

# NEW ORLEANS CRIME COALITION

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

*New Orleans, LA (October 3, 2017)* – 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 a randomized, representative, independent survey designed to track trends over time in how New Orleans residents view the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD). The current survey, which was conducted from September 5-7, 2017, is the coalition's thirteenth since 2009.

### **RESULTS**

The survey found that from September 2016 to September 2017:

- Overall satisfaction of 51% is down by 13 points, slightly below the average since March 2013
- Satisfaction remains similar among both white residents (53%) and black residents (51%), although satisfaction is down for both
- Satisfaction with how the NOPD is handling violent crime (39%) decreased by 20 points since 2016, likely due to an increase in the murder rate at the time of survey
- 63% of adults are satisfied with police performance in their own neighborhoods
- 82% feel safe in their own neighborhoods, slightly higher than the average since March 2013
- For the first time since August 2013, a majority (51%) feel safe visiting other areas of New Orleans outside their own neighborhoods
- Satisfaction with interaction with the NOPD remains strong (71%), four points higher than the overall average, however interaction with police is down 12 points

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While the decrease in overall satisfaction with the NOPD likely reflects public perception of crime at the time the survey was taken, respondents' satisfaction with their experiences with police has increased since last year. Also of note, for the first time, respondents are feeling safer exploring other neighborhoods outside their own.

Loyola University's Dr. Michael Cowan, chairman of the Crime Coalition, commented, "Since our last survey in September 2016, overall citizen satisfaction is down; however, citizen perception of New Orleans crime is not necessarily reflected in their personal experiences with police or their feelings of safety. Not only are we seeing a significant feeling of safety in respondents' own neighborhoods, but for the first time, we're seeing a majority feel safe visiting areas outside of their own neighborhoods. While our murder rate is currently down, we believe the drop in overall satisfaction can likely be attributed to an increase in violent crime at the time the survey was taken."

Cowan added, "The Crime Coalition will continue to track and report on public perceptions of the NOPD because it is a fundamental indicator of our community's overall well-being. High performing police departments in other cities typically score no lower than 70% citizen satisfaction ratings. We should expect nothing less."

## **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) and Wilson Perkins Allen Opinion Research (WPA) because of their nationally recognized expertise in police perception surveys. WPA selects a random sample of adults living in New Orleans and conducts 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.

The survey was conducted by telephone from September 5-7, 2017. The margin of error is +/- 4 percent at a 95% confidence interval. The full survey may be found at [crimecoalitionnola.com/news](http://crimecoalitionnola.com/news).

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## **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.*

*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 Convention and Visitors Bureau, Puentes, Touro Synagogue, Living Witness Church of God in Christ, Youth Empowerment Project and the New Orleans Family Justice Center.*

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