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**FAILURE TO MEET CRIME REPORTING REQUIREMENTS COST CITY AND CRIME VICTIMS MORE THAN \$1.1 MILLION**

The **New Orleans Office of Inspector General (OIG)** today released a public letter finding the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD)'s failure to report accurate crime statistics in accordance with state law has cost the City and its nonprofit partners at least \$1.1 million, including grant money used to support crime victims.

Due to the timing and frequency of crime-statistic reporting, the NOPD's failure to comply with reporting requirements will continue to affect the amount of federal grant funding available to local organizations until at least the year 2031.

In 2016 the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) announced a significant change in how it would document crime data. The NOPD, like all other law enforcement agencies in the state, has been required to submit crime data in the new format to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) through the Louisiana Incident Based Crime Reporting System (LIBRS) since 2021. Under Louisiana law, failure to become certified through LIBRS resulted in ineligibility to receive certain federal grant money.

In May 2019, the NOPD received a \$358,120 federal NCS-X grant to help the department transition to LIBRS standards. The NOPD ultimately paid a contractor \$427,241 to upgrade its Records Management System (RMS), used to collect crime data. Yet, despite these expenditures and an extended deadline, the NOPD never achieved LIBRS certification. In fact, the NOPD did not submit any 2021 crime data to the State until March 2024. As a result, the NOPD was required to repay almost \$200,000 it had received through the NCS-X grant and forfeit the remainder of the \$358,120 award.

The NOPD's failure to report crime data also impacted the amount of funding available to organizations that serve crime victims in Orleans Parish. The LCLE allocates a significant portion of federal grant money based on a formula that relies heavily on crime statistics for each district of the state. This formula is recalculated every 10 years. However, when the State recalculated the formula in 2023, the NOPD had not yet reported crime data for 2021. Therefore, the formula was calculated as though New Orleans had no crime at all in 2021 and the portion of funding allocated to Orleans Parish fell from 15.89% to 10.63%.

Based on data the NOPD ultimately supplied in 2024, the OIG determined that had the NOPD submitted crime statistics timely, the Orleans District would have received 15.33% of statewide grant funding in 2023. This would have resulted in approximately \$700,000 of additional grant funding for local

organizations that support crime victims, such as the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court’s Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Program and the Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response Center, among others.

As the City works to launch a new RMS for the NOPD, the OIG is encouraged that crime reporting capabilities, and in particular the ability to facilitate LIBRS certification, were specifically required as key features of the new RMS.

In today’s public letter, the OIG recommended the following:

- The City should ensure NOPD staff are trained to document incidents in ways that meet LIBRS reporting standards before the new RMS is launched.
- The City should ensure adequate staff resources are dedicated to verifying the quality of data submitted by field officers.
- Per LCLE guidance, the NOPD should commit to submitting full months of LIBRS data to the State immediately after launching the new RMS, even if initial data contain errors.

**Inspector General Ed Michel stated:**

*“It is imperative that the NOPD complies with state and federal crime reporting standards, not only for transparency and public safety purposes, but also to ensure those impacted by crime have access to the support and resources they need to heal and recover.”*

To view the letter, visit [nolaoig.gov](http://nolaoig.gov).

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