

THE OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR



MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2021



Community Letter

Dear New Orleans Community,

When I started writing this letter towards the end of August, there were many topics I wanted to showcase but in the wake of Hurricane Ida, it is important to first discuss how the OIPM is keeping its staff safe and providing necessary police oversight for the community both during the storm and in the weeks to follow.

Earlier this month, the OIPM released our Hurricane and Declared Emergency Oversight Plan to the public. This plan has two parts. The first part outlines the expectations for OIPM staff during hurricanes and evacuations and the second part provides the OIPM monitoring plan for how our office will provide oversight to the NOPD. This plan was created to ensure safety, accountability, oversight, and transparency wherever the OIPM is working. Due to the severity of the storm and in accordance with city policy, I recommended that OIPM staff take necessary precautions to prepare for the hurricane. Most of our staff elected to evacuate and are now working remotely until we can return safely.

During Hurricane Ida and now, as the city enters our recovery, the OIPM has monitored the policing tactics and policies implemented by the NOPD through various means. The OIPM monitored real time updates through the New Orleans Web Emergency Operations Command Center and followed dispatches and responses through the Orleans Parish Communication Division. OIPM leadership communicated and received briefings from the Captain of the Public Integrity Bureau. The OIPM communicated important updates and resource information to the public through our social media platforms and newsletters. Upon the completion of this declared emergency, the OIPM will review and assess the NOPD's response to determine their compliance with their hurricane plan, city mandates and policies, and local, state, and federal law. The OIPM will also seek community feedback about the interactions the public had with the police during the hurricane and the subsequent response.

While the hurricane and the response will be in the forefront of our minds and work, the OIPM does want to reflect on other collaborations, work, and events that took place in August. This month, the OIPM partnered with Bike Easy New Orleans for a cross-platform social media campaign and outreach effort to get feedback from the community about interactions cyclists were having with the NOPD. The OIPM also coordinated a tour and meeting between our office, Orleans Parish Communication Division, and the Vera Institute to learn more about calls for service for those experiencing mental health crisis and the implementation of the new pilot program in the Third District to send trained social workers in lieu of police for these responses. The OIPM looks forward to monitoring the effectiveness of this pilot program and providing this information to the community.

In August, the OIPM implemented a recommendation from the QARAC to conduct community outreach to increase commendations. Our call for accounts of positive policing was re-shared by Chief Ferguson and the NOPD. We received commendations highlighting how officers assisted members of the public get justice after surviving a sexual assault, assisted their family during Hurricane Katerina, returned lost dogs to owners, investigated package thefts and then personally returned the stolen packages to families in time for Christmas. These accounts reminded us of the important role officers can play in making New Orleans a connected community and a supportive place to live.

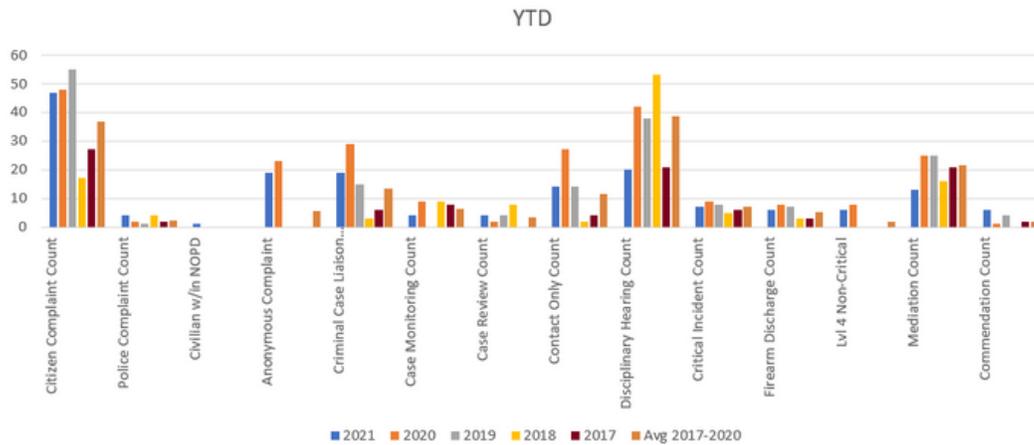
Finally, the NOPD lost a dedicated public servant this month – Detective Briscoe. Detective Briscoe was killed while off-duty in Houston, Texas. The OIPM extends our deepest sympathies to Detective Briscoe's family, friends, and coworkers. The OIPM reminds NOPD employees coping with this loss, along with the stress of Hurricane Ida and the anniversary of Hurricane Katerina, to not struggle alone and seek assistance from the NOPD Officer Assistance Program.

