



**NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
EIGHTH DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY POLICING PLAN JUNE 2021**





## **NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT 8TH DISTRICT**

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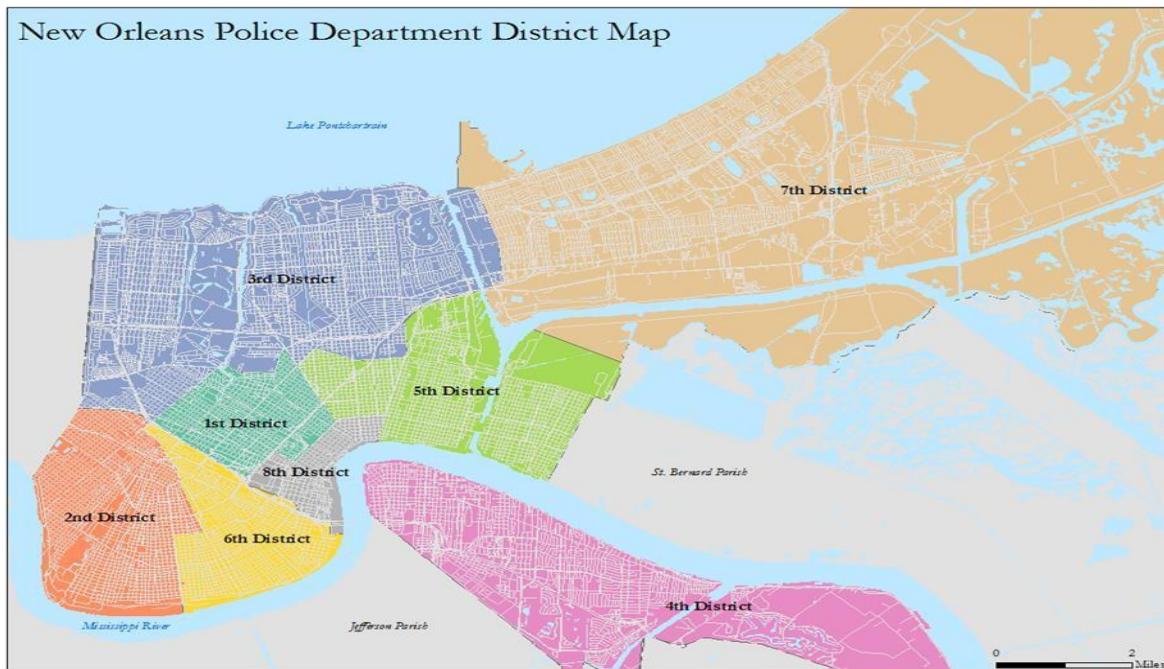
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## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) shall promote and strengthen community partnerships, work constructively with the community, ensure collaborative problem solving, ensure ethical and bias-free policing, and work to increase community confidence in the Department. The New Orleans Police Department will effectively engage the community in collaborative problem solving. NOPD will partner with the residents and stakeholders to identify and solve problems that contribute to crime, fear of crime and quality of life problems in communities. The Department is committed to proactively solving problems as well as reacting to their harmful consequences.

## **EIGHTH DISTRICT**

The Eighth District encompasses approximately 7.5 square miles, making it the smallest police district in the City of New Orleans. Its boundaries are the River to S. Claiborne, and Calliope to Elysian Fields Ave. The District currently serves a population of approximately 20,000 residents. The Eighth District, which includes the French Quarter, is the most visited tourist area in Louisiana. The Eighth District is also the home to some of Louisiana's oldest and historical monuments. The police station is located at 334 Royal Street. The District has 102 officers as of June 1, 2021. The District phone number is 504-658-6080. The 8th District can be contacted by email at [nopd8thdistrict@nola.gov](mailto:nopd8thdistrict@nola.gov). For more information about the work of these officers, please follow the Facebook page account: NOPD Eighth.



## **LEADERSHIP**



Captain Jeff Walls, a 25-year veteran who joined NOPD in 1997, was appointed, for the second time as Commander of the 8<sup>th</sup> District in June 2021. He was previously assigned as the Commander of the 8<sup>th</sup> District from 2011 to 2017. His NOPD career includes time as Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Police Districts, 6th District's District Investigative Unit (D.I.U.) Commander and overseeing the District's Homicide Unit. Walls has received several letters of recommendation, a medal of achievement and 2 medals of commendation. He has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Bishop State Community College (AL), a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Loyola University and a Master's Degree in Homeland Security from Tulane University.



