

# Community Engagement Quarterly Report

## Quarter 1, 2017

Within 240 days of the Effective Date, NOPD agrees to develop measurements to assess the effectiveness of its community partnerships and problem-solving strategies, including the effectiveness of the Community Coordinating Sergeant program. NOPD agrees to prepare a publicly available report on at least a quarterly basis detailing its community policing efforts in each District, including developing community partnerships and participating in public meetings, and its problem-solving activities, including specific problems addressed and steps taken by NOPD and the community toward their resolution. This report also shall identify obstacles faced and recommendations for future improvement. At least annually, NOPD agrees to issue a publicly available report that summarizes these problem-solving and community policing activities. [Consent Decree ¶228]

The purpose of this report is to assess the effectiveness of NOPD's community partnership and problem-solving strategies in accordance with Consent Decree paragraph 228.

### Key Definitions

**New Orleans Neighborhood Police Anti-Crime Council (NONPACC)** — The New Orleans Neighborhood Police Anti-Crime Council meetings occur monthly and are attended by the District Commander and other district personnel. The meetings facilitate conversations regarding neighborhood crime concerns and crime prevention strategies.

**Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB)** — Each District is assisted by a Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB). The PCAB consists of seven citizen volunteers from their respective police Districts. PCAB members serve a two-year term and meet quarterly to address crime and quality of life issues.

**Community Partnerships** — Collaborative problem-solving activities and engagement activities between the Department and the individuals and organizations the Department serves to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police.

### Findings

#### **NOPD Community and Youth Engagements Partnerships and Events**

Per Consent Decree ¶448(c), the Department shall provide collection and analysis of community engagement including the number and variety of community partnerships, including particular partnerships with youth.

In the first quarter of 2017, the NOPD participated in 15 partnerships. NOPD partnership participants include city agencies, civic groups, neighborhood associations, and many more. The

purpose of NOPD partnerships are to engage with the community and youth, and to problem-solve with the community to address crime and quality of life issues. Many of the partnership activities listed below can be reviewed on Nopdnews.com, NOPD's YouTube page, or NOPD's District Facebook pages.

The partnerships and events are listed below.

1. Community Policing Through Music: Every day after school, Officer James Caire and Sgt. Gregory Johnson volunteer their time teaching band students at McDonough 35 High School. The officers have been volunteering at the school for two years. The NOPD officers were recognized by NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt.
2. Coffee with Cops: A partnership between McDonalds and NOPD. The popular community policing event is a public-private partnership designed to bring together police officers and the communities they serve.
3. CrimeStoppers 2nd Annual Teen Peace Congress: NOPD partnered with CrimeStoppers to connect host the event. Over 300 guests were in attendance. High school students:
  - talked face to face with community leaders on violent crime and safety
  - networked with teens and other schools
  - discussed ways to diffuse conflict and promote unity

Commander Nicholas Gernon, 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander, was a guest speaker. Other special guests included former US Attorney Kenneth Polite, NOPD Superintendent Michael Harrison, Sheriff Marlin Gusman, DEA Agent Craig Wiles, ATF Agent Joseph Belisle, Criminal Court Judge Robin Pittman and Criminal Court Judge Keva Landrum, Orleans Public Defender Kenneth Hardin, N. O. Family Justice Center Community Educator Jennifer Taylor, FBI Supervisory Special Agent Deron Ogletree, FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge Andrew Anderson and Q93 Radio Personality Wild Wayne.

4. Crescent City Leadership Academy Youth-Police Dialogue: Fourth District officers held a Youth Forum at Crescent City Leadership Academy on February 8, 2017.
5. Community Mediation Services Youth Dialogue partnership: Community Mediation Services partnered with NOPD to host a series of youth-police dialogue sessions in the First District with the goal of strengthening youth-police relations. Two schools in the First District agreed to be a part of the project: Joseph S. Clark Preparatory High School and Joseph A Craig Charter School. A total of ten sessions were held. In each school, students, police, and community members met in Community Building Circles. Community members cited an increase of trust between community and the police who participated. Thus, community as well as youth came to trust the officers in the circle.
6. Community Employee Meetings: In January 2017, the owners of a popular local restaurant invite members of the community to speak at employee meetings each month. The YouTube sensation known as the ["Wobble Cop"](#) presented on why he decided to become a police officer. The Wobble Cop has helped build relationships with the community over the past year.

7. Seventh District Youth Engagement: On January 3, 2017, Seventh District officer Brian Pollard along with Fourth District officers decided to surprise a teen with a brand new hover board after the 14 year old teen was robbed at gunpoint while playing on his hover board outside of his home.
8. Haydel's Bakery Award: Haydel's Bakery solicited nominations of New Orleanians who embody the spirit of Carnival and community.