The New Orleans community is always celebrated for our resilience, but this idea of endurance is dependent on us serving our neighbors and being there for one another. The OIPM thanks the individuals, organizations, frontline workers, first responders, businesses, and partners who have raised to the occasion and found new ways to help and lend a hand while we repair our city and ensure accountability while we do it. We are in this together – and our office is ready to serve you.

Thank you,

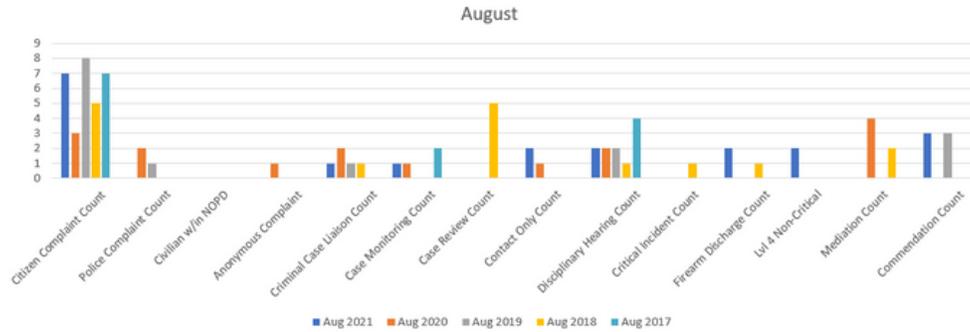


Year to Date Overview



	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	Avg 2017-2020
Citizen Complaint Count	47	48	55	17	27	36.75
Police Complaint Count	4	2	1	4	2	2.25
Civilian w/in NOPD*	1	0	0	0	0	0
Anonymous Complaint*	19	23	0	0	0	5.75
Criminal Case Liaison Count	19	29	15	3	6	13.25
Case Monitoring Count	4	9	0	9	8	6.50
Case Review Count	4	2	4	8	0	3.50
Contact Only Count	14	27	14	2	4	11.75
Disciplinary Hearing Count	20	42	38	53	21	38.50
Critical Incident Count	7	9	8	5	6	7.00
Firearm Discharge Count	6	8	7	3	3	5.25
Lvl 4 Non-Critical*	6	8	0	0	0	2
Mediation Count	13	25	25	16	21	21.75
Commendation Count	6	1	4	0	2	1.75
Grand Total	170	233	171	120	100	156.00

August Overview



	Aug-21	Aug-20	Aug-19	Aug-18	Aug-17	Avg 2017-2020
Citizen Complaint Count	7	3	8	5	7	5.75
Police Complaint Count	0	2	1	-	-	1.50
Civilian w/in NOPD*	0	0	-	-	-	0.00
Anonymous Complaint*	0	1	-	-	-	1.00
Criminal Case Liaison Count	1	2	1	1	0	1.00
Case Monitoring Count	1	1	0	0	2	0.75
Case Review Count	0	0	0	5	0	1.25
Contact Only Count	2	1	0	0	0	0.25
Disciplinary Hearing Count	2	2	2	1	4	2.25
Critical Incident Count	0	0	0	1	0	0.25
Firearm Discharge Count	2	0	0	1	0	0.25
Lvl 4 Non-Critical*	2	0	-	-	-	0.00
Mediation Count	2	4	0	2	0	1.50
Commendation Count	3	0	3	-	-	1.50
Grand Total	22	16	15	16	13	15

