

# THE OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR



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## **MONTHLY REPORT**

**SEPTEMBER 2021**



# Community Letter

Dear New Orleans Community,

From Hurricane Ida to mass power outages to trash issues and everything in between, September was a surreal month for our community. For many of us, we started the month in evacuation or taking shelter from Hurricane Ida. We had to wait days for electricity to be restored and the businesses to become operational again. At night, we made it home by curfew and during the day, we may have been waiting in lines for gas or food. Through it all, the Office of the Independent Police Monitor was open, engaging with the public, and on the ground monitoring the policing actions taken by the NOPD. Now that the dust has settled, our office is reviewing and assessing how the NOPD responded to the unprecedented challenges faced during Hurricane Ida.

The OIPM is in the process finalizing our Hurricane Ida Oversight Report analyzing the NOPD's response to determine their compliance with their hurricane plan, city mandates and policies, and local, state, and federal law. The OIPM sought community feedback about the interactions the public had with the police during the hurricane and the subsequent response. Over the last month, OIPM worked with NOPD leadership to compile relevant data regarding use of force, misconduct, community engagement, arrests and summons issued, and policing tactics and strategies designed to ensure public safety during the power outages following the storm. The OIPM looks forward to releasing this report in this fall and applying the lessons learned and recommendations into future hurricane seasons.

During September, the OIPM met with our partners, the Innocence Project New Orleans (IPNO) to discuss how to collaborate on the public facing database. This collaboration will ensure that the public is able to access necessary information regarding officer misconduct, use of force, awards, commendations, and much more. The OIPM looks forward to continuing this work with both IPNO and City Council to further the development of vital resource.

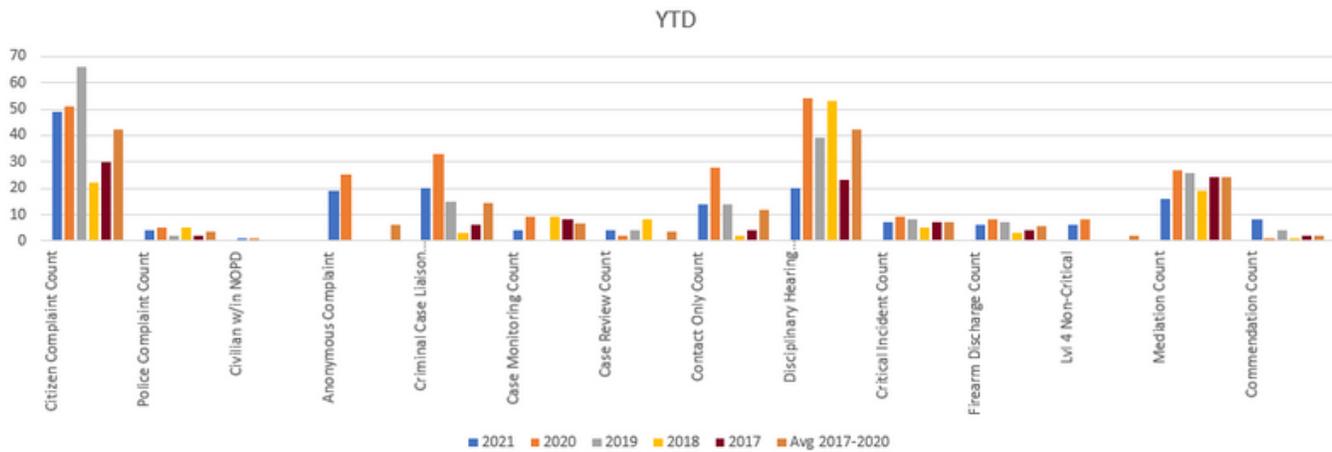
OIPM executed on another goal this month to expand our community impact and reach through Remote Intake Sites. OIPM leadership met with the leadership team at the Public Integrity Bureau to discuss potential intake sites that work with our Vietnamese and Spanish speaking populations in New Orleans and our transgender community. Our goal is to complete all training and intake materials by the end of October and start training sites this winter.

The OIPM continued to work with our contractors and partners in data, Thoughtworks and Public Data Works, to develop the second phase of the OIPM dashboard regarding misconduct and complaint intake. The OIPM dashboard already presents information regarding the number of complaints received, intake methods, topics, and complainant types on our website, but we intend to keep building this dashboard so we can share more relevant misconduct information with the community. The second phase of the OIPM dashboard will include a heatmap that tracks where misconduct incidents are occurring in the city and will overlay district boundary lines. The OIPM looks forward to releasing this new feature on the dashboard site: <https://complaints.nolaipm.gov/data>. Please check out the dashboard now to learn more about our complaint intake for the year.