Second in Command is Lieutenant Samuel Palumbo, a 19-year veteran of the NOPD, was appointed to the 8<sup>th</sup> District in July 2021. Lt. Palumbo currently serves as the Commander of District Investigative Unit, Persons and Property Crimes. Lt. Palumbo has worked with NOPD 6<sup>th</sup> District Investigations Unit. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Loyola University.

## **DISTRICT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR**



Sgt. Nikia Adams is a 20 year veteran with the New Orleans Police Department. Sgt. Adams is assigned as the 8TH District Systems Administrator and directly supervises the Quality of Life Division and School Resource Officers. Sgt. Adams has previously served in the 4th, 5th, 3rd and the 2nd Districts. Sgt. Adams is certified in Crisis Intervention, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), Negotiations, and is a Peer Support Specialist. Sgt. Adams has received a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Psychology with a Minor in Computer Technology from Southeastern Louisiana University and a Master's Degree in Counseling from Southeastern Louisiana University. Sgt. Adams and is currently pursuing a PhD in Clinical Psychology.

## **COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS**



Officer Bronson Gettridge is a 17-year veteran with the New Orleans Police Department. Officer Gettridge has been assigned as an 8<sup>th</sup> District Community Liaison Officer since November of 2020. Officer Gettridge has previously served in the Department's 7<sup>th</sup> District on the Task Force and the Narcotics unit. Officer Gettridge has also been assigned to the Street Gang Unit and Special Operations Division. Officer Gettridge is Radar, Mounted and DUI certified. Officer Gettridge received a bachelor's degree in Criminology from Fresno State University.

## COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS



Officer Naja Davis is a 13 year veteran with the New Orleans Police Department. Officer Davis is currently assigned as a Community Liaison Officer since December 2020. Officer Davis has been assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> District since the beginning of her career as a patrol officer. Officer Davis is certified in Crisis Intervention. Officer Davis received a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Southern University of New Orleans.



Officer Johnnie Brumfield has been a member of the New Orleans Police Department since June 3, 2001. Officer Brumfield has served as part of the 8th district's Community Liaison team since November 1, 2020. Officer Brumfield served in the 2nd Police District for 7yrs and the 8th Police District for 13yrs. Officer Brumfield is Scooter certified. Officer Brumfield received his Bachelor's degree in Christians Leadership from Faith Evangelical Seminary in 2014.

## **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**



Officer Reginald Gaines has served over 25 years with the New Orleans Police Department. Officer Gaines is currently assigned as a School Resource Officer since July 2021. Officer Gaines has previously served in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Districts and the Mounted Division. Officer Gaines is mounted certified. Officer Gaines received a Bachelor's of Science Degree and a Minor in Sociology from Southern University in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Officer Gaines will pursue a Master's Degree at the University of New Orleans in Secondary Education in the upcoming Fall/Spring semester.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW**

On May 29, 2021, the NOPD hosted a forum via GoToMeeting with the 8<sup>th</sup> District Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB) at the 8th District Police Station, located at 334 Royal St. The purpose of this event was to identify and prioritize public safety concerns voiced by community members. PCAB members reviewed 311 data collected year-to-date in the 8<sup>th</sup> District and reviewed New Orleans Neighborhood-Police Anti-Crime Coalition (NONPACC) citizen concerns to form a list of issues that the 8<sup>th</sup> District should address. The Community Liaison Officers collected feedback from the PCABs and analyze the feedback to identify trending problems that could be developed into robust problem-oriented policing plans.

We will continue to survey the community every 2 years to update and prioritize these issues. Thus, we will continue to establish transparent, actionable items and update them on a monthly basis to show community members the district's efforts in resolving community concerns.

