

THE OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR



MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 2020

SUSAN HUTSON
INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR

Community Letter

Dear New Orleans Community,

As the end of the year quickly approaches, the Office of the Independent Police Monitor continues to push ahead with our goals for the 2020 year to amplify the needs of our community and advise the NOPD on how to better serve our public.

First, the Office of the Independent Police Monitor extends its heartfelt thoughts to both officers hurt during the shooting in the French Quarter on October 30, 2020. The OIPM was on the scene and monitored the investigation into this distressing shooting. Though this incident was emotionally challenging for the officers who responded, the OIPM appreciates the professionalism and sensitivity shown at the scene to all witnesses and members of the public. Our office joins with the community to hope for the speedy recovery of these officers.

On October 23, the Office of the Independent Police Monitor joined with the community organization, Families Overcoming Injustice (FOI), in a day of thoughtful solidarity as we marked the National Day Against Police Brutality. This year, FOI marked the day with a community event on the steps of City Hall. We joined other organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Court Watch NOLA to both speak with and listen to the families of those affected. We thank the families that came to this event and shared their stories with us.

As our city enters a new phase of reopening after the Covid19 shutdowns, the Office of the Independent Police Monitor has continued to hear and facilitate the concerns of musicians and street performers who feel they are being unjustly targeted for their street performances. We worked with NOPD leadership, the Eighth (8th) District, and the musician advocacy groups to try to resolve these clashes and determine how to best proceed together safely. So, we can both keep our city vibrant and full of music but safe from the risks that crowds and gatherings may bring during the pandemic. We look forward to this continued partnership and collaboration.

During the month of October, the Office of the Independent Police Monitor continued to provide vital monitoring and facilitating services. On October 6, 2020, the Office of the Independent Police Monitor monitored the investigation of an Officer Involved Shooting in the Third District on St. Bernard. Until the last bullet casing was photographed by Crime Lab, our staff remained on the scene to monitor the investigation conducted and ensure that the NOPD follow all necessary protocols. Our office was also involved in some next steps for other Officer Involved Shootings this month including facilitating a meeting for a family of someone involved in an Officer Involved Shooting and the Captain of the Public Integrity Bureau so the family can learn more about the investigation that was conducted. Also, this month we monitored misconduct intake and witness statements made at the Public Integrity Bureau at the request of the complainants. These complainants also happened to be employees of the NOPD, so the OIPM appreciates the trust that these employees and ranked officers have shown towards our office to ask us to be present during these investigations.

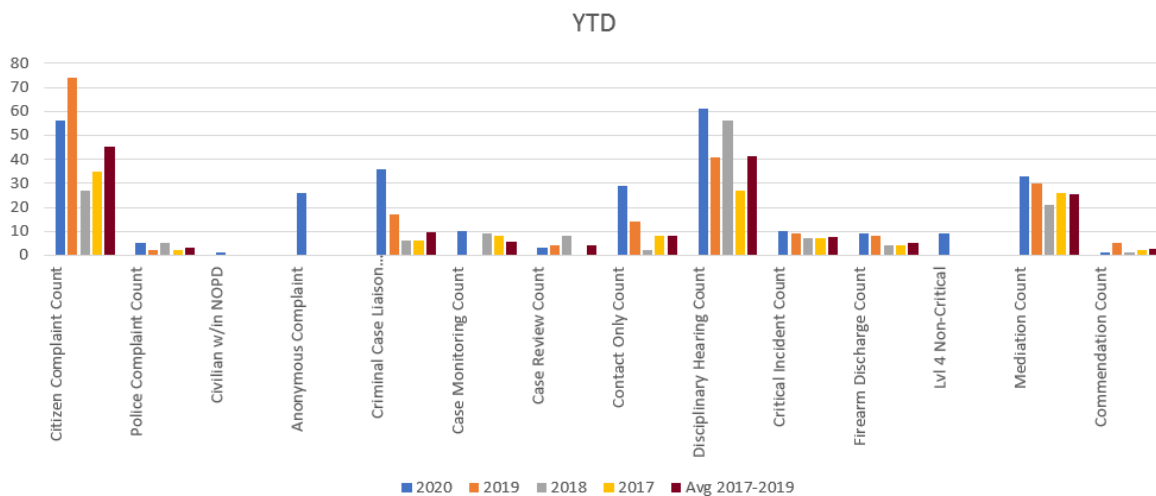
Finally, as New Orleans enters election season, the OIPM encourages all New Orleanians to participate in this civil engagement and vote. Voting is another way to use your voice in our community and we hope you take advantage of this valuable opportunity to be heard.

