THE OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2020

SUSAN HUTSON
INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR

Community Letter

Dear New Orleans Community,

This month has been one of great collaboration between OIPM and the community and OIPM and NOPD leadership. During August, OIPM amplified the voices of those in our community and those employed by the NOPD to ensure that the concerns that arise from any police interaction – whether it be on the street or in the NOPD workplace – are addressed respectfully.

In August, OIPM received a handful of significant complaints from employees within the NOPD. These complaints brought the OIPM's attention to the possibility of some concerns of culture and supervision that may exist in some departments within the NOPD. OIPM leadership reached out to the Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau and started a dialog about how to best address these employment concerns that may require a management-based solution rather than allegations of misconduct. OIPM looks forward to continuing these conversations with the NOPD leadership as we work together to explore how to best investigate these unique concerns and resolve the underlying culture complaints that may erode an officer's employment experience within the NOPD and hurt officer retention.

Over the last several months, OIPM leadership made a series of policy recommendations to Captains within the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau and the Public Integrity Bureau. These recommendations included how to make the retaliation policy more responsive to the needs of the NOPD employees filing complaints, improving the conflict policy to address and eliminate inappropriate relationships initiated by officers with members of the public during calls of service, and enhancing and clarifying the strip search policy to resolve the ongoing confusion regarding visual vs physical inspection by officers. In August, OIPM received copies of policy drafts incorporating our recommendations and addressing our concerns. The OIPM appreciates the proactive and receptive collaboration with the NOPD leadership on changing these policies and looks forward to continuing this valuable work with these departments.

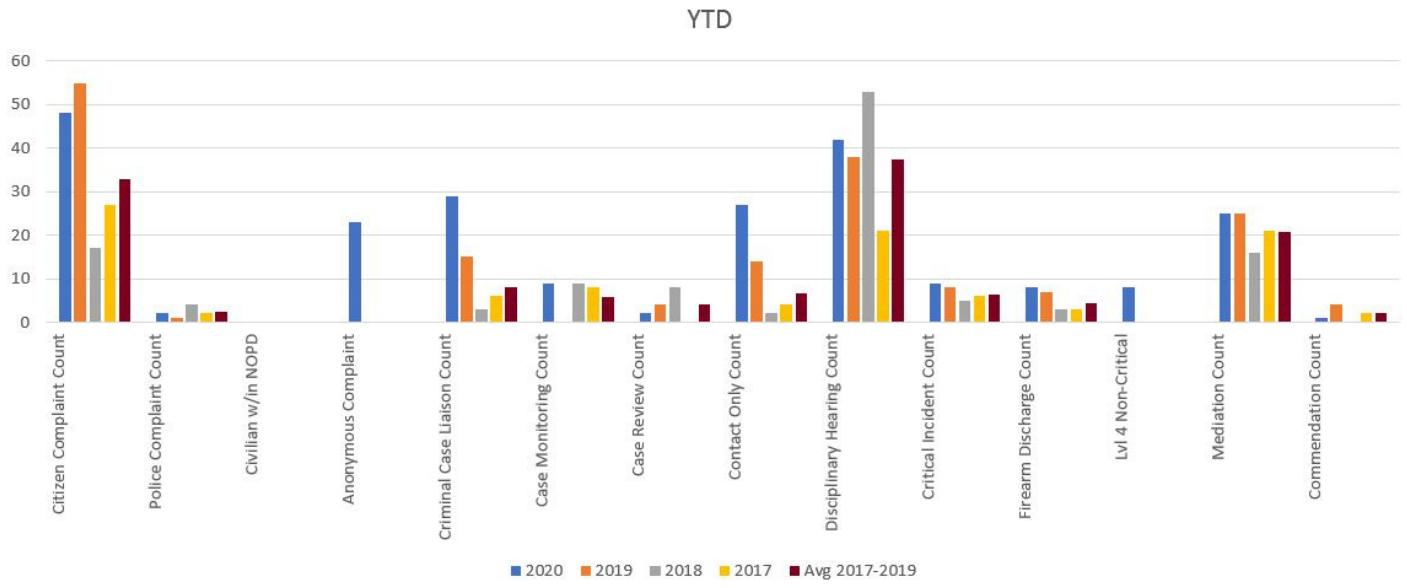
Finally, the OIPM continued to act as a resource in the development of possible city ordinances to address policing and the sharing of policing resources with criminal justice partners. The OIPM participated in community coalitions and provided feedback to various organizations pursuing police reform efforts and access to Body Worn Camera footage, including sharing national best practices and context to NOPD policies. During August and in the coming months, many of these ordinances, incorporating OIPM feedback, may appear before City Council and the New Orleans community for consideration and implementation.

