



**Opening Remarks of Lead Monitor Jonathan Aronie At 12th Public Court
Hearing Re NOPD Consent Decree**

**Presented to Judge Susie Morgan
United States Federal District Court, New Orleans, Louisiana
September 1, 2017**

Your Honor, as previously reported by the Monitoring Team, the New Orleans Police Department continues to make strong progress in every area under the Consent Decree. However, certain areas need more work, including the Police Academy, Community Policing, PIB's administrative investigations, and, as you will hear today, the *Insight* early warning system. But even in these areas significant progress is being made.

While we continue to monitor and provide technical assistance in these and other areas, this year the Monitoring Team also has supplemented much of that effort with additional *deep dives* into how the Department's many institutional changes are finding their way to the street. In other words, we are looking closely at whether the Department's many institutional reforms are manifesting themselves in a way that makes life better for civilians and police officers.

Our current "deep dive" involves a detailed look at NOPD's Stops/Search/Arrest practices. In this context, we are looking at data regarding traffic stops, pedestrian stops, search warrants, consent searches, and much more. We are also reviewing police reports, FIC [Field Interview Card] data, and, importantly, BWC [Body Worn Camera] video footage to assess the accuracy and completeness of those data. This project, in which the U.S. Department of Justice and NOPD's Compliance Bureau are actively participating, will take some time, but I will provide the Court with a status update at our next conference and the public with an update at our next public hearing.

Another area where the Monitoring Team is spending considerable time is supporting the Department's efforts to implement its Early Intervention System [EIS], called *Insight*. And that, of course, is the topic of today's status hearing.

Monitoring Team member Chief Bob McNeilly will provide the court with an *Insight* status report in just a few minutes. Bob comes by his expertise in this area through his time as police chief in Pittsburgh where he oversaw that City's successful emergence from its Consent Decree. Among other things, Bob was responsible for developing, implementing, and training his department in its early intervention system.

While a software program may sound like a less-than-sexy topic for a court hearing, NOPD's *Insight* project is one of the most important projects NOPD has undertaken under the Consent Decree. As you will hear today, an effective EIS provides supervisors and managers with a



critical tool to identify potential problems before they arise, and to take non-disciplinary action before the need to take disciplinary action. When used properly by properly trained supervisors, an EIS like *Insight*, without exaggeration, will save officer and civilian careers and lives.

You will hear today a lot about what an EIS is, how it works, why it is NOT a substitute for an effective disciplinary system, and what it takes to make an EIS successful. Among other things, you will hear how important good training is – in terms of using the data in the system and in terms of undertaking appropriate interventions when those data identify a need.

Without both elements of training, the system becomes little more than a very expensive paperweight. If supervisors are trained in only one of the two areas, they learn how to generate a report, but not how effectively to use the data. It becomes a little like teaching a doctor how to turn on an MRI, but not teaching her how to evaluate the data that result from the MRI.

In short, an effective EIS can be an amazing tool to help police departments if it is developed, implemented, and used properly. As you will hear today, NOPD has made very good progress with its *Insight* EIS tool, but still has room for improvement.

Thank you.