



Office of Inspector General Independent Police Monitor's Office

City of New Orleans

ANNUAL REPORT

August 15, 2009 through March 31, 2010 *

Submitted pursuant to City Code § 2-1121 (16)

March 31, 2010

*Because the Independent Police Monitor's Office was not established until late in 2009, this report covers activity from its formation through March 31, 2010. Future reports will cover activity for calendar years.

Holly L. Wiseman
Deputy Independent Police Monitor

Establishment of the Independent Police Monitor's Office (IPM)

In August of 2009, the first Police Monitor, Neely Moody, and Deputy Police Monitor, Holly Wiseman, were appointed. Although Neely Moody resigned from his position after less than a month, the Deputy Police Monitor remained, and has worked to set up operations of the office since that time. At the request of the Chairman of the Criminal Justice Committee of the City Council, no effort was made to fill the IPM vacancy in 2009.

Mission and Responsibilities of the IPM

The IPM is a civilian police oversight agency within the Office of the Inspector General. It is completely independent of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD). Its mission is: 1) to improve cooperation and trust between the community and the NOPD through objective review of police misconduct investigations; 2) to identify patterns of or trends in misconduct; 3) to recommend or develop improvements in police policies, procedures, tactics, and training that will serve to increase police integrity and improve the performance of the police department; 4) to help create systems that identify and address potentially problematic behavior before discipline is warranted; 5) to reach out to the community to inform it about the activities of the IPM and to listen and respond to broader community concerns.

Staff

The IPM Office has a staff of three: the Independent Police Monitor, the Deputy Independent Police Monitor and the Executive Director of Community Relations. At the current time only the Deputy IPM position is filled, but the other two positions are currently advertised and will be filled shortly. In order to reach the broadest possible field of qualified potential candidates for the IPM position, the Inspector General's Office has carried out an aggressive nationwide search. The three finalists chosen will be interviewed by the Search Committee (as defined by City Code §2-1121) and the Inspector General in April and will attend two public hearings to answer questions from the community prior to the final selection by the Inspector General with the advice of the Search Committee.

Complaint Intake

The IPM serves as an alternate complaint intake site for those who prefer not to complain directly to the NOPD Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) about conduct of NOPD officers. In order to perform this function, the IPM has designed and implemented a database to record and track information on complaints and their handling by the PIB, along with accompanying manuals. The IPM has also entered into community partnerships with two organizations to do complaint intake off site. One, the Hispanic Apostolate of Catholic Charities, will take complaints from Spanish speakers; the other, Safe Streets/Strong Communities, is located in the high crime Central City area. Complaint forms and information regarding the operations of the IPM have

been translated into Spanish and Vietnamese. Other community partnerships in different areas of the city will be formed in the months to come.

Monitoring Potential NOPD Misconduct

The IPM is required by City Code §2-1121 to monitor the quality and timeliness of NOPD investigations of civilian and internally-generated complaints of officer misconduct, use of force and in-custody deaths, as well as internal investigations and any discipline imposed. Because the NOPD has refused to produce necessary documents, the IPM Office has been unable to perform this function.

Data Collection and Analysis

The IPM is also required by law to review and analyze the numbers and types of complaints, as well as to assess the adequacy of data collection and analysis. The reviews and analyses will assist the IPM in tracking trends regarding the types and sources of complaints, processing and investigation and discipline. Because the NOPD has refused to produce necessary documents, the IPM Office has been unable to perform this function.

In order to facilitate the required data collection and analysis, the IPM Office has researched the advantages and requirements of a sophisticated internal affairs database to be shared as appropriate by the IPM Office and the NOPD.

Protocol

As required by City Code §2-1121, the IPM Office has drafted a proposed Protocol governing interaction and document sharing between the NOPD and the IPM Office. The Protocol is based on best practices nationwide. It has not been agreed to by the NOPD.

Outreach and Accountability

Since August of 2009, the Deputy IPM has met with dozens of agencies, community organizations, academics, members of the criminal justice system, city officials, and individuals. With the assistance and participation of all five City Council members, the Deputy IPM held public meetings in each councilmanic district, as required by City Code §2-1121.

The Deputy IPM appeared on WBOK (twice), WWL radio, WWL TV 4 News, FOX 8 News and was interviewed by the Times-Picayune.

Conclusion

Despite the unexpected resignation of the first IPM, the Deputy IPM and the Inspector General have worked hard to establish the basic operations of the office, to create solid bonds with affected communities and stakeholders, and to seek cooperation from the NOPD. With the impending appointment of an IPM and Executive Director of Community Relations and a new and supportive city administration, the IPM Office looks forward to fully implementing the Police Monitor's Ordinance in the months to come.