August Overview

Citizen Complaints	
CC2021-0075	The complainant stated that she was sexually assaulted and the detectives assigned to the case failed to take necessary and appropriate police action.
CC2021-0076	The complainant alleges that a NOPD officer failed to conduct a thorough investigation into his call for service regarding a domestic dispute between the complainant and his ex-boyfriend which resulted in the complainant going to jail and subsequently having property damaged in his home.
CC2021-0077	The complainant alleges that NOPD officers failed to conduct a thorough on scene investigation and falsely arrested her of home invasion when she arrived at her children's father's apartment to retrieve them (per a court order) and no one was there except the underaged children.
CC2021-0078	Complainant alleges that he and several other staff were assaulted at his job by a NOPD/PIB Lieutenant's son and that the investigation may not be thorough due to the perceived conflict.
CC2021-0079	The complainant stated that she was physically and verbally assaulted by her mother, but NOPD issued a warrant for the complainant's arrest and arrested her.
CC2021-0080	Complainant alleged that the NOPD failed to take necessary action and failed to thoroughly investigate a domestic disturbance call involving him and his children's mother in which the NOPD released his children to the mother erroneously.
CC2021-0081	The complainant alleged that NOPD has failed to take necessary and appropriate action in response to her calls for service against a man in her neighborhood harassing and possibly physically assaulting her.
Citizen Complaints Count: 7	

Case Monitoring	
CM2021-0004	A lieutenant requested the OIPM monitor two open investigations that are currently being conducted regarding his previous assignment at the NOPD.
Case Monitoring Count: 1	

Contact Only	
CO2021-0013	A member of the public reached out to the OIPM for assistance with a police encounter that occurred in Witcha Falls, TX. The OIPM provided the individual with the process for filing misconduct complaints in Witcha Falls and the contact information.
CO2021-0014	A member of the public reached out to the OIPM to inform them that NOPD officers fail to stop at pedestrian crossings on the Lafitte Greenway, especially the one on Broad St. next to the City designated gas station. The OIPM communicated this concern to NOPD leadership for them to communicate it to the districts.
Contact Only Count: 2	

August Overview

Commendations	
PC2021-0004	A member of the public requested to recognize an officer that both helped her obtain justice for the sexual assault she experienced and helped her family evacuate after Hurricane Katerina.
PC2021-0005	A member of the public requested to recognize an officer in the Second District who has served the community in numerous ways including investigating package thefts, recovering the packages, and delivering the packages by Christmas and finding and returning a lost dog.
PC2021-0006	A member of the public requested to recognize an officer in the Fourth District who assisted their family after a traumatic hit and run. The person stated this officer was professional, kind, and helpful.
Commendations: 3	

Criminal Liaison	
CL2021-0017	A complainant contacted the OIPM requesting assistance making contact with the detective assigned to her case in the Sixth District.
Criminal Liaison Count: 1	

Disciplinary Hearings	
DH2021-0020	Two Senior Police Officers were accused of violating NOPD policy and behaving unprofessionally when they were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for conspiracy to commit theft of government funds for fraudulently accepting money for military honor funerals.
DH2021-0021	An off-duty Sergeant was accused of operating his take-home vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, causing a car accident, and driving recklessly while in uniform.
Disciplinary Hearings Count: 2	

Mediation	
Mediation cases are confidential.	
Mediations Held: 2	

August Overview

Level 4 Non-Critical Use of Force	
UF2021-0003	An NOPD officer was flagged down regarding a individual possibly experiencing a mental health crisis. The individual struck the officer with metal trash can lid. The officer then deployed his taser twice. The officer called for backup. The individual was then handcuffed. After the individual was handcuffed the subject bit an officer's finger. Officers then struck the individual with open hand to get the subject to release the officer's finger. The officer drive stunned the subject. The subject was arrested and transported to UMC for evaluation.
UF2021-0004	While on detail, an NOPD office attempted to apprehend an individual after a shoplifting incident. The officer deployed his taser for a total of six (6) cycles. Additional NOPD units arrived on scene and apprehended the individual.
Level 4 Non-Critical Use of Force: 2	

Use of Force Review Board Cases Heard	
ASI2021-0003	NOPD Sixth District officers responded to an alleged disturbance in the 1400 block of Felicity Street. An officer discharged his weapon and fatally injured a dog.
FTN2021-0130	NOPD Second District officers responded to an alleged domestic dispute. The alleged perpetrator was successfully handcuffed by officers, but used his hands and feet to prevent officers from placing him in the NOPD vehicle. An officer struck the arrested subject in the legs with a closed fist.
FTN2021-0110	A NOPD Third District officer deployed his Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) on a handcuffed subject.
FTN2021-0123	A NOPD Third District officer struck a handcuffed individual in the groin area.
FTN2021-0141	A NOPD officer travelled the wrong direction during a vehicle pursuit that resulted in serious injuries.
FTN2021-0102	An NOPD officer discharged his CEW, striking an individual in the rear of his head with one probe and the back with the other. The individual fell forward, striking his face on the ground.
Use of Force Review Board Cases Heard: 6	

Firearm Discharge	
FD2021-0004	An officer attempted to render a firearm safe and negligently discharged one (1) round in the ground. No injuries were reported.
FD2021-0004	A confiscated firearm was accidentally discharged while the unit was attempting to clear it. No injuries were reported.
Firearm Discharge Count: 2	

Complaints

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.

