

# The New Orleans Crime Coalition

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

**New Orleans, LA (October 11, 2016)** – Today, the New Orleans Crime Coalition (NOCC) announced the results of its regular survey that measures public perception of police performance in providing for the safety of residents 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. The current survey, which was conducted from September 12-15, 2016 is the coalition's twelfth since 2009.

### RESULTS

The survey found that from August 2015 to September 2016:

- Overall citizen satisfaction increased to 64%, up by 16 points from last year, the highest it has ever been since the inception of this survey
- Black satisfaction increased to 66%
- White satisfaction increased to 57%
- Overall belief that NOPD culture has improved over the past few years is 69% (Black 67%; White 68%); this is the first time the coalition has polled this question
- Overall confidence that police do a good job managing tension when interacting with members of the community is 70% (Black 69%; White 73%); this is the first time the coalition has polled this question
- Honesty and integrity of the department increased to 68%, an all-time high number
- Overall competence of the department increased to 68%, an all-time high number
- Citizen satisfaction pertaining to dealing with violent crime increased to 59%
- Citizen satisfaction pertaining to dealing with property crime increased to 62%, up 10 points from last year
- 78% of respondents feel safe in their own neighborhood
- 49% of respondents feel safe outside their neighborhoods

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

Loyola University's Dr. Michael Cowan, chairman of the Crime Coalition, commented, "Since our last survey in August 2015, overall citizen satisfaction has increased substantially. This sentiment was consistent among both blacks and whites, demonstrating the growing mutual respect and alignment between the community and NOPD across all racial

and economic lines. In our judgment, these results likely reflect improved officer training and supervision resulting from requirements of the consent decree under which NOPD is operating. Chief Harrison's leadership – along with Mayor Landrieu's support – likely factor into these much improved statistics, as do the business-led efforts to improve NOPD recruitment. We congratulate the NOPD as they steadily work through the requirements of the consent decree and dedicate themselves to the safety and betterment of our community."

He added, "We will continue to independently track and report to the public on the state of the relationship between citizens and the police department, as that relationship is a key indicator of the community's well-being."

## **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 were done every six months through 2015, and are now tracked annually. **The full survey may be found at [www.crimecoalitionnola.com](http://www.crimecoalitionnola.com).**

The survey was conducted by telephone from September 12-15, 2016. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 4 percent at a 95% 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 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. The organizational 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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