necessity of reducing arrests during the pandemic in order to slow the rate of exposure for officers and public.

