

NEW ORLEANS CRIME COALITION

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New Orleans Crime Coalition Announces Results of NOPD Citizen Perception Survey

New Orleans, LA (October 2, 2019) – Today, the New Orleans Crime Coalition (NOCC) announced the results of its annual survey measuring public perception of police performance in the City of New Orleans. The study is an independent, randomized, representative sample designed to track trends over time in how New Orleans residents view the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD). The latest survey, which was conducted four times periodically throughout 2019, is the coalition's 15th since 2009.

RESULTS

Compared to results found in 2018, the survey found that from January 2019 – September 2019:

- Overall resident satisfaction remains historically on par at 54%; annual surveys conducted from 2009 to 2018 had an average satisfaction level of 54%.
- As in 2018, 45% of respondents are satisfied with how the NOPD is handling violent crime; black residents (46%) were slightly less satisfied than white residents (43%).
- 59% of adults are satisfied with the police performance in their own neighborhood; this figure is down 8 points since 2018.
- Meanwhile, 72% feel safe in their own neighborhoods, dropping more than 10 points compared to 2018. Black residents (69%) reported lower in neighborhood safety than white residents (76%).
- Satisfaction with how the NOPD handled a respondent's specific interaction or circumstance was at 58%, a 12-point decrease since 2018.
- 73% of people say the NOPD employee they interacted with was pleasant and courteous. This is a six-point decrease from the four-year average.
- Satisfaction with efforts to get drugs off the street remained at only 37%.

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According to New Orleans Crime Coalition leadership, while there are some noticeable declines in certain areas of citizen perceptions, overall resident satisfaction with the New Orleans Police Department has remained consistent in recent years. Many resident concerns including response times, police presence and neighborhood performance, efforts to get drugs off the street, ability to address violent crimes and crimes against property can be attributed to the lack of manpower within the NOPD.

“It is important to recognize that a common element in addressing these perceptions can be traced back to ongoing staffing shortages within our police department,” said Loyola University’s Dr. Michael Cowan, chairman of the Crime Coalition. “The Citizen Satisfaction Survey and the Crime Coalition are completely independent and citizen-driven. We believe it is important to track and report on public perceptions of the NOPD as a key indicator of our community’s overall well-being. We strive to make this survey a tool for our Coalition members, the NOPD, and the public to continue making our city safer.”

THE REPORT

The New Orleans Crime Coalition (NOCC) initiates and reports this independently and professionally conducted survey with the strong conviction that a regular public spotlight on how citizens perceive their police department is a powerful ongoing catalyst for decision making and reforms within NOPD that will build trust between citizens and the police department which will make New Orleans streets safer.

The annual 2019 NOCC Citizen Satisfaction Survey was conducted by Dr. Verne Kennedy, President and Senior Analyst at Market Research Insight (MRI), one of the nation’s leading market research firms. The 2019 survey was based on a city-wide sampling of 800 registered voters with a margin of error factor or +/- 3.5 percent at a 95% level of confidence.

In years past, the survey has been conducted once annually, however, in order to better measure satisfaction with the NOPD and related issues uninfluenced by any one or more current events, positive or negative, interviews of 200 voters each were conducted four times periodically throughout 2019.

About the New Orleans Crime Coalition

The New Orleans Crime Coalition (NOCC) includes fifteen community organizations working together to reform our local criminal justice system for the benefit of all. The member organizations are listed below.

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Since its founding in 2007, the NOCC has played a key role in obtaining an additional \$5.7 million for in federal funding local criminal justice agencies, and monitoring the expenditure of those funds; seeking improved cooperation between the District Attorney's office and NOPD; supporting the creation of an independent NOPD monitor; obtaining city funding for the Orleans Public Defenders Office for the first time; promoting the practice of community policing; influencing the public debate on the proper size of the Orleans Parish Prison; and creating one integrated computer-based information management system for the local criminal justice system.

The coalition works to address violent crime in New Orleans by engaging all components of the local criminal justice system and their integration. It does so by identifying best practices and holding those responsible for implementing such practices through focused, strategic plans that will result in an improved justice system leading to the removal of violent criminals from our streets and the fair, efficient and effective administration of justice.

Members of the New Orleans Crime Coalition include The Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region, Common Good, Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans, Urban League of Greater New Orleans, Crimestoppers, Metropolitan Crime Commission, New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation, Court Watch NOLA, Young Leadership Council, Bridge House, New Orleans & Company, Young Leadership Council, Youth Empowerment Project and the New Orleans Family Justice Center.

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