### **District Community Policing Plan Priorities**

After viewing issues raised by the community, the primary area of focus in the 8<sup>th</sup> District Community Policing Plan, drafted for June 2021, are:

1. COVID-19 relaxed restrictions and guidelines – Because of the lax in COVID 19 restrictions, many tourist and locals are visiting to the French Quarter area. This provides for an increase in foot and vehicle traffic as well as crowds.
2. Consistent homeless population (Hwy 90 overpass, Shelters)- Many of the city's homeless reside under the Hwy 90 overpass. The 8<sup>th</sup> district and other city agencies collaborate to ensure the area is sanitized and safe. The 8<sup>th</sup> district also partners with social service agencies (Unity of New Orleans) to provide care and nutrition for those in need. The 8<sup>th</sup> District community also recognizes homelessness is not a crime. The causes of homelessness are rooted in a systematic breakdown in a number of societal safety nets. Recognizing our some of our homeless population are chronically homeless due to mental illness and substance abuse, the 8<sup>th</sup> District will work with our partners in other area of city government to curtail some of these gaps in services for our most vulnerable population.
3. Graffiti, vagrancy, and the city's noise ordinance are also a critical part of the 8<sup>th</sup> district priorities. Quality of life issues are key elements to ensure the overall landscape of the 8<sup>th</sup> District is maintained. The 8<sup>th</sup> district is different than any other police district in the city of New Orleans. The 8<sup>th</sup> District sees hundreds of thousands of visitors per year and maintaining the city's reputation as a "Great Place To Live" is a top priority.
4. Finally, the 8th District recognizes the stakeholders within this district who are committed to increasing public safety. This will ensure members of our community clearly recognize that we are attentive and responsive to their needs. By having strong partnerships with our community, this ensures the 8<sup>th</sup> District will have a great deal of success.

A vast majority and collective effort is needed to approach the multifaceted challenges of the Eighth District. The men and women of the Eighth District have listened intently to the concerns

of the community and have rigorously reached out to Agencies across the city to have these needs and concerns met.

### **ACTIONABLE ITEMS**

Actionable items are concrete steps that the District will take to implement the Community Outreach and Public Information Plan. Actionable items will be quantified or qualified through data analytics and anecdotes. The actionable items are transparency steps that will be updated monthly to demonstrate to the community the exact steps that the District executed.

- 1. The Eighth District will work with the Health Department, local hotels, bars, hospitality employees, patrons and residents to develop strategies to assist with minimizing the spread of Covid-19 in the District to improve the quality of life of the residents who reside in the 8<sup>th</sup> District as well as the tourists who visit.**

Task #1: As COVID restrictions ease and bars open, the 8<sup>th</sup> District will work to develop strategies, including creating an educational campaign to reduce the spread of Covid.

Task #2: The Community Liaison Officers will research inexpensive, yet effective ways in which bar owners, hospitality employees and residents can educate guests and patrons on reducing the spread of Covid.

Task #3: The Health Department will be consulted to determine non-enforcement strategies that the police can assist with to reduce the spread of COVID.

Task #4: Progress on the development of strategies and monthly updates on implementation will be tracked.

Task #5: The District Captain will partner with the Health Department Director on reporting data on the reduction of the spread of COVID on a monthly basis via a system agreed upon (yet to be determined) by both parties. The District will remain transparent with progress made and actions taken to report data on a monthly basis.

Actions taken and progress will be reported to the community at monthly NONPACC and PCAB meetings, as well as on NOPD social media sites.

- 2. The Eighth District will partner with the City's Neighborhood Engagement Office to address issues associated with quality of life concerns.**

The Eight District has recognized that graffiti is becoming a constant nuisance in the district. As a result, the 8th district has partnered with local non-profits to address the issue. This will be done by the following:

Task #1: Locating and removing any amount of graffiti. Also, by creating a hard target by erecting lighting and using crime prevention through environmental design techniques. (CPTED).

Task #2: Communication with residents and locals to remind them "If they see something, say something." This will be communicated through partnership with the NOPD's Public Information Office (PIO). The District CLO will ensure that the PIO assists in providing strategies to reach a broad cross section of residents within the District. In addition by posting signs to remind vandals of the city ordinance against graffiti (17271 MCS 54:151; or if it's a historical building, R.S. 14:56.5). This communication will take place via NONPACC and PCAB meetings emails and personal interaction.

Task #3: Partner with city agencies and the Vieux Carre Graffiti Abatement Program to erect and maintain graffiti free zones.

The Eighth District will work with the City's Code Enforcement Office to address blight properties, parking violations and infrastructure concerns. Most of the Eight District's traffic consist of pedestrians. As a result, sidewalks, potholes, draining and other infrastructure related matters are crucial with ensuring visitors as well as locals are safe and free of injuries as a result of these neglects.

