

# New Orleans Citizen Crime Watch



Warren J. Riley  
Superintendent of Police  
New Orleans Police Department  
715 S. Broad St.  
New Orleans, LA 70119

March 26, 2007

Dear Chief Riley,

The challenges now confronting New Orleans are greater than ever before in our city's history. All of us, citizens and public officials alike, are being asked to do things we never dreamed we'd be called upon to do. It has been a taxing struggle but we are finding solutions by forging unique new relationships which are already building a foundation for a stronger community.

Crime has always been a vexing problem in our city. Were it not for Hurricane Katrina, the crime problem would still be a challenge for any police commander to control. Now, there are NOPD offices operating out of FEMA trailers, police officers struggling with their own array of rebuilding problems, and shifting resource needs. You have demonstrated a commendable willingness to try new strategies to overcome these challenges.

A group of citizens and professional developers have volunteered their time to develop a crime mapping and reporting web site. The web site is designed to alert citizens on a daily basis about emerging safety concerns in their neighborhoods using the 911 calls for service data. We are asking you to help us. We hope you will provide us with that data.

There are ways to address any legal privacy issues, or other concerns you may have, and our team of developers are prepared to create automated routines to facilitate a data transfer process. At this time, we are ready to test this system using real data.

Ed Thornton, the chair of the Loyola University Criminal Justice Program has agreed to warehouse the data. Establishing Loyola as a neutral host for the data would also offer new possibilities for contributing research of crime data intelligence, as well as the ability to better prepare officers who graduate from the program for leadership positions at the NOPD.

Your community policing approach recognizes the fact that developing stronger relationships between citizens and the police is, in fact, a vital strategy for creating safer communities. Citizens are the additional eyes and ears of the police. In concert with your vision and leadership, together, we can make a lasting impact toward a safer city. Citizens are prepared, as never before, to partner with the criminal justice community to be a part of the solution. In fact, the

primary demand of citizens who marched against violence in January was greater access to more complete and timely information about crime in their neighborhoods. We can fulfill this demand.

This is a truly innovative approach which would result in considerable positive attention. We encourage you to embrace this strategy, and welcome the opportunity to meet with you to address your concerns and work out the details.

Respectfully,

D. Brian Denzer

CC: City Council Criminal Justice Committee