OIPM seeks to continue to serve our community as this summer of pandemic and community protests continue. The OIPM is a resource to all and will continue to demand accountability, fairness, and transparency from the NOPD. We look forward to continuing our work with you.

Thank you,

Susan Hutson

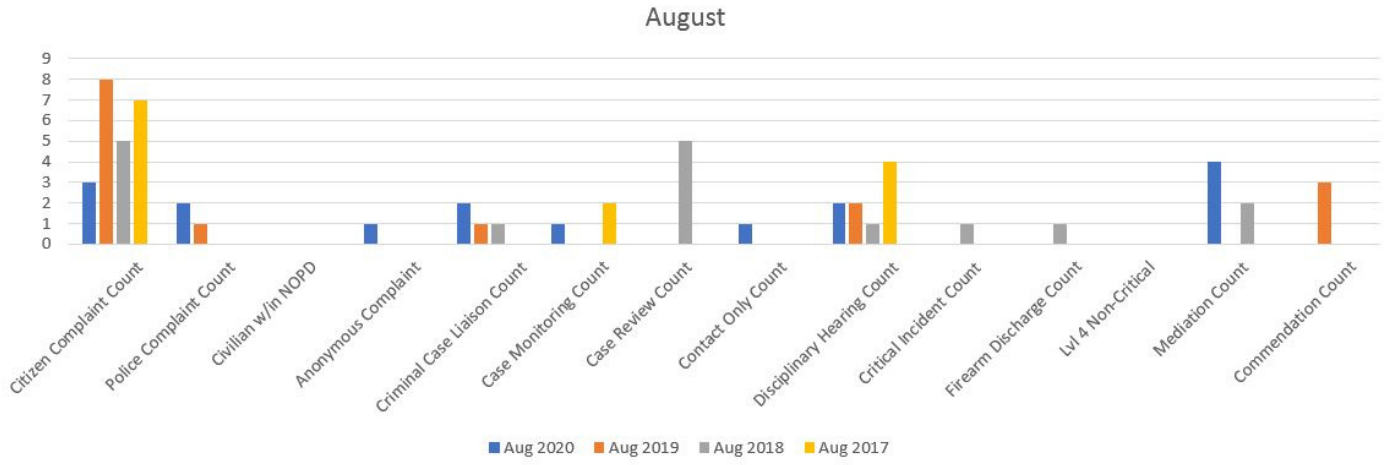
Year to Date Overview



	2020	2019	2018	2017	Avg 2017-2019
Citizen Complaint Count	48	55	17	27	33.00
Police Complaint Count	2	1	4	2	2.33
Civilian w/in NOPD*	0	-	-	-	-
Anonymous Complaint*	23	-	-	-	-
Criminal Case Liaison Count	29	15	3	6	8.00
Case Monitoring Count	9	0	9	8	5.67
Case Review Count	2	4	8	0	4.00
Contact Only Count	27	14	2	4	6.67
Disciplinary Hearing Count	42	38	53	21	37.33
Critical Incident Count	9	8	5	6	6.33
Firearm Discharge Count	8	7	3	3	4.33
Lvl 4 Non-Critical*	8	-	-	-	-
Mediation Count	25	25	16	21	20.67
Commendation Count	1	4	0	2	2.00
Grand Total	233	171	120	100	130.33