Task #1: The Community Liaison Officers will partner with City agencies and continually scan and assess the issues to find innovate solutions and document progress each month in the Department's Community Policing Form.

Task #2: The Eighth District Captain and Community Liaison Officers will continue to communicate with community organizations to address and document concerns associated with neighborhood improvements.

**3. The Eighth District will continue to work with the Homeless Assistance Unit to mitigate homelessness. The Eighth District will also address some underlying causes of homelessness, including providing services to those with mental health conditions and substance use disorders.**

Task #1: The Eighth District will dispatch Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) to respond to calls concerning vagrancy and homelessness.

Task #2: The Eight District will continue to work the Law Enforcement Assistant Diversion Unit (L.E.A.D) to offer alternatives to arrest. This program will address the root problems to homelessness in lieu of arrest.

Task #3: The Eighth District will partner with local nonprofits that are helping homeless youth, such as Covenant House, on mentorship programs and connecting them with Homeless Assistance Unit within the 8<sup>th</sup> District to obtain services such as rides to the Department of Motor Vehicles to receive a driver's license.

Task #4 The Eighth District will join the Health Department's Task Force to restart the CAHOOTS program within the NOPD. The CAHOOTS Program usually includes an Emergency Medical Technician or EMT, and peer support specialists who are dispatched to scenes where someone is having a mental health crisis and treat the person on the scene. Police do not usually respond to the scene alongside the EMT and peer support specialists.

The Community Liaison Officers will gather best practices and provide feedback to the Task Force members to consider when forming policy. Feedback will include qualitative and quantitative data on trends concerning homelessness and its root causes, including how the officers could assist individuals with mental health conditions through the CAHOOTS Program.

The CAHOOTS program is still in the planning stages and has yet to be implemented within the City of New Orleans. Once fully restored, the Eight District will embrace its philosophy to better protect those suffering from mental illness.

Task #5: The Eighth District will track progress with CAHOOTS implementation and share with the community.

## **APPENDIX**

### **PCAB Survey Results**

The first question posed was, “In your opinion, what is one of the greatest problems in the Eighth District?” Responses were:

a. Vagrancy & Panhandling

- Panhandlers begging in every block of the Quarter with signs, dogs, belongings; blocking sidewalks and Cops just driving by
- People sleeping in the doorways residential and business properties
- Panhandlers everywhere
- Vagrants who are used by musicians for reserving spaces in exchange for liquor (700 Royal)
- Same group everyday on 700 block of Royal – Intoxicated, urinate in public – loud cursing
- Passed out or sleeping in front of shops, homes etc.
- Threatening behavior
- The homeless men who are making the area their homes.
- Every morning there are fights going on between homeless men and you never know when the anger is going to spill over into an attack on passersby.
- Vagrants; highly aggressive, appear psychotic in their actions

b. Bars & Clubs

- Over serving customers with no regard for the customers safety or the neighborhood
- Aggressive sidewalk barkers, strippers, and shot girls
- Illegal alcohol sales from windows
- Iggy’s Bar; illegal drug activity and parking violations
- The John; illegal activities
- 700 block of Bourbon – unruly crowds
- The Crossing—large groups of unruly people outside of the establishment

c. Drugs & Prostitution

- Drug use and sales (many locations)
- Drug driven crime
- Drug users leaving behind their utensils
- Visible drug dealing (e.g. 700-1000 St Louis)

- Visible prostitution (e.g. 700-1000 St Louis)
- People sitting on stoops arranging drug deals (e.g. 700-1000 St Louis, 400 Burgundy)

d. Lack of Public Safety

- The ability to walk alone in confidence (Need Beat Cops!)
- Criminals cruising around the neighborhood looking for trouble
- Stalker knows response times and leaves (up to 3 time per night) prior to police arriving (Marigny)
- Huge crowds pouring into the fragile historic environment are not only making life intolerable for residents, they pose a huge, huge security threat, one like the Boston Marathon and other large gatherings in other cities. The problem in the French Quarter is that it's not just an annual occurrence. Now, the population at least quadruples every weekend and the Quarter becomes a crowded nightmare during festivals. With the sad level of policing, there is no way for the NOPD to secure the area from threat of a terrorist attack.
- Young people out after curfew (Is curfew ever enforced, is there one?)

