

I am an NOPD officer. I am going to be honest with you about this. This is almost the last straw. I do not believe the City values my contribution. I do not think this Commission, the Mayor, or the CAO are the least bit interested in protecting me as an employee who risks my life every time I show up to work. So. Here we are. The City has been losing money since March. From March through October, the City did little to nothing to prepare for the inevitable. Now, we are staring down Christmas. My kids have been in school at home, which is more expensive. Christmas is coming and I am supposed to keep risking my life every day for 10% less pay. To add insult to injury, the Mayor is coming before this Commission to ask for 20 more than the 12 unpaid leave days the City is allowed. That is one more unpaid leave day during every pay cycle. The Metropolitan Crime Commission reports the crime statistics, showing murders are up 87%. When the city's natural response to murders being up 87% is to tell me that I have to give up 32 days of pay, or 10% of my pay, for the next 15 months, that's where the rubber hits the road.

I love my job here. I have the chance to genuinely improve the lives of the people I serve. But, it has been more and more clear that I am a worthless commodity in New Orleans. We can't stop a vehicle without being accused of chasing it. We can't protect ourselves without being accused of excessive force. They literally hit pause second by second, asking what the level of resistance was every time they hit pause. It is a workplace where everyone is waiting for the next shoe to fall. This Department literally transferred the Operations Bureau Chief because of a news story – a news story that will never be substantiated. The NOPD uses administrative reassignment for discipline illegally with no due process afforded to officers.

It used to be considered foolish to leave the NOPD for the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office. JPSO is an at-will employer. They don't have a right to appeal to a Civil Service Commission. Now, there does not seem to be much of a difference. This Commission has been set on doing the Administration's dirty work for several years now and it just gets worse and worse. Don't allow the Administration to exceed the 12 leave days without pay. The rule states that they cannot impose more than the equivalent of 12 leave days without pay over any consecutive 12 month period. That means the Administration will have to come back and make this same request once a month until December 2021 – EVERY MONTH. Will this Commission betray its classified and unclassified employees every month. Will this be the last straw? I know it will be for some.