

# Office of the Independent Police Monitor

City of New Orleans

## 2018 Annual Report: Year in Review



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Independent Police Monitor

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# INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR

## MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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The Office of the Independent Police Monitor (OIPM) is an independent, civilian police oversight agency created by the voters in a 2008 charter referendum and which opened its doors for the first time in August of 2009. Its mission is to improve police service to the community, civilian trust in the NOPD, and officer safety and working conditions. The OIPM has six broad responsibilities:

- 1) To ensure that all complaints regarding police misconduct are classified and investigated or mediated at the appropriate level and that those investigations are fairly, timely and thoroughly handled; to ensure that discipline is fair, timely, appropriate and upheld upon appellate scrutiny. To make information about this review process available to the public.
- 2) To monitor NOPD investigations into use of force to identify violations of civil rights, concerns of officer tactics and safety, risks to life, liberty and property, and adherence to law and policy.
- 3) To review and analyze aggregate data from complaints, investigations, community concerns and public policy in crafting recommendations aimed toward improving the quality of services by the NOPD.
- 4) To reach out to inform the community about the OIPM, to listen and respond to broader community concerns, and prepare the community for engagement in NOPD policy and practice.
- 5) To mend police/community relationships by fostering effective police/community partnerships.
- 6) To collect police commendations, review and monitor police training and supervision issues and support a healthy and safe working environment for NOPD employees.

The OIPM is responsible for monitoring the New Orleans Police Department and only the New Orleans Police Department. Although OIPM works with other criminal justice system actors, it is not responsible for oversight of any other agency. However, OIPM is mindful of the impact of these other criminal justice actors upon the operations of NOPD and will attempt to analyze that impact in future reports. OIPM accomplishes its mission by focusing on three main activities: complaint and disciplinary system monitoring and review; use of force monitoring and review; and subject-specific analyses or audits. Our recommendations to improve NOPD's accountability systems originate from these activities.



## A NOTE FROM THE INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR

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Pursuant to New Orleans City Code Section 2-1121 (16) (the Police Monitor’s Ordinance) The Office of Independent Police Monitor (OIPM) publishes an annual report each year. The Police Monitor’s Ordinance provides as follows:

“The independent police monitor shall be required to issue at least one public report each year, by May 30, to the ethics review board and New Orleans City Council detailing its monitoring and review activities and the appropriate statistical information from the internal investigations office, and other divisions of the New Orleans Police Department. The independent police monitor shall be required to report upon problems it has identified, recommendations made, and recommendations adopted by the New Orleans Police Department. The report shall also identify commendable performance by the New Orleans Police Department and improvements made by the department to enhance the department's professionalism, accountability, and transparency.”

This “Year in Review” is part of that report.

Herein the OIPM will provide some information about noteworthy 2018 activities for the NOPD and OIPM.

The OIPM would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of the Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) of NOPD for helping OIPM to meet its statutory obligations. The working relationship between the OIPM and PIB was especially noteworthy this year. PIB cleared its decks to meet with the OIPM and provide thoughtful and insightful feedback regarding the OIPM’s Annual Report. In my nine years as the Independent Police Monitor, these discussions concerning the Annual Report and the OIPM recommendations were the most collaborative I have seen and the resulting pledges to work towards the same goals makes me excited to take on this work in 2019. The self-critiquing growth and internal betterment of the NOPD over these almost nine years, but especially during the Consent Decree, speaks to the leadership of this important and special bureau and the men and women that work therein. On behalf of the OIPM, I thank PIB for their efforts in strengthening this report and look forward to achieving these goals together in 2019.



## NOTABLE NOPD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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The following notable accomplishments were reported by the NOPD's Public Information Office in 2018.

### City-Wide Crime Reduction

- The NOPD reported a significant reduction in most violent crime categories. This includes murders, shootings, armed robberies and simple robberies.
- The NOPD reported a reduction in property crimes, while not as significant as the decrease in violent crime categories. A reduction in crime rates was observed in aggravated burglary, simple burglary, residential burglary, shoplifting and property snatching.

### Citizen Satisfaction

- The NOPD has continued to see positive progress as it relates to the public's perception of the NOPD. For the second year, the public's overall satisfaction with the NOPD exceeds 50%. Moreover, 87% of the citizens surveyed have indicated an officer interaction was pleasant in comparison to 79% of citizens surveyed in 2017.

### Officer Work-Burden

- The continued implementation of the False Alarm Reduction Program has reduced the number of calls received to less than 15,000 annually. This reduction translates to 2500-5000 patrol hours saved and better utilized.
- By embracing technology and obtaining electronic warrants, NOPD has saved 2500-1000 patrol hours.
- Most impressively, NOPD has saved 5000-10,000 patrol hours by implementing Alternative Police Reporting and NOPD Online.

