



THE OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2022

STELLA CZIMENT
ACTING INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR

Community Letter

Dear New Orleans Community,

To kick off the new year, the Office of the Independent Police Monitor released our Work Plan for 2022 with an overview of our office operations for the year, our departmental goals, and the projects that we intend to accomplish and prioritize this year and beyond. The goals and projects are divided into departmental goals and larger big picture projects the OIPM will be focusing on over the coming year. The OIPM also provided a roadmap for where we anticipate going next and the goals and projects we see on the horizon for 2023 and 2024. This Work Plan is also intended to be a “living document” and change and adapt as the community and the policing concerns require. With that goal in mind, I welcome your feedback on the plan and our anticipated work.

Carjackings, response times, police investigations, crime – this month the whole city buzzed debating and discussing these important topics. The City Council held an urgent series of meetings with stakeholders in the criminal justice system and with agencies responding to crime in the city. I watched these Council hearings regarding crime and policing in New Orleans and there were topics regarding policing strategy, resources, accountability, and policy that our office is currently working with the New Orleans Police Department to audit or are reforms our office will be recommending in the coming year. In response, the OIPM reached out to some of these stakeholders and is now looking internally to determine how to accommodate the concerns expressed at the Council hearings in our work product. The OIPM contacted every member of the City Council and shared the OIPM Work Plan with the goal of becoming a partner as new policing strategies are implemented. Most of all – the OIPM wants to know what mattered the most to the public from those sessions. Please reach out to the OIPM and let us know what about the policing strategy shared by the City Council and the NOPD matters to you.

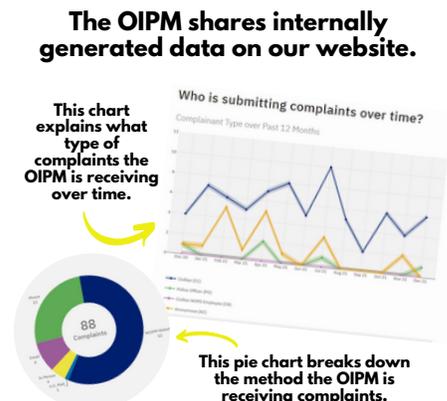
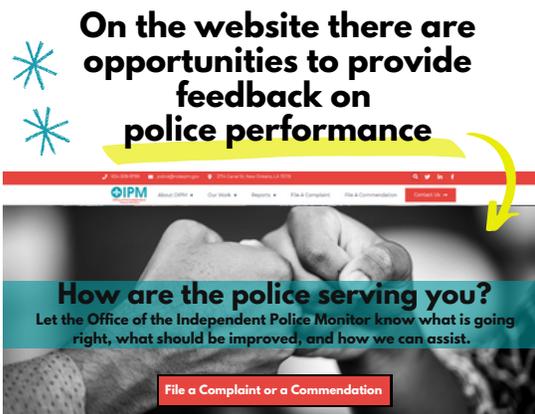
On January 18th, the OIPM met with NOPD leadership, representatives from the Eighth District, and the Music and Culture Coalition for New Orleans (MaCCNO) to discuss the possibility of the resurrection of the Royal Street Patrol and how that will influence policing in the French Quarter. The OIPM wrote a public letter to Chief Ferguson and his leadership team regarding the oversight concerns that the OIPM has regarding the possibility of the Royal Street Patrol. The OIPM highlighted our concerns regarding inconsistent and unclear accountability, public safety with law enforcement related shootings, and the lack of public engagement and input in the structuring of the patrol. The letter is posted on the OIPM website.

Finally, this month the OIPM launched our newly designed website to the public. This new website shares OIPM work product including a data page with internally generated data regarding our complaint intakes. This data is going to continue to develop over the next couple months. The OIPM hopes this website will be a resource to our partners, the NOPD, and the community. We welcome your feedback on the site as we continue to update and hone it to make it more accessible, easy to understand, and relevant to everyone.