Once the OIPM receives a complaint, the OIPM prepares the complainant's account into a narrative. The OIPM strives to accurately capture the words, emotions, goals and narrative shared by the complainant and selects the policy, practice, or rule that each allegation of behavior / incident could have violated if determined to be true. As part of the letter preparation process, OIPM personnel reviews information in NOPD systems regarding the interaction complained of, including body worn camera video, electronic police reports (EPR) and field interview cards (FIC). The OIPM may include information obtained from NOPD information systems in the complaint referral to PIB to ensure that PIB can fully investigate the complainant's concerns.

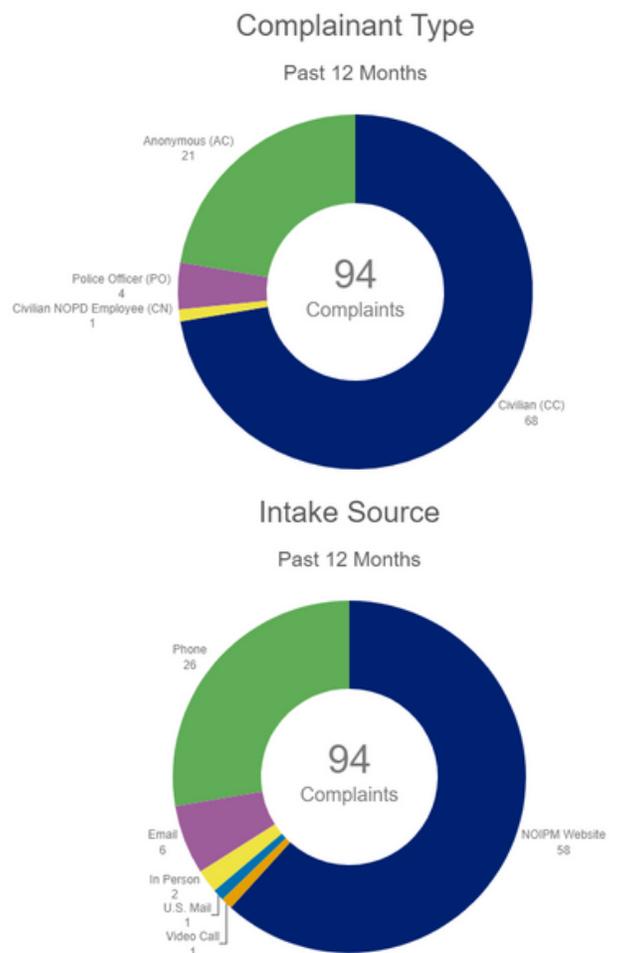
The OIPM provides a complaint process that is independent, impartial, transparent, fact-based, timely, and communicates in an understandable manner to all those involved. The OIPM maintains that misconduct investigation must be comprehensive, and the complaint process must be accessible, fair, thorough, and transparent.

8 CIVILIAN COMPLAINTS

0 ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS

0 POLICE INITIATED COMPLAINTS

0 CIVILIANS WITHIN NOPD INITIATED COMPLAINTS



Discipline

The OIPM is responsible for monitoring whether NOPD action taken during disciplinary proceedings are compliant with state and federal law, NOPD policy, the Consent Decree, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the NOPD and the OIPM executed on November 10, 2010. The OIPM will review such proceedings to ensure the NOPD is compliant with Federal Consent Decree Section XVII: Misconduct Complaint Intake, Investigation, and Adjudication.

