

# THE OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR



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## **MONTHLY REPORT**

**JANUARY 2021**

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**SUSAN HUTSON**  
**INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR**

# Community Letter

Dear New Orleans Community,

While January has come to an end, the promise of a new year is nevertheless hanging the air. I am still buzzing with excitement and anticipation of all we hope to accomplish in 2021.

In 2021, the OIPM will be continuing case specific day to day activities, such as complaint intake, complaint monitoring, reviews of NOPD internal investigations and mediation. Additionally, the OIPM will conduct audits, data analysis and reviews in various topics such as, Bias-Free Policing and Supervision. This will to allow the OIPM to provide more recommendations to NOPD and transparency to our community.

Despite the pandemic persisting, the OIPM is continuing to strengthen its ties to the community and provide insight on law enforcement oversight whenever possible. I had the opportunity to share my expertise in oversight during a few powerful webinars this month. It is always an exciting opportunity to delve into the world of law enforcement oversight and explain to others how it impacts their lives. The OIPM also helped facilitate a long-awaited conversation between some of the true gems of New Orleans, our street performers, and NOPD leadership. We are glad to see tangible steps being taken to improve policing in our communities.

In January, OIPM attended, monitored, and provided recommendations in three disciplinary proceedings conducted by the Public Integrity Bureau – which ranged from an officer failing to report criminal behavior to an unauthorized use of force. The Chief Monitor of Use of Force continued to monitor and participate in the Use of Force Review Board and provided feedback to the Force Investigation Team on two officer involved shootings that occurred in 2020.

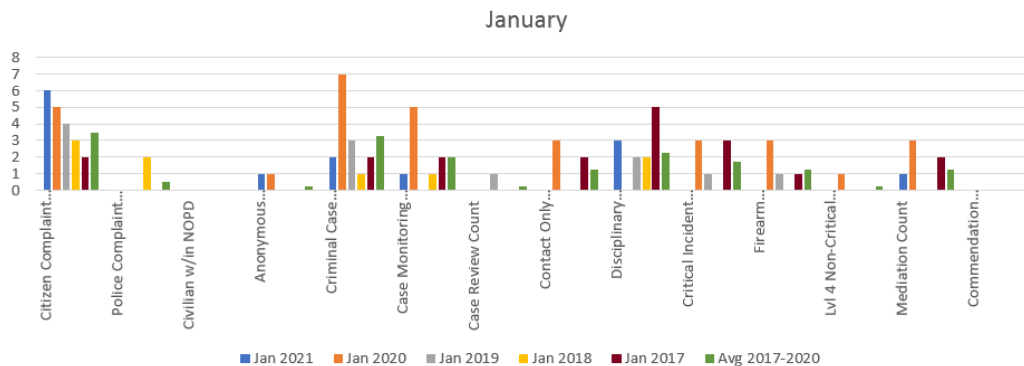
Finally, the OIPM will always work to amplify the voices of our community; nevertheless, I would like to encourage the community to participate in an additional accountability structure, the Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB). The application process started this month. This is a perfect opportunity for citizens to be heard and bring about change in policing and our community.

Sincerely,

Susan Hutson

# January Overview

	Jan 2021	Jan 2020	Jan 2019	Jan 2018	Jan 2017	Avg 2017-2020
<b>Citizen Complaint Count</b>	6	5	4	3	2	3.50
<b>Police Complaint Count</b>	0	0	0	2	0	0.50
<b>Civilian w/in NOPD*</b>	0	0	-	-	-	0.00
<b>Anonymous Complaint*</b>	1	1	-	-	-	1.00
<b>Criminal Case Liaison Count</b>	2	7	3	1	2	3.25
<b>Case Monitoring Count</b>	1	5	0	1	2	2.00
<b>Case Review Count</b>	0	0	1	0	0	0.25
<b>Contact Only Count</b>	0	3	0	0	2	1.25
<b>Disciplinary Hearing Count</b>	3	0	2	2	5	2.25
<b>Critical Incident Count</b>	0	3	1	0	3	1.75
<b>Firearm Discharge Count</b>	0	3	1	0	1	1.25
<b>Lvl 4 Non-Critical*</b>	0	1	-	-	-	1.00
<b>Mediation Count</b>	1	3	0	0	2	1.25
<b>Commendation Count</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17.75</b>



\*indicates a new category

# January Overview

Citizen Complaints	
CC2021-0002	The complainant alleged that the NOPD detective assigned to his case has failed to conduct a thorough investigation and has not communicated with the complainant in regards to his stolen property.
CC2021-0003	Complainant alleged she was jumped at a gas station and the NOPD took 5 hours to respond to her calls. The complainant also alleges that both responding officers were nonchalant, rude, and seemed disinterested in what she had to say.
CC2021-0004	The complainant alleges that the NOPD failed to respond to his call for service.
CC2021-0005	The complainant alleges that the NOPD failed to show up and respond to her call for service
CC2021-0006	The complainant alleges that the NOPD failed to take necessary police action in a noise/disturbing the peace call for service against her neighbor and was subsequently falsely arrested for the same thing against the same neighbor.
CC2021-0007	The complainant alleges that an NOPD Detective failed to conduct a thorough investigation that may possibly be motivated by a bias or discrimination due to sexual orientation or gender norms.
<b>Citizen Complaints Count: 6</b>	

Anonymous Complaint	
AC2021-0008	The complainant alleges that an NOPD officer has threatened the complainant's visitors (mainly family) as well as other neighbors' visitors. The officer also told guests they were not allowed to visit tenants in the future.
<b>Anonymous Complaint Count: 1</b>	

Case Monitoring	
CM2021-0001	The complainant contacted OIPM for assistance monitoring his previously filed complaint concerning NOPD's failure to write a police report for an incident involving citizens almost being struck by a vehicle while campaigning on election day.
<b>Case Monitoring Count: 1</b>	

# January Overview

<b>Criminal Liaison</b>	
CL2021-0001	Civilian contacted OIPM for assistance speaking to the detective assigned to his case and retrieving his stolen items from Central Evidence and Property.
CL2021-0002	Civilian contacted OIPM with assistance reaching the detective assigned to her case.
<b>Criminal Liaison Count: 2</b>	

<b>Disciplinary Hearings</b>	
DH2021-0001	Officer is accused of failing to report inappropriate sexual behavior involving a juvenile.
DH2021-0002	Officer is accused of failing to provide a warning prior to using force, using a CEW to overcome passive resistance, and using a CEW in drive stun mode as a pain compliance technique.
DH2021-0003	Officer is accused of deploying his CEW to a handcuffed individual. The officer is also accused of failing to activate his In-Car Camera monitor.
<b>Disciplinary Hearings Count: 3</b>	

# 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.

- 6** CITIZEN COMPLAINTS
- 3** DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS
- 1** 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.

4

**MEDIATIONS  
REFERRED**

1

**MEDIATIONS  
HELD**

0

**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

# Outreach

**1/5/21** - NOPD + Street Performers Meeting

**1/6/21** - Allison "Tootie" Montana Day, Mardi Gras Indians at the Tomb of the Unknown Slave

**1/7/21** - Parent Leader Training Institute Listening Sessions

**1/14/21** - "What if communities owned their own public safety?"- Webinar Speaker

**1/26/21** - "National Academies, Reducing Racial Inequalities Workshop" - Webinar Speakers

**1/27/21** - "Analyzing and Report Use of Force Statistics" - Webinar Speakers