Thank you,

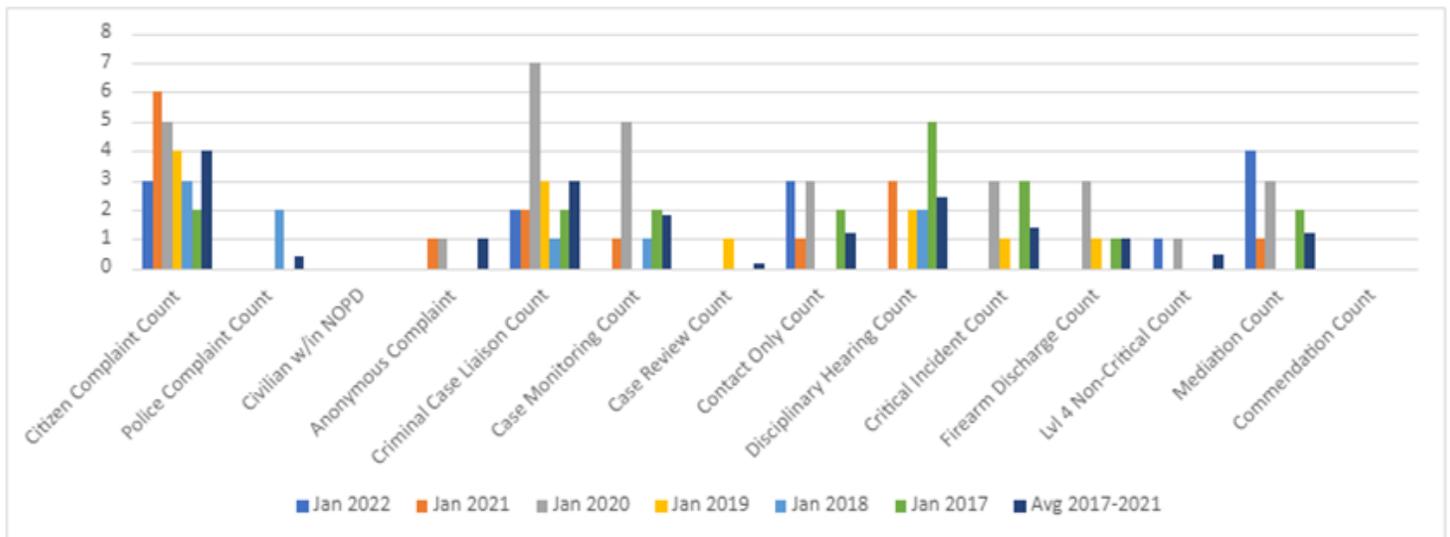


Here are some images of the newly designed website that the OIPM shared on social media this month.



Year to Date Overview

	Jan 2022	Jan 2021	Jan 2020	Jan 2019	Jan 2018	Jan 2017	Avg 2017-2021
Citizen Complaint Count	3	6	5	4	3	2	4.00
Police Complaint Count	0	0	0	0	2	0	0.40
Civilian w/in NOPD	0	0	0				0.00
Anonymous Complaint	0	1	1				1.00
Criminal Case Liaison Count	2	2	7	3	1	2	3.00
Case Monitoring Count	0	1	5	0	1	2	1.80
Case Review Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.20
Contact Only Count	3	1	3	0	0	2	1.20
Disciplinary Hearing Count	0	3	0	2	2	5	2.40
Critical Incident Count	0	0	3	1	0	3	1.40
Firearm Discharge Count	0	0	3	1	0	1	1.00
Lvl 4 Non-Critical Count	1	0	1				0.50
Mediation Count	4	1	3	0	0	2	1.20
Commendation Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Grand Total	13	15	31	12	9	19	17.20
Community Outreach Events	8	6	5				



January Overview

Complaints

CC2022-0002	The complainant alleges that the NOPD Crime Evidence and Property and other members of the NOPD were unprofessional during his interaction with them while trying to retrieve his property.
CC2022-0003	The complainant stated he was unlawfully detained and handcuffed, wrongly profiled, and treated unprofessionally by NOPD officers.
CC2022-0004	According to the complainant, the NOPD failed to properly and timely fulfill a Public Records Request.
Complaints: 3	

Use of Force - Level 4 Noncritical Incidents

UF2022-0001	K-9 was requested for an armed individual that was wanted for a carjacking. The K-9 dog found the the individual hiding in a utility room and bit him on the arm. The individual was transported to UMC by NOEMS and will be taken into custody once released.
Use of Force - Level 4 Noncritical Incidents: 1	

January Overview

Mediation

Mediation cases are confidential.