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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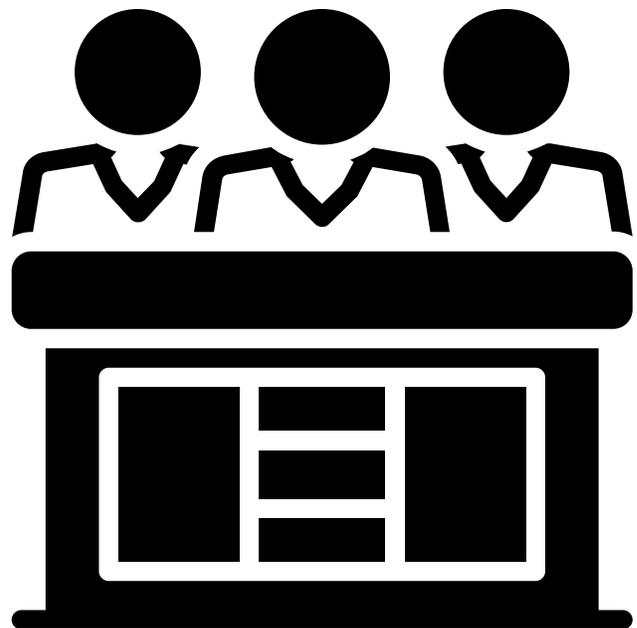
**DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS**

3

**SUPERINTENDENT
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

0

**CAPTAIN PANEL
PREDISPOSITION
AND PENALTY
HEARINGS**



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.

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

10 MEDIATIONS REFERRED

2 MEDIATIONS HELD*

*2 additional mediations were postponed due to Hurricane Ida

6 MEDIATIONS PENDING



“ 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

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 a critical 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 (UFRB) hearings.

The UFRB serves as a quality control mechanism to ensure timely reviews of all serious use of force investigations to determine the appropriateness of the investigative findings, and to quickly appraise use of force incidents from a tactics, training, policy, and agency improvement perspective. The voting members of the UFRB are the Deputy Superintendents of Field Operations Bureau, Public Integrity Bureau, and Investigations and Support Bureau. Other NOPD deputy chiefs serve as non-voting members, and outside groups like OIPM and the Office of the Consent Decree Monitor are present to observe, listen, and participate in discussion.

0

CRITICAL INCIDENTS

2

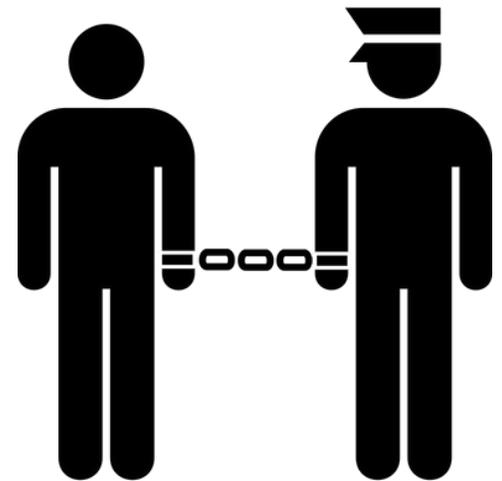
FIREARM DISCHARGE

2

LEVEL 4 NON-CRITICAL INCIDENT

6

CASES HEARD AT USE OF FORCE REVIEW BOARD

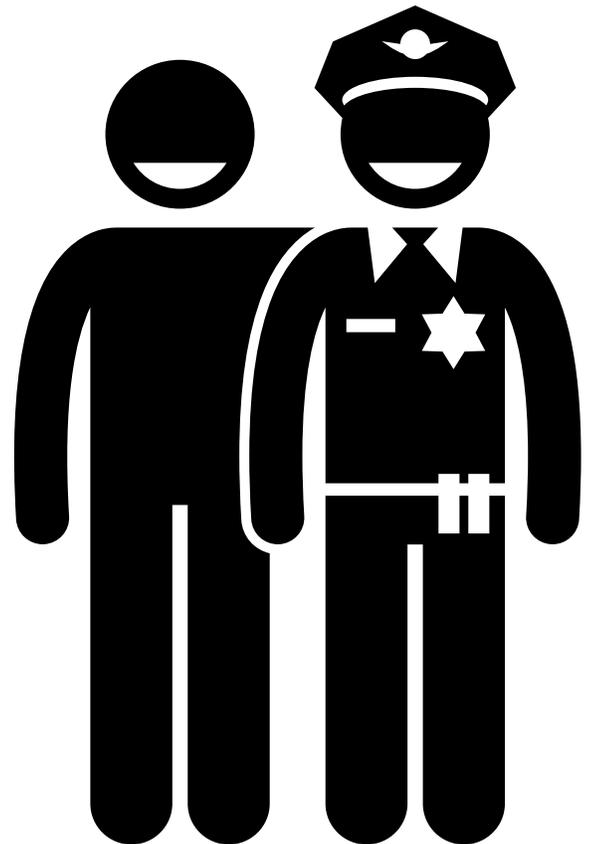


Commendations

Commendations are accounts of positive policing. The commendation may include a positive interaction that occurred during a call to service or recognition to an officer who participated in a community event or an officer that was particularly helpful or went above and beyond. The commendation request is an opportunity to recognize this positive action and the affect it had on the individual or the community. Anyone can file a commendation and a commendation can be filed an anonymously. The commendation will go into an officer's file.