Finally, the OIPM is currently working with community organizations to plan a day of remembrance and reflection to mark the National Day Against Police Brutality. In the coming weeks, we will share out more about this community event. We look forward to seeing you there.

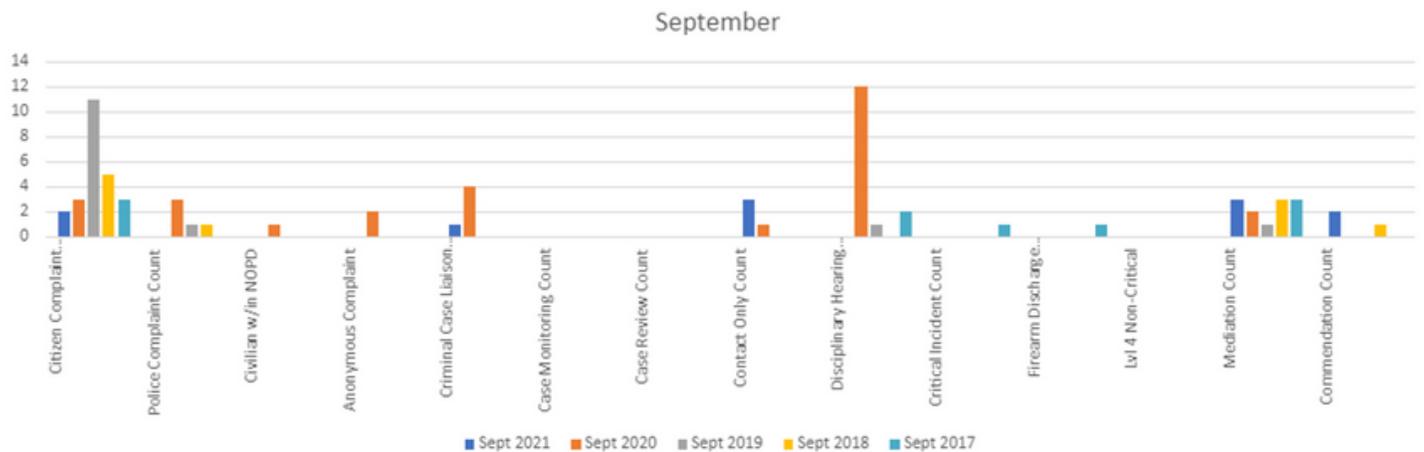


# Year to Date Overview



	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	Avg 2017-2020
Citizen Complaint Count	49	51	66	22	30	42.25
Police Complaint Count	4	5	2	5	2	3.50
Civilian w/in NOPD*	1	1	0	0	0	0.25
Anonymous Complaint*	19	25	0	0	0	6.25
Criminal Case Liaison Count	20	33	15	3	6	14.25
Case Monitoring Count	4	9	0	9	8	6.50
Case Review Count	4	2	4	8	0	3.50
Contact Only Count	17	28	14	2	4	12.00
Disciplinary Hearing Count	20	54	39	53	23	42.25
Critical Incident Count	7	9	8	5	7	7.25
Firearm Discharge Count	6	8	7	3	4	5.50
Lvl 4 Non-Critical*	6	8	0	0	0	2
Mediation Count	16	27	26	19	24	24.00
Commendation Count	8	1	4	1	2	2.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>141.67</b>

# September Overview



	Sep-21	Sep-20	Sep-19	Sep-18	Sep-17	Avg 2017-2020
Citizen Complaint Count	2	3	11	5	3	5.50
Police Complaint Count	0	3	1	1	0	1.25
Civilian w/in NOPD*	0	1	-	-	-	1.00
Anonymous Complaint*	0	2	-	-	-	2.00
Criminal Case Liaison Count	1	4	0	-	-	2.00
Case Monitoring Count	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Case Review Count	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Contact Only Count	3	1	0	0	0	0.25
Disciplinary Hearing Count	0	12	1	0	2	3.75
Critical Incident Count	0	0	0	0	1	0.25
Firearm Discharge Count	0	0	0	0	1	0.25
Lvl 4 Non-Critical*	0	0	-	-	-	0.00
Mediation Count	3	2	1	3	3	2.25
Commendation Count	2	0	0	1	0	0.25
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18.25</b>

# September Overview

Citizen Complaints	
CC2021-0084	The complainant alleges that the NOPD is extorting and/or committing fraud against insurance companies and victims of auto theft by refusing to release the information about recovered cars, specifically the whereabouts, unless a police report is paid for in the amount of \$26.
CC2021-0085	The complainant alleges that an NOPD investigator/detective conducted an inappropriate interview with his child.
<b>Citizen Complaints Count: 2</b>	

