

The New Orleans Crime Coalition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Sarah Chambless Federer
Gambel Communications
sarahc@gambelpr.com
o: 504.324.4242 | c: 985.373.5271

New Orleans Crime Coalition Announces Results of Eleventh Citizen Perception of NOPD Survey

New Orleans, LA (September 23, 2015) – Today, the New Orleans Crime Coalition (NOCC) announced the results of its bi-annual 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 (NOPD). The current survey, which was conducted August 27-September 1, is the coalition's eleventh since 2009.

RESULTS

The survey found that from February 2015 to August 2015:

- Blacks and Whites had an equal overall satisfaction level of 48%
- Citizen satisfaction pertaining to dealing with violent crime was 49%
- Citizen satisfaction pertaining to dealing with property crime was 52%
- Majority of respondents across all districts are satisfied with police performance in their own neighborhood
- 79% of respondents feel safe in their own neighborhood
- 46% of respondents feel safe outside their neighborhood
- 63% of respondents are satisfied with the overall competence of the NOPD
- 59% of respondents are satisfied with the honesty and integrity of the NOPD
- 42% of respondents are satisfied with response times

Loyola University's Dr. Michael Cowan, chairman of the New Orleans Crime Coalition, commented, "Overall citizen satisfaction with NOPD in the current survey was 48%. This contrasts with the period from 2012 to 2016, during which overall citizen satisfaction hovered around 60%. We believe that the drop from 60 to 48% can be traced to a severe shortage of sworn officers and the urgent need for high quality ongoing training and supervision of NOPD personnel. In a time of heightened national tension in police/community relations, it is significant that African-American and white New Orleanians express exactly the same level of satisfaction with NOPD (48%). This has been the case for five consecutive surveys, going back to March 2013. Degree of satisfaction with our police department is one very important matter on which whites and blacks agree, and provides a focus for interracial partnerships."

Cowan added, "The crime coalition will continue to track and report on citizen perceptions of their police department because it is one key indicator of our community's overall well being. Based on survey results in other cities, we should aspire to a satisfaction level no lower than 70%."

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/news>.

The survey was conducted by telephone from August 27-September 1, 2015. 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, Bridge House, New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau, Puentes, Touro Synagogue, Bridge House, Youth Empowerment Project and the New Orleans Family Justice Center.

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