

# New Orleans Civil Service Commission Meeting Public Comment Form

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**Due to the COVID-19 restrictions as it relates to public meetings, Civil Service is asking that the public use this form to comment on items on meeting agenda.**

**Please submit the completed form by email to [CSNO@NOLA.GOV](mailto:CSNO@NOLA.GOV).**

Public Comment Information	
Date of Meeting	
Name	
Email Address	
Agenda Item	
I am Commenting in:	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Opposition
Comments (will be read on the record and are limited to 2 minutes per person)	

I am opposed to Mayor Cantrell's request to exceed the number of allowed unpaid leave days that can be imposed on an employee. Civil Service Rule 12, Section 9.1(b) states "The number of work hours reduced for an employee shall not exceed the equivalent of twelve (12) leave days in any consecutive 12-month period without approval of the Civil Service Commission and only after a declaration from the Mayor that extraordinary circumstances exist."

Public safety in the City of New Orleans is still of the utmost importance. Murders are up 87% and Aggravated Batteries are up 37% while arrests are down. There are simply fewer police officers on the streets because they have to take unpaid leave days. Taking unpaid leave days leaves fewer officers to answer 911 calls and fewer detectives to conduct follow-up investigations.

If the Metropolitan Crime Commission compiled statistics about firefighters, I am sure it would find similar problems. The NOFD has fewer firefighters at work at any given time because they too are required to take unpaid leave days. It will take a little longer for fire trucks to respond to fires. It will take a little longer for firefighters to respond to medical emergencies. A little longer could easily be the difference between survival or not.

Please deny the Mayor's request to exceed the limits found in Civil Service Rule 12 Section 9.1(b), at least as it pertains to NOPD and NOFD.