Criminal Liaison	
CL2021-0018	OIPM assisted an individual in speaking to the homicide detective assigned to his son's case.
<b>Criminal Liaison Count: 1</b>	

Commendations	
PC2021-0007	Two NOPD officers were recognized for their assistance providing ice and helping people in the community where they are detailed during the storm.
PC2021-0008	An NOPD officer recognized for his response to a citizen's accident involving a drunk driver and apprehending the subject before he fled the scene with a friend.
<b>Commendations: 2</b>	

Mediation	
Mediation cases are confidential.	
<b>Mediations Held: 3</b>	

Use of Force Review Board Cases Heard	
FTN2021-0153	An officer allegedly placed his knee near a subject's neck during a takedown.
FTN2021-0259	An officer allegedly struck an individual in his head when he would not release his bite.
FTN2021-0159	An officer allegedly tased a handcuffed individual after the individual fled.
FTN2021-0141	An officer allegedly pursued a wanted vehicle down the wrong way of a one-way street on two occasions.
<b>Use of Force Review Board Cases Heard: 4</b>	

Contact Only	
CO2021-0015	A member of the public contacted OIPM with their concerns regarding interactions with Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office.
CO2021-0016	A member of the public contacted OIPM for assistance regarding an interaction in East Baton Rouge.
CO2021-0017	A member of the public contacted OIPM about an encounter involving Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office.
<b>Contact Only Count: 3</b>	

# 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.

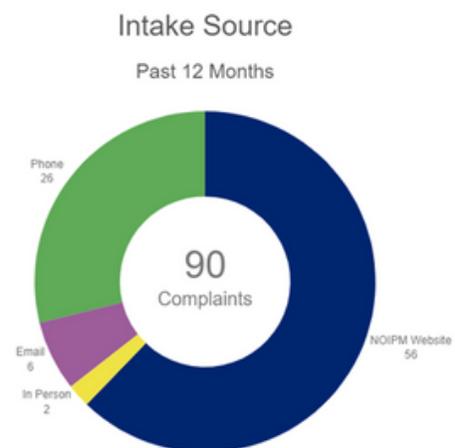
The OIPM provides a complaint process that is independent, impartial, transparent, fact-based, timely, and communicates in an understandable manner to all those involved. The OIPM maintains that misconduct investigation must be comprehensive, and the complaint process must be accessible, fair, thorough,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

**2 CIVILIAN COMPLAINTS**

**0 ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS**

**0 POLICE INITIATED COMPLAINTS**

**0 CIVILIANS WITHIN NOPD INITIATED 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.

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

- 6** MEDIATIONS REFERRED
- 3** MEDIATIONS HELD
- 3** MEDIATIONS PENDING
- 3** MEDIATIONS SCHEDULED



“ 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.

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**CRITICAL INCIDENTS**

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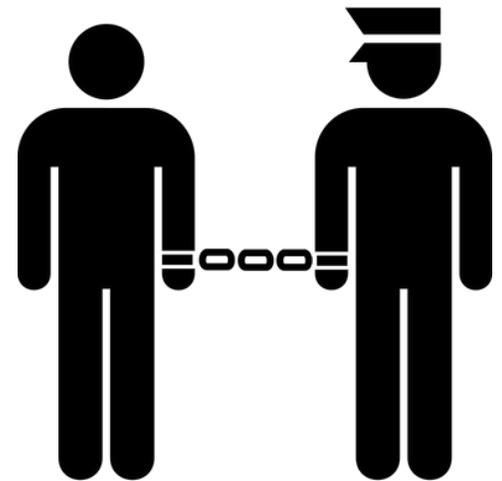
**FIREARM DISCHARGE**

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**LEVEL 4 NON-CRITICAL INCIDENT**

