

**Upper Hurstville Security District Board of Commissioners**

**909 Eleonore St.**

**New Orleans, La. 70115**

May 31, 2011

Superintendent Ronal Serpas  
New Orleans Police Department  
715 South Broad  
Suite 501  
New Orleans, La. 70119

RE: Reforming police details

Dear Superintendent Serpas

I am writing on behalf of the Upper Hurstville Security District Board. Like the Garden District Security District and the Hurstville Security District, Upper Hurstville is a special taxing district that utilizes NOPD detail officers to reduce crime in our neighborhood. Our neighborhood boundaries are Magazine Street to Prytania and Nashville Ave to Exposition Blvd. Each of the approximately 440 property parcels in Upper Hurstville pays \$365 a year to fund our patrols 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our NOPD detail officers patrol on the second shift every day. New Orleans Private Patrol patrols the remainder of the day.

We share the concerns expressed to you recently in the Garden District Security District and the Hurstville Security District May 25, 2011 correspondence, which is attached for your ready reference.

Additionally, we would like to elaborate on one particular concern expressed in the May 25, 2011 attached letter. Our Security District detail officers are not fungible warm bodies in blue uniforms. They are individuals that know us and we know them. That personal connection is the essence of community policing, a concept that you have enthusiastically supported.

For these reasons, we are particularly troubled about the portions of the proposal suggesting that Security Districts will not be able to select the officers used in our district, and that the officers will be periodically rotated. An officer that knows nothing about us will provide a less valuable service to us. All of the Security Districts have the option of instead employing private security services, and many will likely discontinue using NOPD details under the proposed system. Further, as our District budget is fixed

for the year, we will certainly be forced to consider discontinuing our NOPD security detail if the cost of the detail increases substantially. We believe that NOPD professionals can craft a more finely nuanced system of discipline and oversight that does not throw out the baby with the bathwater.

Upper Hurstville joins the Garden District Security District and the Hurstville Security District in their request for a meeting so that you may better understand all the implications of the proposed changes to the detail policy.

Cordially,

Karen Duncan  
Chair, Upper Hurstville Security District Board of Commissioners

cc: Hurstville Security District  
Garden District Security District  
Mayor Mitch Landrieu  
Councilmember Susan Guidry  
Councilmember Arnie Fielkow  
Councilmember Jackie Clarkson