



## Is Ronal Serpas Fit to Serve? A Look at the Facts

### Can Ronal Serpas be trusted to clean up NOPD corruption?

<p>Prior to being hired by Mayor Mitch Landrieu as police chief, Ronal Serpas has been the subject of investigations and complaints as the police chief in Nashville, Tennessee.</p>	<p><b>Sources:</b> <i>NOPD Chief Serpas’ Tenure in Nashville Under Scrutiny for Misclassification of Sexual Assaults</i>, <u>The Times-Picayune</u>, Jan. 25, 2011.</p> <p><i>Expert: Crime Clearance Stats ‘Not Credible,’</i> Nashville News Channel 5, May 11, 2010.</p> <p><i>Chief Serpas’ Plan for a Safer Nashville: Pull You Over Early and Often</i>, <u>Nashville Scene</u>, Nov. 28, 2008.</p>
<p>News reports show that Ronal Serpas himself was suspended in 1994 for running a police detail company without the permission of the department.</p>	<p><b>Source:</b> <i>NOPD Officer Suspended Amid Questionable Detail Work</i>, Fox 8 News, May 6, 2011.</p>
<p>As the major and assistant superintendent of the NOPD, Ronal Serpas was the subject of investigations in 1998 involving the violation of NOPD regulations, city policy, and state law.</p>	<p><b>Sources:</b> CNO Office of Municipal Investigation, <u>Investigative Report</u>, CaseNo.OMI97-106-4, Mar. 31, 1998.</p> <p>CNO Office of Municipal Investigation, <u>Pennington &amp; Serpas et al</u>, Case No. OMI97-046A-97 &amp; Case No. OMI97-046B-04, Apr. 27, 1998.</p>

### What’s wrong with the NOPD Detail system?

<p>“It is widely acknowledged that NOPD’s Detail system has a corrupting effect on the Department.”</p>	<p><b>Source:</b> U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, <u>Investigation of the New Orleans Police Department</u>, Mar. 16, 2011, p. 69.</p>
<p>“NOPD’s Detail system, as currently structured: 1) drastically undermines the quality of NOPD policing; 2) facilitates abuse and corruption by NOPD officers; 3) contributes to compromising officer fatigue; 4) contributes to inequitable policy by NOPD; and 5) acts as a financial drain on NOPD rather than a source of revenue.”</p>	<p><b>Source:</b> U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, <u>Investigation of the New Orleans Police Department</u>, Mar. 16, 2011, p. 70.</p>

### Is Ronal Serpas fixing the NOPD Detail system?

<p>According to the Department of Justice report, “despite recent changes, NOPD’s Detail documentation still does little to encourage accountability.”</p>	<p><b>Source:</b> U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, <u>Investigation of the New Orleans Police Department</u>, March 16, 2011, p. 70.</p>
<p>Recent news reports exposed the fact that some police officers who profit from the corrupt Detail system include close friends and a son-in-law of Ronal Serpas.</p>	<p><b>Source:</b> <i>Chief’s Son-in-Law and Bodyguard Among Officers Getting Paid Extra to Review Traffic Tickets</i>, Station Reports, <u>The Times-Picayune</u>, Apr. 27, 2011.</p>
<p>The events surrounding the suspension of NOPD officers raise doubt as to whether Ronal Serpas is</p>	

<p>willing to fix the corrupt NOPD Detail system. On May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Landrieu – not Ronal Serpas – suspended Commander Edwin Hosli of the NOPD 8<sup>th</sup> Division, a close friend of Serpas, and another NOPD officer for violating city policy by operating private detail companies.<sup>1</sup> Mayor Landrieu told news reporters that Ronal Serpas was not available to order the suspensions due to a mandatory training course in Baton Rouge.<sup>2</sup> Ronal Serpas contradicts the mayor’s statement. Serpas told an audience gathered at Franklin Ave. Baptist Church on May 16<sup>th</sup> that he was in Baton Rouge to attend his child’s graduation when Landrieu suspended the NOPD officers. In a radio interview, Ronal Serpas said that he ordered the May 6<sup>th</sup> suspension of police officer Bell who was arrested on a DUI charge. Serpas’ suspension of officer Bell indicates that he could have also suspended the police officers, including his friend Hosli, but failed to do so.</p>	<p><b>Sources:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Mitch Landrieu Suspends Edwin Hosli of NOPD, Public Works Director Robert Mendoza Without Pay</i>, <u>The Times-Picayune</u>, May 5, 2011; <i>NOPD Officer Suspended Amid Questionable Detail Work</i>, FOX 8 News, May 6, 2011.</li> <li>2. <i>Mitch Landrieu Suspends Edwin Hosli of NOPD, Public Works Director Robert Mendoza Without Pay</i>, <u>The Times-Picayune</u>, May 5, 2011.</li> <li>3. Interview with Ronal Serpas, The Good Morning Show with Gerard Stevens, WBOK 1230 AM Radio, May 20, 2011.</li> </ol>
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### **Eliminating NOPD Corruption: US Department of Justice Recommendations**

Although the NOPD Detail System has received a lot of media attention, it is only one of several areas of corruption in the NOPD that Ronal Serpas has not eliminated.

The March 2011 investigative report by the US Department of Justice documents this corruption and presents a 13-page appendix of recommendations for eliminating it. These recommendations focus on:

- Use of Force
- Stops, Searches, and Arrests
- Discriminatory Policing on the Basis of Race, Ethnicity, and LGBT Status
- Services for Limited English Proficient Communities
- Sexual Assault Investigations
- Domestic Violence Investigations
- Police Officer Recruitment
- Police Officer Supervision
- Paid Details
- Performance Evaluations and Promotions
- Investigating and Judging Complaints of Police Misconduct
- Community Policing
- Police Officer Support and Assistance
- Interrogations by Police Officers, and
- Community Oversight

Read the Department of Justice report, [Investigation of the New Orleans Police Department](http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/spl/nopd_report.pdf). The report can be downloaded from the internet at: [http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/spl/nopd\\_report.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/spl/nopd_report.pdf).