We at the OIPM want to ensure such examples of positive policing are captured and marked by the community and we provide the NOPD with examples of excellent policing when it occurs.

3 COMMENDATIONS



Community Outreach

9

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

OIPM leads and participates in community outreach to inform the public of our services, to increase public engagement with policing, raise awareness of local or relevant police practice, and monitor how the NOPD interacts with our community.

OIPM PRESENTED AT AN ONLINE CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING IN PORTLAND REGARDING NOPD AND BODY WORN CAMERAS

OIPM PARTICIPATED IN COUNCILMEMBER CYNDI NGUYEN'S COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION WORKSHOP AND GAVE A PRESENTATION TITLED: "POLICE OVERSIGHT AND PUBLIC SAFETY"

OIPM FACILITATED MEETINGS WITH NOPD LEADERSHIP AND STREET PERFORMERS

OIPM MET WITH THE PATERNAL ORDER OF THE POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

OIPM CONTRIBUTED TO A WORKING GROUP REGARDING POLICING DASHBOARDS WITH THE POLICE FORUM

OIPM FACILITATED AND ATTENDED A TOUR OF THE ORLEANS PARISH COMMUNICATION DIVISION FOR COALITION PARTNER NONPROFIT

OIPM LED A LYRIC PRESENTATION

OIPM SPOKE TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OIPM HELD A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MEDIATOR TRAINING



Budget

OIPM Budget Description	Amount
Personnel	\$688,744.00
Operating	\$324,937.00
2021 Total OIPM Budget	\$1,013,681.00
2021 Total OIPM Budget	\$1,013,681.00
Amounts Spent to Date:	Not Available
Projected Amounts to be Spent the Rest of the Year:	(\$849,333.34)
Projected Unexpended Funds	\$164,347.66

2021 Goal Progress

To ensure accountability and transparency with the ERB and the community, the OIPM will report out highlights and what progress was made each month to complete the goals listed in the Six Month Action Plan and the recommendations adopted from the QARAC.

These benchmarks and goals were achieved in August, 2021:

Publicized Opportunities for Commendations (QARAC Recommendation)

- OIPM made a successful social media post requesting commendations. Chief Ferguson and NOPD News reposted the post. OIPM received three (3) commendations from community members as a result.

The OIPM completed and released the "OIPM 2021 Hurricane and Declared Emergency Plan" and the "Required Criteria Audit Sheet" which the OIPM will utilize to assess the NOPD's compliance with their 2021 Hurricane Plan.

- This plan was utilized during Hurricane Ida and OIPM will complete the first Hurricane Report once the declared emergency is over.

Completed the OIPM Political Activities Policy and disseminated it to the OIPM staff and contractors.

Design new OIPM Website that is easier for the public to navigate (QARAC Recommendation)

- In July, the OIPM released the website bid for the second time in 2021. In August, the OIPM interviewed and selected a contractor to complete the new website and rebranding.

Completed the 2022 OIPM Budget. Submitted budget along with NOPD response to the city by deadline.

- In July, the OIPM submitted a 2022 Budget Proposal to Chief Ferguson and his leadership team. The OIPM met with NOPD regarding the request in August regarding their response.
- OIPM met with NOPD regarding funding the proposed mediation program services for officers and supervisors to build out the program (QARAC Recommendation).

OIPM selected and onboarded a Public Allies Fellow who will be working on expanding our community outreach and capacity.

Additional Benchmarks:

- Met with contractors to start work on the second phase of the OIPM data dashboard with relevant compliant data: <https://complaints.nolaipm.gov/data>

Social Media Highlights

Below are some of the social media posts produced by OIPM over the last month. Some of these posts were re-shared by partners. The OIPM also started an ongoing "story" on Instagram with relevant Hurricane Ida information.



Pedals and police. Give us your feedback.

Have you had a problematic or a positive experience with the police while cycling?