Mediations Held: 4

Criminal Case Liaison

CL2022-0001	An attorney for a family member contacted the OIPM for assistance with the NOPD and the Orleans Parish Coroner's Office regarding the death of a loved one. The OIPM spoke with the Captain of the Homicide Division and the Coroner's Office to get the family information regarding the release of the body and the status of the death investigation.
CL2022-0002	This criminal liaison is a continuation from 2021. In January, the OIPM spoke with the Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau and the Deputy Chief of the Investigation and Support Bureau to get information on the police response to a complaint. The OIPM facilitated a meeting between the complainant and PIB and sent a request for a meeting to the Superintendent of Police.

Criminal Case Liaison Count: 2

Contact Only

CO2022-0001	A victim advocate from the District Attorney's Office reached out to the OIPM with questions regarding a possible complaint of misconduct.
CO2022-0002	A member of the public from St. Mary Parish asked the OIPM about police monitoring resources in other parishes.
CO2022-0003	A Lieutenant from the Miami Florida police department reached out to the OIPM for input and feedback regarding starting civilian or police oversight in Miami.

Contact Only: 3

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.

3 CIVILIAN COMPLAINTS

0 ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS

0 POLICE INITIATED COMPLAINTS

0 CIVILIANS WITHIN NOPD INITIATED COMPLAINTS

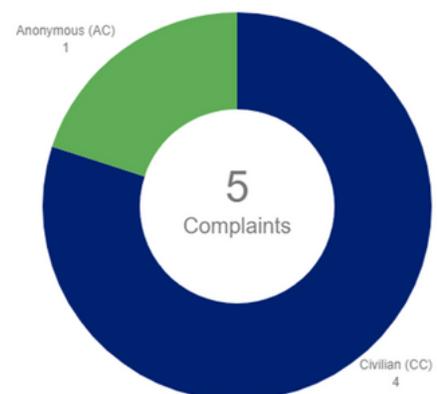
Intake Source

Year-to-Date



Complainant Type

Year-to-Date



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.

1

**MEDIATIONS
REFERRED**

4

**MEDIATIONS
HELD**

2

**MEDIATIONS
PENDING**

1

**MEDIATIONS
SCHEDULED FOR
FEBRUARY**



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.

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CRITICAL INCIDENTS

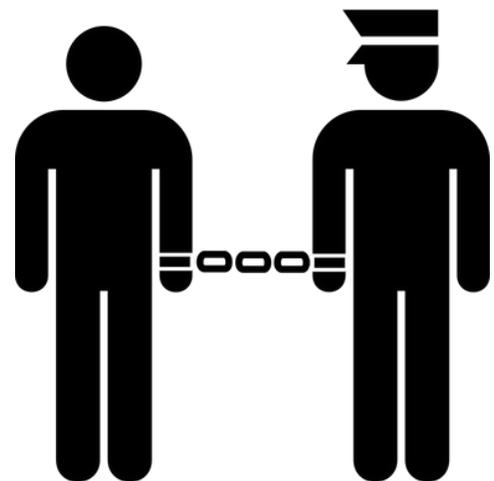
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FIREARM DISCHARGE

1

LEVEL 4 NON-CRITICAL INCIDENT

No Use of Force Review Board was held in January



Community Outreach

5

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.

