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MAYOR LANDRIEU ATTENDS OPEN COMSTAT MEETING

Mayor and Chief Announce Quicker Timetable for Crime Stats Reporting

New Orleans, LA—Today, Mayor Mitch Landrieu joined top officials of the New Orleans Police Department for its first public departmental COMSTAT meeting at the Municipal Training Facility.

COMSTAT is a management tool used by the NOPD to help officers grasp and understand the volume and type of crimes in each district which can then be used for targeting and prioritizing resources. It was first implemented by the NOPD in October 1996.

“Making these meetings public brings new accessibility and transparency to a department that is looking to regain the public’s trust,” said Landrieu. “But this isn’t just about numbers. Improving this system with Chief Serpas is part our larger strategy to have a performance-driven, accountable government.”

In his first three weeks in office, Landrieu has taken substantive action in fighting crime and reforming the New Orleans Police Department, his top priorities as Mayor. On May 5, 2010, Mayor Landrieu sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to enlist the federal government’s support and resources to transform the New Orleans Police Department. On Monday, the Department of Justice announced that it would indeed be partnering with Mayor Landrieu to transform patterns and practices in the NOPD. Their team will be led by Assistant Attorney General Thomas Perez and Deputy Assistant Attorney General Roy Austin.

Mayor Landrieu also selected Ronal Serpas to lead the NOPD after an exhaustive, national search. Serpas has had demonstrable success in reducing crime in both Nashville, Tennessee, and New Orleans. Additionally, in an effort to provide full transparency in the department, the Mayor ordered the NOPD to cooperate with the Office of the Inspector General and Police Monitor’s requests for records and information. In a sign of full coordination of the criminal justice parties involved, Landrieu, Serpas, Justice Department officials, and newly-selected Police Monitor Susan Hutson held a series of community meetings on Monday to get public input about the reforms taking shape.

“Each day, we are taking new steps toward a complete reformation of the NOPD and our criminal justice system on the whole,” said Landrieu. “I have complete confidence that with the federal government’s weight behind our reforms, we can transform the culture of death and violence in this city once and for all. There has never been so much momentum for these changes.”

In addition to opening the weekly COMSTAT meetings, Mayor Landrieu and Chief Serpas today announced that the NOPD and city will be speeding up its process for delivering *raw data* for posting on public crime maps, using “Calls for Service” data. With the changes, the oldest data on the maps will be 50-52 hours old and newest data approximately 24 hours old.

“Opening these meetings helps to demystify the crime-fighting process for the average citizen,” noted Serpas. “The only way we’re really going to change the streets of this city is with the community’s help and support, so any ways we can involve or inform, whether its opening these meetings or getting raw data to maps expeditiously, is integral to our cause.”

Chief Serpas also reiterated that he has created an email address to provide easy access to the NOPD and increase the dialogue and cooperation between citizens and the department. A citizen email has already resulted in an arrest. The public can email information or concerns to nopdchief@cityofno.com.

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