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BUREAU OF GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH

938 Lafayette St., Suite 200

New Orleans, LA 70113

Phone 504-525-4152

Fax 504-525-4153

www.bgr.org

BGR MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release – August 2, 2011

Contact: Janet Howard, President & CEO
(504) 525-4152, ext. 103

BGR Examines NOPD Policy Proposals, Best Practices for Paid Police Details

The Bureau of Governmental Research today releases *Moonlighting: An Overview of Policies Governing Paid Police Details*. The report discusses the New Orleans Police Department's existing and proposed detail policies and procedures and evaluates their adequacy in light of best practices.

In May, responding to a request made by Mayor Mitch Landrieu to completely revamp the department's paid detail system, NOPD Superintendent Ronal Serpas released a reform plan. While the plan is not a full-fledged policy, it provides the outline of how the superintendent proposes to reform details and addresses each of the Justice Department's recommendations. The full policy will be developed in cooperation with the Justice Department.

In order to assess the NOPD Reform Plan, BGR conducted best practice research on paid details.

BGR found that the NOPD Reform Plan has the potential to dramatically improve the department's paid detail system. Consistent with best practices, the plan calls for the NOPD to:

- Centralize control and administration of details.
- Prohibit officers from soliciting detail work.
- Strengthen eligibility requirements for officers.
- Create a fair system for assigning officers to details.
- Establish a fee schedule that standardizes pay and allows the department to recoup its detail-related costs.
- Prohibit cash payments to officers.
- Increase monitoring and supervision of details.

The NOPD Reform Plan also proposes limits on the total number of hours an officer can work in a day and week. However, the number of hours proposed for the maximums are high compared to best practices and should be reconsidered.

BGR Chairman Sterling Scott Willis said it will be critical to get the next steps right. "It is encouraging that the proposed plan reflects many of the best practices," Mr. Willis said. "However, the NOPD still needs to hammer out the specifics of the policy and then enforce it."

BGR is a private, nonprofit, independent research organization. Since its founding in 1932, it has been dedicated to informed public policy-making and the effective use of public resources in the Greater New Orleans area. For more information call 525-4152 or visit BGR's website, www.bgr.org.