NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT
OPERATIONS MANUAL

CHAPTER: 15.1

TITLE: CRIME ANALYSIS

EFFECTIVE: 01/14/2018
REVISED: Replaces Policy 800

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Chapter is to promote intra-organizational cooperation and information sharing within and among the FOB police Districts.

DEFINITIONS
Definitions related to this Chapter include:

Crime Analysis—The extraction of data and gathering of information for the purpose of developing tactical, strategic, and both short-term and long-term action plans in crime suppression. Both qualitative and quantitative data analysis and methods are used in determining crime trend patterns. Crime analysis should be able to:

   (a) Identify similarities of separate offenses across geographic boundaries;
   (b) Reveal commonalities and patterns of prevailing crime problems;
   (c) Assist in the screening and ordering a list of suspects;
   (d) Support in the assembling of specific crimes which may have been perpetrated by a specific offender already in custody; and
   (e) Provide feedback to both front line and support units on trend analysis patterns.

Management Analytics for Excellence (MAX)—The Department's internal management meetings focused on crime and other aspects of command performance.

Qualitative methods—Involve an examination of nonnumeric data to discover underlying meanings and patterns of relationships.

Quantitative methods of analysis—Involve the use of statistical or categorical data. Simple statistical methods, such as frequencies, percentages, means and rates, would be considered quantitative analysis and is the primary methodology used by a crime analyst.

Crime Mapping—Geographical Information Systems (GIS) technology used to display crime information on a map. Crime mapping is only one element of crime analysis methodology which can be used in detecting crime trend patterns. This crime analysis and mapping program combines a variety of information sources which can be filtered down to specific identifiers based on type of incident; modus operandi; geographic area; etc.

POLICY STATEMENT

1.   District patrol information sharing procedures are intended to foster, develop and maintain intra-organizational cooperation and information flow between the various Bureaus/Divisions/Sections/Units of the New Orleans Police Department.

2.   The FOB Analytics /Crime Analysis Unit is responsible for correlating the available data in support of the crime analysis functions performed by those units, sections, and divisions which are primarily involved in crime suppression, apprehension and general enforcement efforts.

3.   Crime pattern analysis of information gathered by District or Division members performing a crime analyst support role should be openly accessible to supervisors, investigative support staff and patrol elements department-wide. Information assembled should be used in both short and long term department planning efforts and should estimate future crime trends and identify enforcement priorities.

4.   Notable similarities in offense characteristics should be disseminated to enforcement units.

5.   District or Division Commanders shall be responsible for soliciting feedback from members who utilize crime pattern information in targeting enforcement. Feedback should include the accuracy, usefulness, and timeliness of information, as well as an account as to whether or not the problem or trend identified has been adequately addressed.

FOB ANALYTICS / CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT

6.   The MAX process is one of the methods used by the New Orleans Police Department to share information on crime and crime trends.

7.   The FOB Analytics / Crime Analysis Unit assists in the preparation and dissemination of information for the MAX process.

8.   Criminal information and reports can be submitted to the Analytics / Crime Analysis Unit for distribution within the Department through the MAX process.

DATA SOURCES

9.   Crime analysis should utilize all available data sources to determine crime trends and patterns.

CRIME ANALYSIS DISSEMINATION

10.   For a crime analysis system to function effectively, information should be disseminated to the appropriate units or persons on a timely basis. Information that is relevant to the operational and tactical plans of specific line units should be sent directly to those units. Information relevant to the development of the department's strategic plans should be provided to the appropriate staff units. When information pertains to tactical and strategic plans, it should be provided to all affected units. Classified or Law Enforcement Sensitive information and intelligence shall be designated "Classified" or "Law Enforcement Sensitive," secured and only shared with individuals with the appropriate clearances.