



Council Pushing for Immediate Action Items to Address Violent Crime and Breakdowns in the Criminal Justice System

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

PRELIMINARY





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Through public engagement and cooperation across the entirety of the criminal justice system, the **New Orleans City Council** has built a **roadmap of changes that should vastly improve the functioning of systems we use to prevent, disrupt, and punish violent crime**. Our strategies range from uplifting our residents and improving material circumstances to building more trustworthy systems that deliver justice if violent crime is to occur. We also hope to utilize and leverage federal funding and resources wherever available to enhance our efforts. **People in every neighborhood of our city deserve safety, justice, and peace**. This roadmap is **only the beginning** and we will continue to bring **urgency, ideas, and commitment** to building a safer New Orleans.



Ensure Crime Data is Publicly Accessible and Guides Policy Decisions

The New Orleans City Council will identify funding for a public-facing dashboard integrating criminal justice system data from all stakeholders

Jurisdictions across the country are seeking ways to better understand their system-involved populations and how to inform policy decisions with data. Justice system processes span independent entities – including the New Orleans Police Department, courts, offices of the District Attorney and Public Defender, City of New Orleans departments, the Sheriff, Independent Police Monitor, juvenile services, community organizations, and advocacy bodies – and allow leadership to better address and alter day-to-day operations and create system-wide policy decisions.



Example: New Orleans City Council Crime Dashboard



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Reform the Court System and Increase Accountability and Transparency

The New Orleans City Council will identify funding for Criminal District Court to:

- Incorporate all criminal justice partners into a single digital platform
- Create a system for the uploading and retention of data to a central database to track first appearances, related data, and final dispositions

Criminal District Court shall:

- Conduct direct review of Magistrate Courts and Commissioners to identify systems and criteria used to calculate risk for bonds
- Ensure all court data systems, including NCIC, are properly maintained and regularly updated
- Create a more transparent process of selecting commissioners, including:
 - Publicly initiating searches with a reasonable response period
 - Making all resumes and related material available as a public record
 - Requiring notice of agenda of final candidates – before en banc selection – are available as a public record
- Demand and help to coordinate merger and modernization of court data systems and address case backlog

The New Orleans City Council will identify funding and resources for Juvenile Court to:

- Bolster the expansion of support services
- Analyze existing probation services currently provided by the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice to better identify gaps and supplement existing efforts

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court shall:

- Ensure access to City Council data partners to collect data (without personal identifiers) to support transparency and accountability
- Work with stakeholders to ensure method for needs-based assessment at initiation of a case and OPSB on juvenile related matters, including truancy
- Identify existing gaps to address and engage youth and their families both pre- and post-adjudication



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Reform the Court System and Increase Accountability and Transparency (continued)

The New Orleans City Council will address challenges at the Juvenile Justice Intervention Center (JJIC) by:

- Analyzing and strategizing around persistent issues concerning recruitment & retention of staff
- Updating static infrastructure that exacerbates safety concerns

The Juvenile Justice Intervention Center shall:

- Support the implementation of an Office of Juvenile Services responsible for handling probation and parole to address core issues around recidivism leading to a 52% non-compliant youth
- Review effectiveness and needs for the Intensive In-Home and Community Supervision program that was launched in 2020 to provide Juvenile Court with extra eyes and ears to monitor youth and support family interventions
- Submit to a complete audit of its budget for 2021 and 2022 to address compliance issues and staffing concerns
- Submit aggregate data to the centralized digital dashboard to support transparency in outcomes
- Engage successful individuals with prior justice system involvement as mentors to juveniles in JJIC



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Empower and Encourage Orleans Parish District Attorney To Focus on Violent Crime Prosecutions

The New Orleans City Council will identify funding and support for the Orleans Parish District Attorney (OPDA) to:

- Recreate the multi-agency Gang Unit
- Establish the Serial Crime Unit
- Partner on a single platform for utilization between all criminal justice partners
- Develop a central database containing all necessary and relevant data, to include a new website, that will provide publicly accessible information to better educate and inform shared strategies
- Embed an Assistant District Attorney in each Police District to assist in immediate investigation and charging

The Orleans Parish District Attorney shall:

- Work alongside City Council to increase safety and hold violent offenders accountable by:
 - Prioritizing the screening and prosecuting of violent crimes
 - Requesting that the NOPD's arresting officers also charge carjackings as armed robberies and - where appropriate - increasing maximum sentences
- Utilize firearm sentencing provisions to ensure minimum sentencing requirements for gun crimes
- Use Gwen's Law for domestic violence (DV) cases to allow for more informed bail hearings for DV offenders
- Solve cold cases even with limited resources leveraging the recently formed Cold Case Unit
- Identify systems and criteria used to calculate risk for bonds
- Improve communication with victims concerning any status updates to a case
- Dramatically reduce the number of 701 releases occurring in Criminal District Court
- Execute all pending CEAs to initiate joint task forces between NOPD and the District Attorney's Office and partnering to evaluate and provide data on the effectiveness of those task forces to the City Council



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Support Parity for the Orleans Parish Public Defender to Expedite and Streamline Cases

The New Orleans City Council will:

- Better support the Public Defender Client Services Division to address issues accessing safe, affordable housing as well as mental health and/or substance abuse programs and other reentry and deterrence efforts and other reentry and deterrence efforts
- Address capacity issues among public defenders by adhering to the parity law

The Orleans Parish Public Defenders shall:

