

The NOLA Coalition

May 2023 Platform Refresh

The Mission

The mission of The NOLA Coalition is to harness our collective resources to create a safer and more prosperous New Orleans for all residents. We support near-term actions to reduce violence, paired with social services to drive generational change. We stand ready to invest – our time, our people, our expertise, and our money – to help make a difference for New Orleans.

The Plan

The NOLA Coalition has a two-plank, concurrent plan to build a safer New Orleans:

- 1) **Public Safety** – Near-term actions to reduce violence and increase public safety
- 2) **Investment in Youth Services** – The creation of a \$15M program, distributed over 3 years, aimed at strengthening social services to support our youth, and drive generational change

The NOLA Coalition was launched in June of 2022, and now includes over 525 nonprofit and business members, representing thousands of employees. More information, and a list of members, is available at www.NOLACoalition.info.

The original NOLA Coalition platform has now been updated for May 2023, as per below:

Action Items Key

√	COMPLETE
•	ON-GOING
→	NEW

Plank 1 – Public Safety

Immediate, actionable tactics to reduce violence and improve public safety.

1) NOPD Recruitment & Retention

Stabilize and grow NOPD by improving recruiting outcomes, while reducing attrition.

- √ Ensure competitive pay
- √ Fund retention bonuses
- Hire permanent NOPD Chief – Ensure national search process is transparent, includes stakeholder input, community search committee, and yields highest-quality candidates
- Redouble efforts on recruitment and retention to reverse loss of officers. Set goal of 150 annual new hires, with attrition reduced to 10%
- Address attrition issues: equipment, facilities, morale (PIB), culture, plus other feedback from survey
- Streamline and improve recruiting and HR processes, especially time from application to test-taking; fix bottlenecks in the recruiting pipeline
- As needed, secure additional funding for recruiting
- Deploy additional tactics
 - Fix lateral transfers
 - Offer non-cash benefits (e.g., housing)

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- Improve NOPD external communications to improve image of department
- Implement regular public reporting and success metrics for recruiting and retention

2) **Technology**

Facing prolonged manpower shortages, use proven, constitutional technology as a force multiplier.

- √ Fix the technology ordinance; consider further revisions as needed, in consult with DA
- Electronic monitoring should be scaled to all adult and juvenile released pre-trial defendants who pose a significant public safety threat (per severity of the offense or criminal history)
- Secure and implement additional proven technology tools: crime cameras and license plate readers
- Hire Senior Technical leadership to NOPD (i.e., CTO), JC, CDC
- Expedite crime lab completion
- Ensure coordination across criminal justice entities; secure project manager and begin implementation of \$30M project
- Explore DOJ and other grants for constitutional technology

3) **Accountability for the Entire Criminal Justice System**

Approach criminal justice as a system that must work in coordination for fairness, efficiency, and effectiveness.

- Support effectiveness at the DA office
 - Implement “Specialized Unit of Prosecutors,” that Council has agreed to fund
 - Focus on staffing levels, efficiency, training + consistency
 - Ensure transparency on DA activity (e.g., plea/down charge/adjudication results)
- Achieve more visibility on court activity (CDC and Juvenile); consider Courtwatch help
 - Ensure technology coordination across criminal justice entities; implement \$30M program
 - Fix/staff juvenile detention and rehabilitation facilities
 - No “revolving door” where same individuals are re-arrested
 - Make public data + dashboards
 - Add attrition data
 - Add reasons for attrition
 - Track impact of “retention” bonuses in terms of attrition
 - Track progress on implementation of policies
- Support efforts to comply with Federal Consent Decree, in order to continue to improve NOPD, while moving towards release from Decree

4) **Violence Prevention**

Implement policies and programs that curtail violence before it happens.

- Implement Violence Prevention Alliance, in partnership with City
 - Fund & scale most effective programs
 - Fund neighborhood counseling and services
 - Scale interventions, de-escalations, for high-risk adults and youths

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- Ensure cooperation, efficiency, and non-duplication amongst services
 - Focus on violent offenders involved in gangs; collaborate with federal agencies
- Ensure effectiveness of NORD (e.g., opening pools in summer)
- Support implementation of humane and effective homelessness policy

5) Victim Advocacy

Ensure support for victims of violent crime, to help healing and stop the cycle of violence.

- Ensure support for victims of violent crime to receive timely information and service
- Ensure victims have timely and accurate access to all court information and proceedings
- Support smart victim advocacy legislation
- Elevate the voices of victims and their families
- Partner with organizations victim advocacy like Crimestoppers and SilencelsViolence

6) Maximize Resources

Rethink resource strategies to adjust for lower NOPD numbers; implement “civilianization.”

- √ Expand programs like On Scene Services
- Use civilians for non-emergency responsibilities
- Secure help from DSP/LSP on interstates (Operation Golden Eagle)
- Promote use of tools for civilians (e.g. “211 Express”)

Plank 2 – Investment in Youth Services

Significant and sustained business and philanthropic investment in proven community-based youth service organizations, to help them grow their impact and drive generational change.

- \$5M for Youth Services organizations, Year 1
 - Add “Parent Service Organizations” as eligible
- \$15M for Youth Services organizations, by end of Year 3
 - Begin reporting on uses and impacts of funds in June 2023
 - Help promote best-practice models and organizations

Nearly \$5.5M has been raised to-date from the business and philanthropic community of Greater New Orleans.



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Find out more at www.NOLACoalition.info