

# The New Orleans Crime Coalition

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## **New Orleans Crime Coalition Announces Results of Ninth Citizen Perception of NOPD Survey**

*New Orleans, LA (April 10, 2014)* – Today the New Orleans Crime Coalition (NOCC) announced the results of the ninth installment of its bi-annual survey that measures public perception of police performance in providing for the safety of its citizens. The survey is funded by Baptist Community Ministries Foundation, the Greater New Orleans Foundation and the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region.

According to Loyola University's Dr. Michael Cowan, chairman of the Crime Coalition, "Our bi-annual report, which is a random survey of how New Orleanians view the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD), is privately funded and citizen-driven, independent of the administration and the police department."

He added, "A community's relationship with its police department is a key indicator of that community's well being. Those who care about the health of our city must continue to track the state of that relationship in a public way. That is the purpose of our survey."

### **RESULTS**

*The survey found:*

- Satisfaction with (NOPD) performance rose to 60 percent since the previous survey in August 2013
- Satisfaction with police performance in respondents' neighborhoods dropped to 72 percent; down two percent since August
- At 30%, expressed dissatisfaction was at its lowest level since August, 2009
- New Orleanians' perceptions of police efforts to address violent crime dropped to 56 percent from 60 percent in August
- 51% of respondents who had contact with a police officer in the past six months indicated that the officer had clearly explained the reason for the contact; down from 70% in the previous survey
- Highs in satisfaction with police department honesty, integrity and professionalism since the first survey was recorded
- 68 percent of respondents described their interaction with police officers outside police stations as courteous; down from 72% in the previous survey
- 63% of respondents described their interaction with police officers at police stations as courteous; down from 80% in the previous survey
- Satisfaction with policing in respondents' districts averaged 60 percent, ranging from 73 percent in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District to 43 percent in the 7<sup>th</sup>

Overall, there is a 4 percent decrease in confidence in police efforts to address violent crime along with a slight decrease in public confidence in NOPD's enforcing traffic laws. Satisfaction with efforts to address property crime and efforts to get drugs off the streets both slightly increased since August 2013 survey findings.

It is important to note that high performing police departments in other cities typically score **no lower** than the 70 on ratings of citizen satisfaction like those reported above.

## **Implication**

With the exceptions noted above, these results show steady or gradually improving performance by the New Orleans Police Department.

Cowan stressed, "The results indicate that the New Orleans Police Department must build on its commitment to the philosophy of community policing by continuing to strengthen working partnerships with local residents and businesses to make communities safer.

"The New Orleans Crime Coalition sees the current grave shortage of police officers as the major barrier to taking that step. That shortage may also affect respondents' perceptions of things like how well officers explained the reasons for contacts."

## **The Report**

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 the trust between citizens and their police department required to make New Orleans streets safer.

In August 2009, NOCC hired Wilson Research Strategies (WRS) in conjunction with Wilson Perkins Allen Opinion Research (WPA) because of their nationally recognized expertise in police perception surveys to measure and report trends in public satisfaction with NOPD performance over time. WPA selects a random sample of adults living in New Orleans and conducted 75 interviews per police district to ensure sufficient sample in each police district for analysis. The sample for this survey was weighted based on gender, age, ethnicity, and geography. First conducted in 2009, the measurements are now done every six months. **The full survey may be found at <http://www.crimecoalitionnola.com>.**

The survey was conducted by telephone on March 18-20, 2014. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 4 percent at 95 percent confidence interval. That is, if this survey were repeated 100 times, the same results would occur 95 times, thus demonstrating that this is a valid and reliable survey of New Orleanians' perceptions of their police department and the best data currently available on that subject.

## **About the New Orleans Crime Coalition**

*The New Orleans Crime Coalition (NOCC) includes nearly twenty community organizations working together to reform our local criminal justice system for the benefit of all. The member organizations are listed below. 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; 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. The organizational members of the New Orleans Crime Coalition include the Business Council, Common Good, Citizens For 1 Greater New Orleans, Urban League of Greater New Orleans, Crimestoppers, Courtwatch NOLA, Metropolitan Crime Commission, New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation, Bridge House, New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau, Puentes New Orleans, Young Leadership Council, Living Witness Ministries, St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church, Touro Synagogue, the Youth Empowerment Project, and the Partnership for Youth Development.*