- Participate in a centralized, public-facing data platform connecting criminal justice system stakeholders
- Provide measurable data on its efficiency in handling cases from intake to trial
- Provide data on Client Services Division outcomes

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Centralize and Stand Up Independent Crime Victim Communication and Resources

The New Orleans City Council will:

- Centralize a database of resources for crime victims
- Build a cohort of liaisons to help guide victims and keep families better informed to ensure stronger cases and to increase trust and system integrity, whether through a new agency or with non-profit support partners (STAR, etc.)
- End the illegal practice of NOPD and towing partners charging victims for the return of their stolen vehicles or other personal property. The City Council will introduce ordinances to mirror state law prohibition and reimburse victims who incurred costs in the past
- Fund a fully-functional, staffed, and credentialed DNA lab in Orleans Parish



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Demand Accountability and Results from the Offices of Youth and Families and Gun Violence Prevention

The New Orleans City Council will:

- Conduct performance audits of the effectiveness and funding of strategies and initiatives helmed by the City of New Orleans' Office of Youth and Families and the Office of Gun Violence Prevention
- Require support and instruction on availability of non-profit, state, and federal resources for victims of violent crime and crime prevention programs generally
- Develop a concrete list of data-driven programs, including violence-reduction intervention, and strategies and track programmatic reach and effectiveness across New Orleans
- Require regular updates and promotion of a list resources for youth and families provided by state and federal entities as well as non-profits

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Invest in Our City's Youth

The New Orleans City Council will identify funding and support programming to invest in our most vulnerable population, the children of the City of New Orleans by:

- Addressing pervasive child and adolescent mental health issues resulting from exposure to or being a victim of a crime, extreme weather events, the COVID-19 pandemic, domestic violence, lack of access to child care, etc.
- Significantly investing in early childhood education and care (ECE) initiatives including the proposed ECE millage on the April 30, 2022 ballot





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Invest in Our City's Youth (continued)

The New Orleans City Council will immediately reevaluate the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) budget for increased programming to be implemented. This would include:

- **NORD Youth Summer Camps:** ensuring low financial barriers to entry
- **NORD Teen Career Camps/Job1:** including a review of stipends provided
- **NORD's Teen Internship Program (new):** increase visibility of program as well as partners in both the public and private sectors
- **Movies in the Park:** including expanding partners that can partner at events
- **Chevron Future Leaders Program**
- **NORD Teen Program/NORD Teen Council**
- NORD summer and year-round employment opportunities
- ACT prep and college tour initiatives
- Exploring new programs focusing on career-readiness and entrepreneurial skills
- Summer athletics including newly expanding boxing programs
- Increased availability of facilities for:
 - Midnight basketball and flag football
 - Coding, movie, and video game tournaments
- Fundraising efforts and demonstrable results through corporate partnerships and available grants



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Reorganize, Redeploy, and Revive the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD)

The New Orleans City Council will:

- Support and find immediate funding for a recruitment and retention plan for our NOPD force, including additional equipment and vehicles needed by current officers
- Initiate engagement with business and civic leaders as well as the Police Association of New Orleans, Fraternal Order of Police, and the Black Police Officers of New Orleans to:
 - Independently audit former and departing officers to provide a comprehensive and confidential analysis of retention issues
 - Create a blueprint for an effective recruitment program to attract new officers, including recruitments of seasoned officers in other jurisdictions
 - Identify all issues for public discourse concerning recruitment and retention issues, including addressing and reevaluating lateral transfer procedures
- Engage a third party organization for a comprehensive audit of the NOPD budget to:
 - Identify how all existing monies are spent
 - Create separation between the current budget and legacy costs (retirement)
 - Analyze the status of existing equipment and infrastructure needs to support a force based upon existing department size and growth potential
- Secure additional funding for license plate readers throughout New Orleans
- Hire a DNA Lab Director and Deputy Director, as well as dedicate funding to ensure the lab has the equipment and personnel to get off the ground and be properly credentialed
- Engage with state and federal agencies to create partnerships for additional technologies - the Council has already reached out to LaDOTD to move forward with sharing camera feeds on New Orleans interstates with NOPD
- Seek American Rescue Plan dollars and allocate those funds to violent crime deterrence through impactful youth programming and mentorship and violence prevention, including growing NOLA Youth Works summer employment program



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Reorganize, Redeploy, and Revive the New Orleans Police Department (continued)

The New Orleans Police Department shall:

- Complete a holistic, reality-based review of the NOPD deployment strategy to efficiently execute on the community's public safety needs with a 1,000 officer force, including the feasibility and potential benefits of district consolidation and service reorganization
- Immediately prioritize coordination with the Office of Homeland Security and related stakeholders to properly staff and optimize the use of technology currently available through the Real-Time Crime Center
- Cooperate with a third party analysis of recruitment and retention policies, strategies, and metrics
- Execute and coordinate all relevant agreements for joint operations with criminal justice system stakeholders/public-facing dashboards
- Relaunch and deploy the TIGER Unit
- Improve utilization of Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC), increase the number of analysts, and provide an independent assessment of the impact of the RTCC cameras
- Investigate shared camera feed between LaDOTD and NOPD to provide additional opportunities for coordination
- Partner with and pursue additional personnel and grants from federal and state law enforcement agencies
- Execute all pending CEAs to initiate joint task forces between NOPD and the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office and partner to evaluate and provide data to the City Council on the effectiveness of those task forces



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