4

**CASES HEARD AT USE OF FORCE REVIEW BOARD**



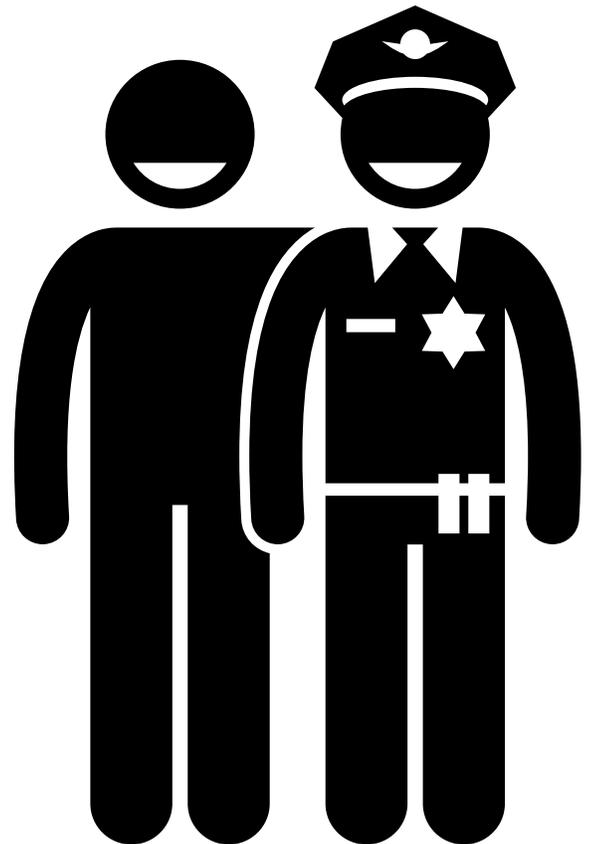
OIPM would like to note an officer involved shooting occurred on September 1, 2021. While on duty, an NOPD officer suffered a gunshot to the head while driving down the interstate. The officer did not use force.

# 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.

## 2 COMMENDATIONS



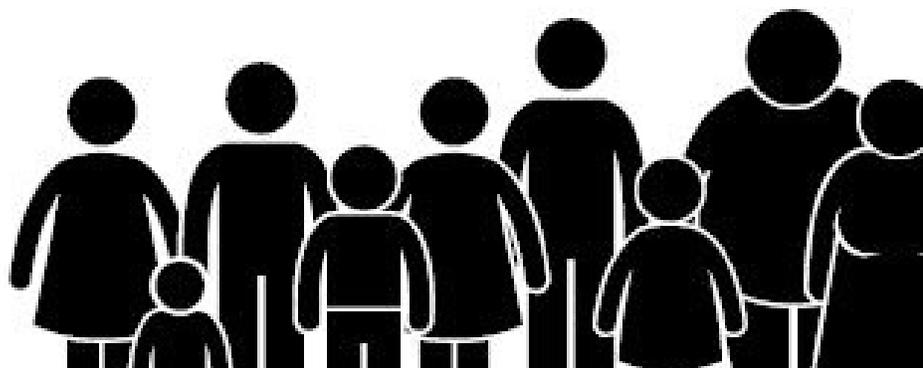
# Community Outreach

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### 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.

**PASSED OUT BABY DIAPERS AND HANDED OUT HOT PLATES  
AFTER HURRICANE IDA AT MCDONOGH 35 SENIOR HIGH  
SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 8TH AND 9TH**



# Budget

OIPM Budget Description	Amount
Personnel	\$688,744.00
Operating	\$324,937.00
<b>2021 Total OIPM Budget</b>	<b>\$1,013,681.00</b>

<b>2021 Total OIPM Budget</b>	<b>\$1,013,681.00</b>
Amounts Spent to Date:	(\$783,586.00)
Projected Amounts to be Spent the Rest of the Year:	(\$849,333.34)
<b>Projected Unexpended Funds</b>	<b>\$164,347.66</b>

# 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 September, 2021:

## **Completed first draft of the OIPM Hurricane Ida Police Oversight Report.**

- Submitted informational requests to NOPD for data and policy.

## **Started case review of high profile investigation regarding the Eighth (8th) District Task Force Officers.**

## **Completed the OIPM Interagency and Out of Jurisdiction Law Enforcement and Oversight Policy and disseminated it to the OIPM staff and contractors.**

## **Completed a draft Retention Schedule and submitted it to the State Archives and Records Department of the Louisiana Secretary of State for approval.**

## **Publicized Opportunities for Commendations (QARAC Recommendation)**

- OIPM continued to publicize opportunities for commendations on social media. OIPM received more commendations from the public.

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

- OIPM continued working with the contractor Orshay Marketing on redesigning the OIPM website and branding including providing sample logos and website design ideas and requests.

## **OIPM met with the Captain of the Public Integrity Bureau to discuss proposed Remote Intake Site locations and the Remote Intake Site materials and manual created by OIPM.**

- Prepared a Memorandum of Understanding for Remote Intake Sites.
- Started reaching out to potential Remote Intake Sites organizations to invite organizations to participate in pilot program.
- Started creating the training materials.

## **Worked with contractors, Public Data Works and Thoughtworks, to develop the second phase of the complaint data dashboard: <http://complaints.nolaipm.gov/data>.**

- In the process of designing a misconduct "heat map" with district boundary overlays.

## **Met with Innocence Project New Orleans to discuss possible collaboration on the Public Facing Database.**

# 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 continued contributing an ongoing "story" on Instagram with relevant Hurricane Ida information started in August and continued into September.

