

NOLA PATROL & FRENCH QUARTER IMPROVEMENT FUND FAQ

What will NOLA Patrol do?

- Foot Patrols – NOLA Patrol officers will primarily be on foot and bike in the French Quarter area, which enables them to enhance the presence of NOPD and interact with area residents and visitors, ultimately strengthening connections between NOPD and the community.
- Traffic Control – NOLA Patrol will be able to direct traffic, under the supervision of experienced NOPD Officers, alleviating the need to commit as many Officers to traffic control during daily rush hours and special events.
- Minor Automobile Accidents – For minor accidents (those that do not result in injury or have less than \$500 in damage), NOLA Patrol will be able to assist NOPD in responding to the scene. They will also assist in securing the scene and assisting in traffic control for more serious offenses, which would typically require a police officer.
- Quality of Life Issues – NOLA Patrol will be able to respond to non-emergency calls for service, quality of life complaints, and City code violations. They will also be able to enforce taxicab & “for hire” vehicle laws, city ordinances, and zoning ordinances. Allowing them to resolve many of these minor incidents will improve police response times for both emergency and non-emergency incidents.

Why is NOLA Patrol necessary?

NOPD is experiencing serious manpower pressures which are exacerbated in an area like the French Quarter, which gets millions of visitors per year. Additionally, the French Quarter area generates thousands of non-emergency calls per year, especially for Quality of Life and nuisance enforcement, which takes up precious time for already limited NOPD resources.

NOLA Patrol will reduce manpower pressures by taking non-emergency complaints and quality of life enforcement, freeing up NOPD 8th District officers for emergency response and visible crime deterrent foot patrols. NOLA Patrol will also enhance visibility, as they will be on foot and bike patrols.

NOLA Patrol also provides a NOPD recruitment pipeline for individuals who are interested in a career with NOPD but do not yet meet minimum entry requirements (20 years old with at least 60 college credits). Becoming a NOLA Patrol officer while working to fulfill these requirements will ensure that these individuals stay interested in a career with NOPD while learning valuable policing skills and contributing to their community.

What types of “Quality of Life” offenses will NOLA Patrol officers be able to enforce?

NOLA Patrol officers will be permitted to write citations and summonses for City code violations, including:

- Enforcing parking laws, issuing parking tickets, having illegally parked vehicles towed
- Enforcing artist and transient vendor permits and writing citations.
- Under guidance, performing non-emergency assignments related to law enforcement, security, crime detection, report writing, and issuance of administrative citations and court summonses.
- Writing citations for illegal parking, oversized vehicles, dumping and sanitation compliance, zoning compliance, illegal vending and illegal for hire and taxi-cab operations, in compliance with state and City laws.
- Discouraging quality of life crimes and adding in enforcing non-criminal law compliance.

Examples include:

- Parking
 - Sec. 154-800 to 1100
- Permits
 - Artists – Sec. 110-130 to 132
 - Transient Vendors – Sec. 110-265 to 269
 - Food Vending on Street --Sec. 110-199
- Other Frequent 8th District QoL Complaints
 - 150-953 No Occupational License
 - 150-804 Certificate/License to Be Displayed in Conspicuous Place
 - 10-47 No ABO Permit
 - 10-125 Permits to be Displayed (in ABO)
 - 10-128 No Manager on Premises
 - 10-401 Sales Restricted Within Premises
 - 10-403 Sidewalk Seating Not Permitted
 - 138-38 Placement of trash containers
 - 138-44 Days of Collection, placement and removal of garbage and trash containers
 - 18-13 Soiling of public/private property by animals
 - 154-1416 Riding bicycle on sidewalk
 - 54-489 Shirts/mannequins hanging from exterior of buildings
 - 54-419 Aggressive Solicitation
 - 54-412 Aggressive panhandling
 - 122-51 Buses over 31 feet in FQ

Will NOLA Patrol enforce “sound” violations? What is the status of hiring enforcement agents?

No. There will be specialized, trained liaisons from the Health Department whose job it will be to educate about and enforce sound violations. Although we lost momentum when the sound ordinance failed, the City remains committed to hiring environmental health liaisons, funded by the French Market Corporation, who would educate the public about the health impacts of loud noise and the rules and regulations outlined in the sound ordinance. The Health Department issued an RFP to hire a consultant to design a program to educate the public and then train employees to fairly enforce the law. The City received one response to the RFP, and after review of the proposal, the team decided they would reissue the RFP—which has now been released.

Will the NOLA Patrol officers be armed?

No. NOLA Patrol will have a NOPD radio so they can communicate with NOPD 8th district officers.

Will the NOLA Patrol officers have arrest powers? Will the NOLA Patrol officers be able to write citations?

NOLA Patrol officers will not have arrest powers; however, they will be able to write both citations for municipal code offenses and Municipal Court summonses.

When will the patrols start?

We anticipate that the hiring process will begin in late October to early November. Training is a 6-week process. We expect patrols to start in early 2015.

What is required to be hired?

Applicants will be required to pass a multiple choice test administered by the Civil Service Commission.

Applicants must also be at least 18 years old, possess a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (G.E.D.), and possess a valid Personal Driver’s License with a good driving record.

Applicants should also have never been convicted of or plead nolo contendere to any felony nor any misdemeanor involving any crimes against person or sexual offences, have never used any illegal drug other than marijuana within the ten years prior to application, and have never sold, distributed, manufactured, or transported any illegal drug.

How will residents request enforcement or tip off NOLA Patrol personnel?

Currently, the 8th District headquarters and NOPD quality of life officers receive non-emergency calls directly. Also, many quality of life complaints are reported through NOLA 311.

Because NOLA Patrol will be on the same radio system as NOPD 8th District officers, they will be able to get the same information and be able to respond accordingly.

We are exploring creating a dedicated hotline for reports to NOLA Patrol.

How does NOLA Patrol work with the FQMD voluntary paid details plan?

NOLA Patrol does not stand on its own, and it will work cooperatively with the paid details. Both NOLA Patrol and detail activities will be under the direction of a sergeant in the NOPD's 8th District, so their activities will be coordinated.

Additionally, the plan to improve French Quarter public safety and quality of life enforcement includes:

- Use of NOPD overtime;
- Aggressive NOPD recruitment campaign to continue to grow the size of the force;
- Continued partnership with Louisiana State Police to supplement manpower;
- Private details paid for by businesses and residents in the French Quarter, to be managed by the French Quarter Management District through the Office of Police Secondary Employment (OPSE); and,
- Clearer guidelines and a more streamlined Vieux Carre Commission process for businesses and residents wishing to install private security cameras in the French Quarter.

How is NOLA Patrol funded? Can't the money just be spent on fixing streetlights and sidewalks in the French Quarter?

- In 2013, the Louisiana Legislature authorized hotels in New Orleans to add a voluntary self-assessment 1.75% hotel/motel tax that could be added to hotel bills at participating hotels. Of that, 1.5% would be split evenly between NOTMC and CVB for marketing purposes, with .25% going to the City for services for the French Quarter. Hotels passed the assessment earlier this year and began collecting in April 2014.
- The funds are earmarked for enhanced services inside the French Quarter Management District boundaries (Canal, Rampart, Esplanade, MS River) for

public safety, quality of life enforcement, sanitation, street lighting or infrastructure repairs.

- The 2014 proposal for expenditures includes funding for NOLA Patrol – which enhances both public safety and quality of life enforcement – as well as streetlight repairs, emergency sidewalk repairs and a feasibility study for a possible sidewalk lien and repair program in future years.