*indicates a new category

August Overview



	Aug 2020	Aug 2019	Aug 2018	Aug 2017	Avg 2017-2019
Citizen Complaint Count	3	8	5	7	6.67
Police Complaint Count	2	1	-	-	1.00
Civilian w/in NOPD*	0	-	-	-	-
Anonymous Complaint*	1	-	-	-	-
Criminal Case Liaison Count	2	1	1	0	-
Case Monitoring Count	1	0	0	2	0.67
Case Review Count	0	0	5	0	1.67
Contact Only Count	1	0	0	0	0.00
Disciplinary Hearing Count	2	2	1	4	2.33
Critical Incident Count	0	0	1	0	0.33
Firearm Discharge Count	0	0	1	0	0.33
Lvl 4 Non-Critical*	0	-	-	-	-
Mediation Count	4	0	2	0	0.67
Commendation Count	0	3	-	-	3.00
Grand Total	16	15	16	13	14.33

*indicates a new category

August Overview

Citizen Complaints	
CC2020-0070	According to the complainant, after her car was totalled in an accident, the investigating officer made a finding of "no fault" despite the complainant's pictures and other evidence available during the on-scene investigation.
CC2020-0071	Complainant stated she was injured during the June 3rd protest on the Crescent City Connection Bridge by an NOPD officer leaving her with a concussion and torn rotator cuff.
CC2020-0075	The complainant alleges that a Detective has "given her the runaround" and failed to thoroughly investigate the sexual assault of her family member.
Citizen Complaints Count: 3	

Police Complaint	
PO2020-0073	According to a Sergeant within the NOPD, the lieutenant and captain she reported to demonstrated unprofessional behavior, bias, and favoritism.
PO2020-0074	According to a Lieutenant within the NOPD, a subordinate has behaved aggressively towards her and is resistant of her management. When the complainant tried to address concerns she has regarding this employee, she felt Deputy Chiefs and her Captain expressed racial bias and / or favoritism towards that employee.
Police Complaint Count: 2	

Anonymous Complaint	
AC2020-0072	An anonymous complainant works in the NOPD Crime Lab and alleges that another officer frequently makes racist remarks and degrades women while on duty and in the office.
Anonymous Complaint Count: 1	

Criminal Liasion	
CL2020-0029	OIPM assisted an individual with reaching out to the Coroner's Office to learn the status of an investigation.
CL2020-0030	An individual reached out to the OIPM concerning a possible elder abuse issue.
Criminal Liasion Count: 2	

August Overview

Case Monitoring	
CM2020-0009	An individual reached out to OIPM regarding a pending misconduct investigation and concerns the individual is having with PIB and the District Attorney's Office. OIPM is assisting the individual with getting information from PIB and facilitating conversations with various offices.
Case Monitoring Count: 1	

Contact Only	
CO2020-0033	An individual reached out to OIPM and other city government leaders regarding "blue line corruption." OIPM reached out to the individual requesting additional information and did not receive a response.
Contact Only Count: 1	

Disciplinary Hearings	
DH2020-0041	An officer is accused of operating his department vehicle for personal use while not on duty under the influence of alcohol, and getting into a collision. The officer is accused of failing to utilize the city resources or notifying his supervisor of the accident but instead trying to call a private towing company to retrieve the car.
DH2020-0042	Officer is accused of entering a holding cell with a child (juvenile) arrested subject then shoving and slapping the child. The officer is accused of committing the misdemeanor offense of simple battery and using unauthorized force in violation of NOPD policy.
Disciplinary Hearings Count: 2	

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.

3 CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

2 DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

2 POLICE INITIATED COMPLAINTS

1 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.

5
MEDIATIONS REFERRED

4
MEDIATIONS HELD

2
MEDIATIONS PENDING

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

" 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