

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

ED QUATREVAUX, INSPECTOR GENERAL



March 11, 2015

Michael S. Harrison
Superintendent
New Orleans Police Department
715 South Broad Street
New Orleans LA 70116

RE: 8th District Theft Statistics

Dear Superintendent Harrison,

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a report on October 30, 2013 concerning the misclassification of crimes by the 8th District. It found that at least 177 incidents involving lost or stolen wallets and purses had been misclassified.

The NOPD needs accurate crime reporting so it can analyze crime data comprehensively and develop strategies to combat it. It is also important that citizens have an accurate picture so they can judge whether a specific type of crime is increasing or decreasing in frequency.

In our 2013 report, 1131 incidents of this type were reported as Signal 67 (Theft) in the first seven months of 2013. However, the OIG recently conducted a follow-up review of the data for the same period in 2014. The 2014 data show that 1603 Signal 67s were reported, a 42 percent increase. This result indicates that the reporting of these incidents has improved greatly.

It should be made clear that *the 42 percent is an increase in reported crime, not actual crime.*

I commend the NOPD's 8th District for rapidly improving the reporting of crime in its area of responsibility.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'ER Quatrevaux', is positioned below the main body of the letter.

cc: Lt. Col. Jerry Sneed, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety
A.D. Kopplin, First Deputy Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer
Commander Jeff Walls, 8th District