Thank you,

Susan Hutson

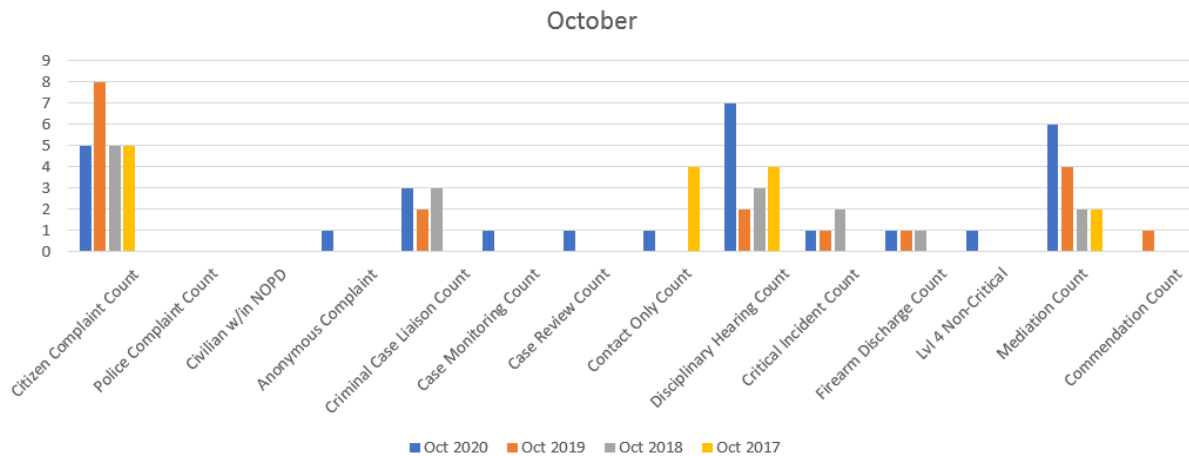
Year to Date Overview

	2020	2019	2018	2017	Avg 2017-2019
Citizen Complaint Count	56	74	27	35	45.33
Police Complaint Count	5	2	5	2	3.00
Civilian w/in NOPD*	1	0	0	0	0
Anonymous Complaint*	26	0	0	0	0
Criminal Case Liaison Count	36	17	6	6	9.67
Case Monitoring Count	10	0	9	8	5.67
Case Review Count	3	4	8	0	4.00
Contact Only Count	29	14	2	8	8.00
Disciplinary Hearing Count	61	41	56	27	41.33
Critical Incident Count	10	9	7	7	7.67
Firearm Discharge Count	9	8	4	4	5.33
Lvl 4 Non-Critical*	9	0	0	0	
Mediation Count	33	30	21	26	25.67
Commendation Count	1	5	1	2	2.67
Grand Total	289	204	146	125	158.33



*indicates a new category

October Overview



	Oct 2020	Oct 2019	Oct 2018	Oct 2017	Avg 2017-2019
Citizen Complaint Count	5	8	5	5	6.00
Police Complaint Count	0	0	0	0	0.00
Civilian w/in NOPD*	0	-	-	-	-
Anonymous Complaint*	1	-	-	-	-
Criminal Case Liaison Count	3	2	3	0	-
Case Monitoring Count	1	0	0	0	0.00
Case Review Count	1	0	0	0	0.00
Contact Only Count	1	0	0	4	1.33
Disciplinary Hearing Count	7	2	3	4	3.00
Critical Incident Count	1	1	2	0	1.00
Firearm Discharge Count	1	1	1	0	0.67
Lvl 4 Non-Critical*	1	-	-	-	-
Mediation Count	6	4	2	2	2.67
Commendation Count	0	1	0	0	0.33
Grand Total	28	19	16	15	14.33

