

OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



SUSAN HUTSON
POLICE MONITOR

For Immediate Release:
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For Further Information:
*Deputy Police Monitor, Simone Levine will be available
for interviews today, June 11, 2015 until 10 p.m.
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[OIPM Recommends Body Cameras in Juvenile Lockup after NOPD officer terminated for excessive force on a 16-year-old girl]

OIPM monitored the disciplinary hearing of Officer Patrick Saulny today. After reviewing a PIB investigation and OIPM's pre-hearing legal memo, an NOPD Deputy Superintendent recommended termination for Officer Saulny for excessive force and violating NOPD requirements to be truthful in an investigation. In 2014, Officer Saulny was assigned to secure the Youth Study Center, the city's juvenile detention facility. Officer Saulny, a 230-pound adult man, pushed the 140-pound girl into the side of the holding cell, where she was detained, and put his forearm in her neck area. Saulny struck the juvenile twice with metal 4-point restraints.

The OIPM spent over 60 hours reviewing and monitoring this Use of Force case. Specifically, the OIPM looked through extensive video and presented to the Department the contradictions between Officer Saulny's denials and the reality as shown on the video. After monitoring this investigation, the OIPM has made the following recommendations:

1. Require all NOPD officers to be equipped with body worn camera that will be activated in all parts of the Youth Study Center.
2. All NOPD officers who are housed in the juvenile unit should be specifically trained in verbal de-escalation, treatment of a juvenile and use of force.

The NOPD has voiced initial support and appreciation for the OIPM's recommendations. Glen Holt, Superintendent of Youth Study Center, has offered the training. Superintendent Holt also supports body worn cameras for NOPD officers assigned to the Juvenile Booking Department as well as all holding cells that NOPD controls at the Youth Study Center.

With these recommendations, the OIPM hopes to lower the risk level posed to the community, the Department, and the future liability to the City.

Police Monitor Susan Hutson said, "It is important in these times of questioning modern American policing that we be transparent, fair and responsive to the community. We disagree with NOPD's decision not to present the case to the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office. However, the OIPM agrees with the Department for its decision to terminate the officer today. Terminating this officer lowers the risk level posed to the Department, to the community, and the future liability to the City."

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