### Leader in Police Reform

- While the NOPD is still under Consent Decree, its progress has not gone unnoticed. Law enforcement agencies from across the nation and world have received training from the NOPD.
  - Baltimore, MD
  - Chicago, IL
  - Milwaukee, WI
  - Memphis, TN
  - Pittsburgh, PA
  - Albuquerque, NM
  - San Francisco, CA



- Portland, OR
- Grapevine, TX
- Arlington, TX
- Newark, NJ
- Newark Consent Decree Monitoring Team
- Columbia, SC
- Philadelphia Police Advisory Commission
- Gary, IN
- US Virgin Islands
- US Customs and Border Protection
- Tuscon, AZ
- United Nations
- International Justice Mission and Guatemalan Law Enforcement
- Mexico- Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security
- Police Executive Research Forum
- National Police Foundation
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- The NOPD was featured in national publications and presented at national law enforcement conferences on police reform successes.

### **NOPD Department Size**

- The NOPD reports historic lows in the rate of attrition and continued net growth in the size of the department.
- As of November 2018, the NOPD ended the period with 1,211 officers.

## **SUMMARY OF OCDM PARAGRAPH 456 ASSESMENT**

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The Office of the Consent Decree Monitor (OCDM) is required to conduct a comprehensive assessment measuring the current outcomes under the Consent Decree. In January of 2019, the OCDM published its report.

The OCDM classified each of the areas of the Consent Decree as 1) No Meaningful Progress, 2) Inadequate Progress, 3) Significant Progress, 3) Nearing Full & Effective Compliance and 4) Full and Effective Compliance. The OCDM found significant improvement in all areas of the Consent Decree. Most areas of the Consent Decree are categorized as Nearing Full and Effective Compliance or Full and Effective Compliance. However, there are still five significant areas of that are not instep with the others.



While “significant progress” has been achieved in the areas of supervision, performance evaluations and promotions, recruitment, community engagement and stop, searches and arrests, these five categories are lagging behind their counterparts. Most concerning is the progress that needs to be made related to stops, searches and arrests. The OCDM audits revealed inconsistent documentation of searches, lack of supervisor approval for consent searches, necessity for further training and inconsistent supervisor reviews of search documentation.

Once the OCDM finds the NOPD to be in “full and effective compliance” in all of the Consent Decree areas, the two-year monitoring phase of the Consent Decree will begin. The OIPM and OCDM are maintaining regular communications to ensure a smooth transition in the future.

## OIPM IN 2018

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2018 was a year of growth and change for OIPM. OIPM experienced significant staff changes as it welcomed a new Deputy Independent Police Monitor, Ms. Stella Cziment, Esq., and Executive Director of Community Relations, Mrs. Bonycle Sokunbi, Esq. The OIPM has staff of seven full time employees. This has been beneficial as OIPM has seen an increase in complaint intake and community-police mediations.

As the nation has taken notice of the reform taking place in the NOPD, oversight agencies are aware of the work the OIPM has done as well. OIPM has been recognized as a leader in police reform and presented nationwide and internationally on the subject matter. In 2018, the Independent Police Monitor, also made significant strides in codifying best practices for police oversight with the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement. Additionally, through the development and implementation of best practices, the OIPM’s Community Mediation Program quickly became a national model assisting in the development of programs in other cities such as Ferguson and St. Louis, Missouri; Baltimore, Maryland; Los Angeles, California; Chicago, Illinois; and Greenville, North Carolina.

OIPM has remained committed to the community. Whether it is through our Community-Police mediation program, or outreach efforts, the OIPM is increasing its presence in the New Orleans Community. The following list comprises the OIPM’s outreach efforts and reporting in 2018.

Date	Event	Council District
<b>January 2018</b>	‘Black and Blue’ play premiere and Community Dialogue	D
	Revius Ortique Leadership Institute - Speaker	B



	Know Your Rights and Responsibilities – Day Reporting Center – Presenter	B
	Citizen Diplomacy Council	Taught visiting governmental and non-profit officials about civilian police oversight.
	Rethink Talk	Provided information to the community about the OIPM’s work.
<b>February 2018</b>	Ethics Review Board Meeting	B
	Terrance Jones Radio Show on WGSO - Speaker	All
	Neighborhood Association Meeting - Presenter	D
	Al Mims Radio Show on New Orleans Talk Network - Speaker	All
	Court Watch Nola - Speaker	
	Know Your Rights Presentation with BARE NOLA	B
<b>March 2018</b>	Peace Walk St. Roch	C
	WBOK Radio Interview with Families Overcoming Injustice	All
	Mardi Gras Indians Super Sunday - Tabled	B