e. Public Urination & Defecation

- Over served drunks who vomit and urinate all over the Quarter
- Pirates Alley is the French Quarter Pissoir
- Individuals saving spots for musicians in 700 Royal – urinate, defecate, masturbate
- Public urination and destruction of private property
- Every elitist Tulane and Loyola college student and male tourist—the worst offenders, roaming drunk, or worker on his way to or home from work, thinks he has the right to pee on the front doors of Pirate's Alley or through the fence into the Cathedral garden.

f. Noise & Sound

- Street musicians playing till 2am or 3am way above decibel levels (e.g. Royal/St Peter; Royal/St Louis)
- Royal/St Peter crowds (75-100 people per hour); no regulations (a festival environment)
- Large, loud street musicians with drum kits, keyboards, amplifiers playing late at night (700 Royal)
- Noise and sounds from bars/clubs on Bourbon Street out of control (200 – 700 Bourbon)

- Rowdy crowds in 700-800 Bourbon
- Street musicians blocking sidewalks, traffic lanes, parking spots (e.g. Royal/St Peter; Royal/St Louis)
- Festivals; disturbances from their sound devices after hours

g. AirBnB Issues

- Guests being loud
- Loud courtyard parties
- Unruly behavior by guests and festival attendees
- Unlicensed

h. Miscellaneous Non NOPD Items

- Where are the State Troopers?
- Garbage men on 900 block of Touro pickup recycle as garbage not letting recycle people come by to get recycle. We are paying for recycling
- Getting towed for street cleaning
- People placing cones to block parking
- Residential parking tags - why they are needed?
- Racist neighbors o Vehicles behaving poorly
- Trash not cleaned up; Drains always clogged (700 Royal)
- RV's parking in residential neighborhood

The second question posed was, “How can the community collaborate with the police department to address these issues?” In the 8th District, the primary responses from the community were:

a. Vagrancy & Panhandling:

- Call 911 when observed or use the FQ Task Force App if in the Quarter
- Find ways to cut off alcohol
- Stop businesses from selling single beers, pints
- Work with Hotels to educate visitors not to provide money to panhandlers, as there are churches and other groups that provide food and services to the homeless.
- Identify locations and provide support for “homeless meters”
- Push the City to make the Quarter cleaner again; wash sidewalks daily; cite businesses that leave trashcans out 24/7
- Work with our Council Member to improve jail acceptance and processing time for Vagrants to allow NOPD to quickly get back patrolling the streets after taking someone to jail.

**b. Noise**

- Push the City to have the Health Department start enforcing the Sound Ordinances
- Prepare a booklet of the laws and procedures to familiarize officers with the 8th District's unique laws.
- Use Sound Readings for ABO hearings & Municipal Court for neighbor's claims.
- Work with the City to define what laws are enforceable and what are not

**c. Bars & Clubs**

- Report nuisance bars/clubs to Louisiana ATC
- Push business leaders to encourage bars and clubs to cease illegal activities

**d. Drugs and Prostitution, Public Urination etc.**

- Call 911 when observed
- Use the FQ Task Force App
- Lack of Public Safety
- Install Video Cameras/Provide footage to NOPD to help solve crimes
- Dusk to Dawn lighting on your property
- Look for ways to provide Police Details in the other areas of the 8th District

The third question posed was, "What does the police department do well in terms of community engagement? Please provide specific examples." In the 8<sup>th</sup> District, the primary responses from the community were:

- a. Willingness of Cm Walls and his officers to meet with the Neighborhood
- b. Community Policing is improving
- c. Response time for emergency calls
- d. More sympathetic and professional than in the past
- e. Easy to interact with
- f. 8DIU YouTube Site; prompt notifications seeking help to solve crimes

The fourth question posed was, "What could the police department do better in terms of community engagement? Please provide specific examples." In the 8<sup>th</sup> District, the primary responses from the community were:

- a. Earlier notification of Comstat and NONPACC meetings; always hold; don't cancel
- b. Retrain officers in using sound equipment
- c. Slow down and get out of vehicles more frequently
- d. More Beat Cops
- e. Enforce Royal Street laws after 7pm

- f.** Train officers in FQ laws and ordinances
- g.** Better enforce the existing laws on the books

The fifth question posed was, “What activities should the Department undertake to improve relationships with youth?” In the 8<sup>th</sup> District, the primary responses from the community were:

- a. No responses