FACILITATED A MEETING WITH NOPD LEADERSHIP, 8TH DISTRICT LEADERSHIP, THE MUSIC AND CULTURE COALITION OF NEW ORLEANS

IPM MEDIATORS VOLUNTEERED AT THE 50-HOUR MEDIATOR TRAINING OF RE-ENTRY MEDIATION INSTITUTE OF LOUISIANA (REMILA) ON JANUARY 7-9 AND 14-16TH

MEDIATION OUTREACH EVENT HELD ON JANUARY 12TH

HOSTED 4-HOUR MEDIATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN-SERVICE ROLE PLAY TRAINING HELD ON JANUARY 29TH

PUBLIC ALLIES FELLOW AT OIPM PARTICIPATED IN THE BLACK & BLUE PROJECT AND YAYA ARTS CENTER "GRAPHIC STORYTELLING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE" EVENT ON JANUARY 22ND



Budget

OIPM Budget Description	Amount
Personnel	\$732,488.00
Operating	\$308,926.00
2022 Total OIPM Budget	\$1,041,414.00

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Amounts Spent to Date:	(\$72,585.00)
Unexpended funds	\$968,829.00

2022 Goal Progress

To ensure accountability and transparency with the ERB and the community, the OIPM is reporting out progress on the 2022 OIPM Work Plan.

These benchmarks and goals were achieved in January 2022:

Completed and released to the public the OIPM Work Plan for 2022 and Beyond. The Work Plan includes departmental goals and OIPM projects for 2022 and the goals set for 2023 and 2024.

Completed and launched the new OIPM website to the public that is easier for the public to navigate (QARAC Recommendation). The OIPM is still updating content on the site, but the new site is easy to understand and has more updated photos and options.

Started working on the 2021 OIPM Annual Report and **submitted the formal data request** to NOPD leadership. Requested the data and the data access necessary to complete the OIPM Annual Report to Chief Ferguson, the Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau and the Deputy Chief of Professional Standards and Accountability and the tech team for the NOPD and the City.

Met with the Peer Reviewer Team to discuss progress and **retained an additional reviewer to assist in the peer review.** Brian Corr joined the peer review team. Mr. Corr is the past president of NACOLE and is currently on the Cambridge Police Review and Advisory Board and is the Executive Director of the Cambridge Peace Commission.

Continued to post the **Data Coordinator Position** to the public. Posted the position on Indeed to receive additional candidates. Currently accepting applications.

In-depth Monitoring and Review of the Audits, Investigations, and Policy regarding Police Secondary Employment

- Conducted two meetings with NOPD leadership, the Office of Consent Decree Monitors (OCDM) and the Department of Justice on the progress of the investigations.

Met with NavEx representative to discuss the **possibility of an anonymous hotline** for the OIPM.

Additional Benchmarks:

- **Wrote and released a public letter to Chief Ferguson with oversight concerns regarding the resurrection of the Royal Street Patrol.** Coordinated with the Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans to have them also write a letter with concerns and provided both to Chief Ferguson and his leadership team.

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.

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

January 9th is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.
Let us know about your positive experiences with the NOPD.

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

The Police Community Advisory Board is accepting applications

Community & Police

Opportunity to discuss public safety and policing.

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

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

The OIPM works with the NOPD to ensure policing policy, training, and practice equips officers to identify signs of human trafficking.

#WearBlueDayLouisiana

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

The Office of the Independent Police Monitor has a NEW Logo

Plus, a new website coming soon!

Office of the Independent Police Monitor

Today, the Acting Independent Police Monitor, Stella Comert, met with the Inspector General, Ed Michel, over coffee to discuss ongoing collaborations and projects for 2022. Both of these ethics oversight agencies report to the Ethics Review Board. Our two offices frequently meet and work effectively together as partners in oversight. #LouisianaOversight #oversightagencies #ethicsandaccountability #LouisianaInspectorGeneral #nolaipm #nolaipmians

safe_gospel_according_to_seth #transparency

bbaldwinmini Wish you had the power to impose sanctions for noncompliance!

Liked by jonk_lee and 24 others