	NOPD Graduation - Attended	D
	Ethics Review Board Meeting	B
	Families Overcoming Injustice Candlelight Vigil for National Day Against Police Brutality- Presenter	B
	BCM Public Safety Community Partners and BCM Leadership	D
	Know Your Rights and Responsibilities – Day Reporting Center – Presenter	B
	Community- Police Mediation Training – Facilitator	D
<b>April 2018</b>	SCLC Women’s Church Auxiliary President’s Breakfast – Justice for Girls Townhall - Presenter	C
	Ethics Review Board Meeting	B
	NOPD EPIC Conference - Attendee	A
<b>May 2018</b>	Know Your Rights and Responsibilities – Greater Liberty Church - Presenter	B
	Tulane University New Orleans Black Law Alumni Event - Attendee	B
	National Police Accountability Project Seminar and CLE – Presenter	D





	Ethics Review Board	B
	Open Society Learning Exchange – Attendee	B
<b>June 2018</b>	Know Your Rights and Responsibilities – First 72 Plus - Presenter	B
	NOPD New Supervisor Training Academy, “Active Listening, Conflict Resolution and Mediation,” - Presenter	D
	NOPD Graduation, Attendee	D
	NOPD Training Academy, “Credibility Determinations and Allegations,” - Presenter	D
	New Orleans Diplomacy Council International Visitors from Georgia – Presenter	B
	BCM Media Reception with Criminal Justice Agencies- Attendee	B
	Refresh Community Group Meeting on Cincinnati Consent Decree – Presenter	N/A
	Community Oversight Task Force Baltimore - Host	N/A
	Ethics Review Board Meeting	B
	NOPD Graduation, Attendance	D



<b>July 2018</b>	Community Mediation - Facilitator	B
	FBI Special Agent Civil Rights and OIPM's Work – Meeting	D
	City Attorney's Office and OIPM's Work - Meeting	B
	Know Your Rights and Responsibilities – Greater Liberty Church Symposium – Presenter	C
	Know Your Rights and Responsibilities – Bible School- Presenter	D
	Police Data Convening and Discussion	N/A
	Ethics Review Board Meeting	B
	Open Society Meeting – Presentation	B
	New Orleans Community Mediation Service's New Mediator Training - Presenter	B
<b>August 2018</b>	Kilometro Civilian Oversight from Puerto Rico - Host	N/A
	Meeting with Community Partners on Homicide Investigations	B



	Annual National Soros Fellows Conference Workshop on Policing, Presenter	B
	Meeting with Criminal Court Judge	C
	Know Your Rights and Responsibilities, Day Reporting Center – Presenter	B
<b>September 2018</b>	Ethics Review Board Meeting	B
	Meeting with Office of Homeland Security	B
	Aspen Institute called Weave: The Social Fabric Project - Interview	All
	Meeting with Xavier University about data	B
	Meeting with Coroner’s Office	B
	Meeting with community partners on homicide investigations	B
	Mayor’s Block Party – Tabled	C
<b>October 2018</b>	SCLC Justice for Girls Symposium, “Human Trafficking, - Presenter	All



	NOPD Graduation -Attendee	B
	Past Harms Present Remedies Reception, Host	D
	2018 Social Justice Banquet – Award Recipient	All
	Ethics Review Board Meeting	B
	NOPD Training Academy Committee Meeting	B
	Know Your Rights and Responsibilities, Liberty Kitchen - Presenter	B
	Know Your Rights and Responsibilities, St. Augustine High School - Presenter	D
	Night Out Against Crime - Tabled	B
	NOPD Insight Unit	B
<b>November 2018</b>	Know Your Rights and Responsibilities, GW Carver High School – Presenter	D
	3 <sup>rd</sup> District NONPACC Meeting – Attendee	D



Know Your Rights and Responsibilities, Katherine Drexel Preparatory School -	B
Meeting with Denver Office of the Independent Monitor about Kids and Cops Programming	N/A
Know Your Rights and Responsibilities, Day Reporting Center – Presenter	B
Know Your Rights and Responsibilities, St. Mary’s Academy – Presenter	E
International Police Oversight, Berlin, Germany – Presenter	N/A
RTCC Tour and Community Meeting	B
Amnesty International Meeting – Domestic Violence Investigations	B
Meeting with Human Relations Commission	B
NACOLE Regional Meeting- Presenter	N/A
ACLU LA Meeting	B
Ethics Review Board Meeting	B
Know Your Rights and Responsibilities, Liberty’s Kitchen - Presenter	B