We want to know about it.

Submit complaints or commendations to the Office of the Independent Police Monitor.



bikeeasy • Following
New Orleans, Louisiana

bikeeasy Excited to partner with the New Orleans Office of Independent Police Monitor!

Reposted from @nolaipm -- Bike Easy works to make bicycling easy, safe, and fun for everyone in Greater New Orleans. Along with advocacy and community-building, Bike Easy provides education resources and workshops - for people riding, people driving, and even law enforcement - so everyone knows their role in ensuring safe streets for all. The Office of the Independent Police Monitor is in partnership with Bike Easy to make sure cyclists are safe on the streets and law enforcement interactions are helpful. If you're riding a bike in New Orleans and interacted with the NOPD - good or bad - let the OIPM know! #safebiking #bikeeasy #nolaipm #neworleans

17 likes
3 HOURS AGO

Do you know the difference between Office of the Independent Police Monitor (OIPM) and the Public Integrity Bureau (PIB)?



Office of the Independent Police Monitor (OIPM)



Public Integrity Bureau (PIB)

Swipe to learn more...

Office of the Independent Police Monitor
www.nolaipm.gov | 504.309.9799

nolaipm
New Orleans, Louisiana

nolaipm The Office of the Independent Police Monitor (OIPM) and the Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) are two different offices playing two different but important roles. Swipe through to understand why we are different, what our offices do, and how we serve the public. #policeoversight #nopd #neworleans #nolaipm

1w

slimkojak Always informative! 🙌

1w 3 like Reply

bbaldwinmi So which entity can...

View Insights

Liked by dbinola and 16 others

AUGUST 12

Add a comment... Post



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Had a positive experience with an officer? Let us know.

You don't need to wait until National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day to thank an officer for going above and beyond.



Accounts of positive policing makes our police force better, encourages reform, and helps the NOPD know what our community needs.

@nolaipm

nopdnews • Following

nopdnews The New Orleans Independent Police Monitor wants to hear about your positive experiences with #NOPD officers. This will help us better meet the needs of our community. 🙌

#Repost "Let us know if you've seen an officer going above and beyond so we can request a commendation. Commendations serve as positive examples to make the NOPD better along with being an opportunity to say "thank you." Message us: @nolaipm" #nopd #policeoversight #feedback #positivepolicing #neworleans #nolaipm

1w

Liked by 31nola and 29 others

AUGUST 10

Add a comment... Post

COMMUNICATION DISTRICT



opcdla • Following

opcdla Thank you @nolaipm for stopping by and visiting our team!

@nolaipm repost

Huge thank you to the @opcdla for hosting the @nolaipm and the @vearstitute this afternoon. The Orleans Parish Communication Division (OPCD) - the 911 and 311 dispatch center - is doing impressive and cutting edge work to dispatch the right people to the right place at the right time to serve to all of New Orleans. #neworleans

2d

Liked by nolahealthdept and 18 others

2 DAYS AGO

Add a comment... Post



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For Hurricane Ida information please check our stories and these platforms -

@nolaready
@opcdla
@swbneworleans
@cityofnola
@nopdnews

nolaipm
New Orleans, Louisiana

nolaipm OIPM hopes all who evacuated and remained in Orleans Parish are safe! The OIPM is monitoring the NOPD hurricane response in accordance with our Hurricane and Declared Emergency Plan (available online). For important resources regarding Hurricane Ida, please follow or check these accounts - @nolaready @opcdla @swbneworleans @cityofnola @nopdnews #hurricaneida #hurricaneidarecovery #emergencypreparedness #neworleans

1d

View Insights

Liked by opprcnola and 7 others

1 DAY AGO

Add a comment... Post



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The OIPM Hurricane and Declared Emergency Oversight Plan is Available Online.



nolaipm
New Orleans, Louisiana

nolaipm Curious to know how the OIPM will provide oversight during hurricanes and declared emergencies? This plan discusses the expectations on OIPM staff and our monitoring strategy. The OIPM recommends that all New Orleans residents join us in planning ahead and being prepared for hurricanes and other emergencies requiring evacuation. Be ready and stay safe. Link to the OIPM Hurricane and Declared Emergency Plan here: <https://bit.ly/3vCQ5bZ> #hurricanesaison #nolaipm #policeoversight #neworleans

4d

View Insights

3 likes

4 DAYS AGO

Add a comment... Post