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# NOPD is reviewing arrests of 12 at Krewe of Eris parade Sunday night

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By Times-Picayune Staff

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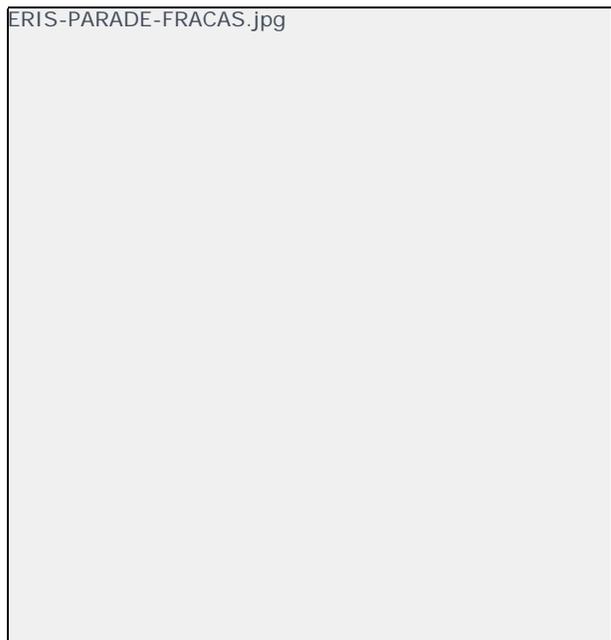
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New Orleans police have opened an internal review into the **arrests of 12 people** participating Sunday night in an unpermitted second-line parade that has marched in the French Quarter and Faubourg Marigny for the past six years, Deputy Superintendent Marlon Defillo said Wednesday.



ERIS-PARADE-FRACAS.jpg  
Photo courtesy of Kevin Kline  
New Orleans police arrest a man Sunday night in the 2600 block of Chartres Street during the Krewe of Eris parade.

Six police officers were injured from what police described as "violent" behavior by some marchers in the Krewe of Eris. But people in the parade, as well as some civilian observers, said they didn't see any actions that called for police to arrest a dozen parade participants, or use Tasers or other aggressive methods during the arrests.

The 12 arrested paraders all either posted bond or were released on their own recognizance earlier this week. Seven people were booked with disturbing the peace. Others were arrested on more serious charges, including battery on a police officer, resisting arrest and assisting escape.

Defillo would not comment on specific complaints about police actions, including **a video** that shows an NOPD officer swatting a cell phone camera out of a bystander's hand. He said the complaints need to be looked into by the New Orleans Police Department's

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Story by Laura Maggi and Danny Monteverde, staff writers

Public Integrity Bureau.

"I don't want to judge this case prematurely," Defillo said, adding that the PIB review will examine whether officers acted properly.

Lt. LaSalle Rattler Jr., commander of the 5th District's investigative unit, said the 5th District, which patrols the Marigny neighborhood on the downtown side of Elysian Fields Avenue, received a call from a sergeant in the 8th District, which handles the Marigny triangle and the French Quarter, saying a crowd was moving toward them.

**Krewe of Eris - Police Response**

footage of arrest and related police aggression. 10:45 pm, 3/6/2011. Franklin & Chartres street.

[Watch video](#)

Several parade-goers described the annual event, which began before Hurricane Katrina, as peaceful, with people dressed in elaborate costumes and playing musical instruments. One online article, posted before Sunday, described the parade's ethos as "anarchic" and "open to all."

However, Rattler said the group wasn't acting appropriately, with some paraders walking on cars, kicking cars to activate alarms and turning over trash cans.

"It only takes a handful of individuals to be disruptive; maybe that is what happened in this incident," Rattler said.

Rattler said the parade crossed Elysian Fields near the riverfront. At some point, around Franklin Avenue and Chartres Street an officer was struck in the forehead by a brick, he said.



While police said six officers were injured, Rattler could provide information about only five of the injuries. In addition to the officer reportedly struck with a brick, one officer suffered abrasions on his hands and elbows, which Rattler said were from trying to deflect objects that were thrown at him. An officer had pain and swelling around the little finger and wrist of her left hand, while another officer was pushed to the ground and hurt her knee. Another officer reported a problem with a chipped bone near his knee, although Rattler

could not say how that happened.