NOPD Officer Nahlisha Smith nominated Officer Shantell Howard for her exceptional community service, described as going above and beyond the call of her NOPD duty. In Smith's nomination of Howard she wrote:

For the past two years, she's been using her own money to buy and cook food for the homeless and people in transitional housing. This year she cooked a huge Thanksgiving dinner for about 60 people, and shortly after Christmas she took her cooking talent to Baton Rouge where she fed about 30 women and children at a shelter, plus 40 senior citizens. She's always going out of her way to do good deeds for others outside of serving the citizens of New Orleans.

Haydel's honored Officer Howard for her efforts to make New Orleans a better place to live.

9. Career Day: Lieutenant Denise Thomas attended the annual Career Day at the St. Katherine Drexel Preparatory School on March 17, 2017. Lt. Thomas spoke with students about exploring a career in law enforcement and facilitated a dialogue session regarding the "ups and downs" of policing, focusing specifically on women in policing.
10. Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans (MaCCNO) partnership: Eighth District Commander Nicholas Gernon and Detective Aldeane Valentino partnered with the MaCCNO to educate French Quarter street musicians on ordinances concerning street musicians and to help address the issues of the music and cultural community in the area.

### **NOPD Collaborative Problem-Solving Partnerships**

The information below highlights NOPD's problem-solving activities, including specific problems addressed and steps taken by NOPD and the community toward their resolution [Consent Decree ¶228].

1. New Orleans Neighborhood Police Anti-Crime Council (NONPACC) Meetings: Each District is assisted by a New Orleans Neighborhood Police Anti-Crime Council (NONPACC). The NONPACC meets monthly, facilitating conversation and a forum for residents to voice their concerns directly to the District Commander and other key NOPD personnel. In particular, the District Commander presents key activities and information related to crime prevention and community policing in order to receive feedback and additional information from the community.

2. Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB) Meetings: Each District is assisted by a Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB). The PCAB consists of seven members who are citizen volunteers from their respective police districts. PCAB members serve a two-year term and meet quarterly to address crime and quality of life issues. In 2017, the PCABs continued to host quarterly meetings to problem-solve with NOPD leaders. PCABs provide written recommendations to NOPD Commanders.
3. Family Justice Center: The NOPD has partnered with the New Orleans Family Justice Center to provide a “one-stop-resource” to victims of sexual and domestic crimes. The NOPD Sex Crimes and Domestic Violence Units are housed at the location, along with attorneys, social workers, and victim advocates. All of the partners can work proactively, in close quarters to assist victims of sexual and domestic crimes.
4. Victim Witness Unit: Victim Witness Unit: The Consent Decree requires immediate and ongoing support to families of victims of homicides and other serious crimes [Consent Decree ¶227].

The Victim/Witness Assistance Unit provides the following assistance:

- Safety Planning
- Victim Advocacy
- Crisis Intervention
- Crime Victims Reparations
- Grief and Trauma Counseling
- Community Resource
- Referrals
- Case Update Information
- Information on the Criminal Justice Process

In the First Quarter, 24 victims and/or witnesses has received counseling. In addition to counselling services, the Victim Witness Unit also contacts victims directly after receiving NOPD’s daily major offense log, which is a list, composed of major incidents such as armed robberies, aggravated burglary, rape and other violent offenses, informing them of their rights and services that the department provides. At times, the Unit collaborates closely with Homicide detectives and the social workers that assist victims of sexual assaults under the NOPD’s Sex Crimes Unit.

5. Community Policing Plans: Most of the Department’s every-day community policing and engagement occurs in each district’s community policing plans. The Plans are a district-specific collaborative partnership with the community. The Community Policing Plans address the unique needs of the community and prioritize public safety concerns voiced by the community members present. Many of the patrol officers participate in implementation of the community policing plans. The priorities chosen are reassessed regularly with the community to determine if new priorities should be addressed. Monthly updates are posted online and presented monthly at each District’s NONPACC meeting.

To view the Community Policing Plans and extensive monthly updates by district, visit [nopdnews.com](http://nopdnews.com).

### **Obstacles and Recommendations**

NOPD is working to develop additional tracking mechanisms for documenting community policing activities more consistently and thoroughly. Improving the collection of community engagement and policing data, reporting on this data in internal and external meetings, and utilizing this data to improve our community engagement and policing are critical goals for NOPD in 2017 as we strive to improve our partnerships with the community and our community engagement efforts.