

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



ED QUATREVAUX
INSPECTOR GENERAL

For Immediate Release:
May 28, 2014

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**NEW ORLEANS POLICE CAN ADDRESS SHORTAGE OF OFFICERS ANSWERING CITIZEN CALLS
FOR SERVICE THROUGH POLICY AND PRIORITY CHANGES**

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General (OIG) today released an evaluation titled “New Orleans Police Department Staffing and Deployment: Meeting the Demand of Citizen Calls for Service with Existing Resources.” In response to community concerns over the number of police officers New Orleans needs and the pledge of city leaders to hire more, the OIG conducted a workload-based analysis of New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) manpower requirements.

Evaluators found that in May 2013 most NOPD platoons were not sufficiently staffed to meet the demand of citizen-generated calls for service: of the approximately 1,000 Police Officers I-IV, 251 officers were assigned to platoons responsible for responding to calls for service in May 2013. Evaluators examined NOPD staffing and deployment and identified opportunities to meet citizen call-for-service demand. Among the recommendations:

- Assign sworn officers only to positions which require law enforcement training, expertise, or experience.
- Increase supervisors’ span of control: NOPD supervisors managed an average of 3.1 to 4.3 officers, well above the national average for supervisors to staff.
- Develop alternative methods for responding to burglar alarms and minor traffic accidents.

“NOPD does not have a sufficient number of officers assigned to answer calls for service,” stated Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux. “But we have police officers assigned to non-law enforcement duties who could be doing this function. We should be exploring all possible options before we increase the force strength of NOPD by 300 police officers.”

The report is attached to this news release. Other reports issued by the Office of Inspector General can be viewed and downloaded from the website at <http://www.nolaoig.org>.

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