Police also said tires were slashed on two cruisers.

As police began arresting people, Rattler said three officers touched a Taser directly to a person, which sends an electric current through the body. In each of those cases, the person was resisting arrest, he said.

The Public Integrity Bureau reviews all Taser uses, as well as any other force used during an arrest, Defillo said.

Damien Weaver, 34, was booked with disturbing the peace, resisting arrest and assisting escape. William Watkins, 28, and Kelly Stiles, 32, were booked with battery on a police officer, as well as resisting arrest. Micah Martin, 24, and Nari Tomassetti, 41, were booked with resisting arrest. Martin was also booked with disturbing the peace and criminal damage to property. Tomassetti was booked with interfering with a law enforcement officer's investigation.

Seven other people were booked solely with disturbing the peace: Lisa Reed, 33; Angelyse Fisher,

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21; Johnathan Cromwell, 29; Winfield Burdick, 26; Ronald Morrison, 23; Kathryn Abarbanel, 24; and Timothy Rothberger, 24.

Susan Hutson, the city's police monitor, confirmed Wednesday that her office received several tips, as well as complaints, related to the NOPD's actions during the Eris march. The office has received first-person citizen accounts, photos and videos.

"We are really pleased that people are coming forward," Hutson said.

The information was documented, processed and turned over to the PIB. Hutson's office will continue to monitor the NOPD inquiry, she said.

Ritchie Katko, 30, videoed part of the police encounter on his cell phone and uploaded the footage to nola.com and to the website YouTube.

One video shows a group of officers detaining a person in the street. An officer walks up to Katko, screams, "Get out of here," and swats the camera to the ground. Katko picks it up and continues to record. A large crowd can be seen surrounding the officers. Some of them booed the cops.

Marjorie Esman, the head of the ACLU of Louisiana, said the video shows that the NOPD still needs to work on instructing officers about citizens' First Amendment rights, something that Superintendent Ronal Serpas has pledged in the past will be taught to new recruits and current officers.

"Clearly, people have a right to film what they see on the streets," she said.

Witnesses differed about how badly the paraders were behaving when the crackdown came.

Late Sunday night, one woman marching in the parade said officers seemed to pick people at random to arrest. Another person watching from a balcony said she saw nobody acting violently toward the police.

Amy Kern, who lives in the 2700 block of Chartres Street, said she heard the parade heading down her street about 10:15 p.m.

She looked out a second-floor window and said she saw parade participants knocking over trash cans, jumping on cars and damaging a trailer her husband uses for work. At one point, she saw two men kneeling in front of police cars to keep them from moving.

"They were trying to block police from coming down the street," Kern said. "It had to be 200 or 300 people. I've never seen or heard that much noise, and I've been in my house for 10 years."

But another person who walked behind the group while it paraded said he didn't see any behavior from parade participants that warranted such a strong use of force by police.

Kevin Kline, who was not a participant, followed the group off and on as it meandered through the area. Even as it made its way across Elysian Fields, and near the intersections where police began making arrests, Kline said he didn't see any signs of disruption by the group.

"Everything seemed peaceful," he said. "The parade was younger and more anarchist, but even saying that, I didn't see them do anything illegal."

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*Staff writer Brendan McCarthy contributed to this report.*

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ridge4694

March 09, 2011 at 10:01PM

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hahahaha

I agree with you Red.

I live in that area, while I didn't see the parade or the incident, I did come home while all the cops were still around and saw a police car with flat tires.

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englishpls

March 11, 2011 at 4:29AM

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APPROPRIATELY CALLED CREW OF "ERIS" ?

I don't mean to be judging their actions prematurely but I looked up the definition of "Eris":

wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn

Eris (Greek "Strife") is the Greek goddess of strife, her name being translated into Latin as Discordia. Her Greek opposite is Harmonia (Harmony), whose Latin counterpart is Concordia. etc., etc.

