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POLICE LACKED DOCUMENTATION OF INVESTIGATIONS IN SEX CRIME CASES

NOVEMBER 12, 2014, NEW ORLEANS, LA. The New Orleans Office of Inspector General today released the results of its inquiry into sex crime investigations by five detectives in the Special Victims Section of the New Orleans Police Department. Results of an OIG audit released in May of NOPD's Uniform Crime Reporting for forcible rapes showed NOPD misclassified 46% of forcible rape offenses tested. The OIG Investigations Division reviewed the 90 sex crime related reports randomly selected for the audit and found significant concerns with 23 reports from five detectives.

As a result, OIG reviewed all 1,290 calls for service identified by NOPD's Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) as assigned to the five detectives over the three-year period of January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013.

Of the 1,290 calls OIG reviewed, 840 (65%) were designated as Miscellaneous with no reports written. An analysis of the remaining 450 calls (35%) designated as sex crimes showed the five detectives followed their brief initial reports with supplemental reports only 40% of the time, producing just 179 supplemental reports during the three-year period. In 271 (60%) of the designated sex crime cases, no supplemental reports were produced documenting any investigative effort beyond the brief initial report. NOPD should investigate these 271 cases.

Due to ongoing investigations, OIG is not releasing the names of the five detectives in its report.

Among examples OIG investigators uncovered while reviewing the work of the five detectives:

-One detective closed cases of suspected sexual/physical abuse of juveniles despite hospital emergency room evidence, which included skull fractures, sexually transmitted disease in a child under the age of 3, and a registered sex offender sharing a house with an alleged juvenile victim.

-One detective who misreported discovery of DNA evidence, failed to submit a sexual assault kit to the Louisiana State Police DNA Laboratory, and failed to document any attempt to obtain phone records in a case where a victim told the hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner the

assailant sent her threatening text messages, stated to at least three individuals that simple rape should not be a crime.

-One detective produced no documentation of any follow-up investigations in three separate cases wherein the Louisiana State Police DNA Laboratory identified DNA evidence.

-Two detectives created a total of six supplemental reports with specific dates from 2010 and 2011 on the same day in 2013, shortly after OIG requested the missing reports from NOPD.

The OIG report noted that the widespread failure to submit supplemental reports, and the discrepancies between reports and other factual documentation, means there was no effective supervision of these five detectives over a 3-year period.

“All government offices must maintain documentation of their transactions as a minimum level of accountability,” stated Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux.. “The missing evidence of investigative work is unacceptable, and the OIG will continuously inspect NOPD operations until this problem is fixed.”

The Report of Inquiry 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.nolaig.org>.

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