*indicates a new category

October Overview

Citizen Complaints	
CC2020-0085	Complainant alleges that a particular officer harasses her while she performs music and targets other African American musicians.
CC2020-0086	The complainant alleges the NOPD failed to take necessary police action when the responding officer did not register the complainant's stolen vehicle's license plate in NCIC.
CC2020-0087	Complainant says he was stopped for allegedly running a stop sign, was given a ticket, and falsely arrested pursuant to an invalid warrant in Houston. Additionally, he had his legal firearm illegally seized and was falsely charged with possession of a firearm.
CC2020-0089	The complainant heard a District Captain make some questionable remarks about unconstitutional policing methods at a homicide scene. In addition, the next day, another officer from the same district allegedly harassed and tried to disperse a peaceful vigil for the homicide victim.
CC2020-0090	The complainant received a SOS alert from his child's cell phone and he contacted NOPD's non-emergency line several times for assistance but the complainant alleges the officers failed to take necessary and appropriate police action.
Citizen Complaints Count: 5	

Anonymous Complaint	
AC2020-0088	The complainants stated that they observed NOPD officers harass and arrest a man sitting on the stoop in the French Quarter without any perceived probable cause.
Anonymous Complaint Count: 1	

Criminal Liaison	
CL2020-0034	OIPM is assisting an individual with a car theft investigation involving the 5th District including facilitating communication and the possible retrieval of personal belongings.
CL2020-0035	OIPM assisted an individual with correcting a traffic accident report and facilitated communication between the individual and the responding officer.
CL2020-0036	An individual contacted OIPM for assistance with removing a warrant for a family member.
Criminal Liaison Count: 3	

Case Monitoring	
CM2020-0010	A Lieutenant within the NOPD requested that the OIPM monitor statements made in a misconduct investigation. OIPM attended and monitored two statements and is facilitating communication between PIB and the Lieutenant.
Case Monitoring Count: 1	

October Overview

Case Review	
CR2020-0003	OIPM received a case review request regarding PIB2019-0680-P / CM2020-0008. The individual requested the OIPM review the misconduct investigation regarding unprofessional comments made by a responding officer.
Case Review Count: 1	

Contact Only	
CO2020-0035	Individual reached out to OIPM regarding an encounter the individual had on an airplane that made the complainant uncomfortable and scared.
Contact Only Count: 1	

Disciplinary Hearings	
DH2020-0056	Two officers are accused of being involved in a car accident during which a bicyclist was struck. The officers are accused of failing to make an immediate and proper notification or disclosing that they struck a cyclist.
DH2020-0057	A Sergeant for the Sixth District is accused of approving a report authored by an officer that disclosed there was an unauthorized field strip search in violation of NOPD policy. The Sergeant is accused of failing to make corrective action against the officer.
DH2020-0058	Two officers are accused of not following NOPD policy based on their posts regarding protestors on social media.
DH2020-0059	An officer responding to a call of service regarding a shoplifting incident is accused of hitting the involved individual with his car, failing to pursue the individual, and failing to conduct the necessary investigation into the incident and collect available evidence.
DH2020-0060	An officer is accused of approaching a civilian and taking his cell phone and deleting footage of the interaction with the officer and conducting an unnecessary and unauthorized field strip search. His supervisor, a Sergeant, is accused of failing to take corrective action against the officer for those two actions.
DH2020-0061	An Senior Police Officer is accused of conducting a search of a box within a car during a traffic stop and failing to document the search in the Field Identification Card (FIC) as required under policy.
DH2020-0048	An officer involved in an Officer Involved Shooting is accused of engaging in an unauthorized pursuit, failing to activate his body worn camera (BWC) and using demeaning language towards the individual in a manner that was not professional.
Disciplinary Hearings Count: 7	

October Overview

Critical Incident	
CI2020-0010	An officer was notified and arrived on scene of a gun battle between two subjects. One of the subjects pointed a gun at the officer and the officer fired his weapon striking the subject.
Critical Incident Count: 1	

Firearm Discharge	
FD2020-0009	See CI2020-0010.
Firearm Discharge Count: 1	

Level 4 Non-Critical Use of Force	
UF2020-0010	Officers responded to a call for service reporting a suspicious male walking in traffic armed with a knife. When officers arrived on scene the male subject refused verbal commands and they used a taser to subdue. The subject was tasered by 3 officers multiple times and was transported by EMS to UMC for mental evaluation and a broken finger.
Level 4 Non-Critical Use of Force: 1	

Mediation	
Mediation cases are confidential.	
Mediations Held: 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.

- 5** CITIZEN COMPLAINTS
- 7** DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS
- 0** 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.

13

**MEDIATIONS
REFERRED**

6

**MEDIATIONS
HELD**

3

**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

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.

October 22, 2020 - Families Overcoming Injustice -
National Day Against Police Brutality Vigil