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englishpls

March 11, 2011 at 4:52AM

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Synonyms:

conflict, disaccord, discordance, discordancy, disharmony, dissension (also dissention), dissent, dissidence, dissonance, disunion, disunity, division, friction, infighting, inharmony, schism, discord, variance, war, warfare

Antonyms:  
accord, agreement, concord, concordance, harmony, peace

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 **apollinaire** March 11, 2011 at 4:45AM  
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Ummm, it's a joke.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discordianism>.

Next time we can talk about the Church of the SubGenius Dr. Bronner and how to decorate your dorm room with MC Escher posters.. Geez, didn't any of you humorless wretches at least drop out of college?

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 **indinv** March 11, 2011 at 1:44PM  
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apollinaire

Be kind to us less gifted. We too, are God's children

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 **Future4NOLA** March 09, 2011 at 9:53PM  
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Likely same crazies who reject KIPP as charter operator...thanks NOPD!

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 **SHO Mauser** March 09, 2011 at 9:57PM  
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Did they live up to their name?

From THEOI "ERIS was the goddess or spirit (daimona) of strife, discord, contention and rivalry. She was often represented specifically as the daimon of the strife of war, who haunted the battlefield and delighted in human bloodshed."

Perhpas not enough human bloodshed and the should change their name to WIMPUS

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 **marignyimprovement504** March 11, 2011 at 12:51AM  
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is this an actual response to anything? pretty irrelevant.

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 **englishpls** March 11, 2011 at 6:24PM  
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marignyimprovement504: You 've missed the point.

YES, it's a very appropriate response.

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**Mauser** March 09, 2011 at 9:57PM



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THEOI "ERIS was the goddess or spirit (daimona) of strife, discord, contention and rivalry. She was often represented specifically as the daimon of the strife of war, who haunted the battlefield and delighted in human bloodshed. "

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**LabMonkey70114** March 10, 2011 at 5:23AM

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Funny, the group is willing to talk to the police about the police but they aren't willing to talk to the police about violence in their own neighborhoods. Really stellar citizens there...

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**cassnola** March 10, 2011 at 10:52AM

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Your right to Eris ends where my my right not to be vandalized begins.

If you can't act like adults, go away.

The rest of us don't need to be hassled and forced into begging permission from our police to assemble.

We've already tried the anarchy thing, after the floods.

Go back to Mom and Dad in the 'burbs until you learn how to behave.

While you're at it, check out all the chemicals and VOC's your 'tagging' dumps on us.

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**marignyimprovement504** March 11, 2011 at 8:32AM

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perhaps, as with all incidents where one group of people can use tazers, chemical weapons, and even deadly force against another group legally, this should be give a little more thought. those that are given the right to use extreme force should be held to a standard that keeps them accountable to the people they are supposed to be protecting- yeah, even those that they disagree with. is there a reason that the nopd is under investigation by the feds? is there any evidence that the have acted inappropriately towards the community in other cases? i'm sure you may have heard of a few? and lets keep in mind that a lot of the kids that i see around the neighborhood are poor artists that ride bikes and don't have the money or the resources to show up at the hospital for a sore finger o a scraped knee- and certainly not if they are in jail after being tazered. if damage did happen to property that is regretable but damage to human beings is not an appropriate response, especially from a group of people that is supposed to occupy the position of protecting? people. finally tazers were confirmed to be used, at least three times, what do you bet that the number wasn't far higher, and only two people were charged with battery(keep in mind the only really evidence of a battery is AGAINST THE POLICE- the attached video)- look it up it fits the definition; anyway if you follow thus far it means that the third tazer was used against someone that wasn't charged with any physical contact. thus another battery charge AGAINST THE POLICE.

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**poboydressed** March 10, 2011 at 5:19PM

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Why didn't they just call themselves Eros instead? Problem solved!

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wispa March 09, 2011 at 10:03PM

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The cop that kept the guy from filming should be fired on the spot. Immediatly. Im supriised the prick didnt take the phone from him. There good about covering up the evidence.

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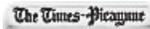
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