

MOTION

NO. M-25-469

CITY HALL: September 11, 2025

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS MORENO, MORRELL, GIARRUSSO, HARRIS, KING, GREEN AND THOMAS

A **MOTION** requesting and directing the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD)—in coordination with the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (NOHSEP) and the Orleans Parish Communications District (OPCD)—to establish a more expansive local missing person safety alert program for children, seniors, and vulnerable adults, and, in connection therewith, directing the NOPD to amend its policies as necessary to implement the program.

WHEREAS, the AMBER Alert and Silver Alert programs, which provide for real-time public notifications in missing person cases, have proven to be important and useful tools in protecting vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, AMBER Alerts are authorized for use in specific cases involving child abductions, and Silver Alerts are authorized for use in cases involving missing elderly individuals or missing persons with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, NOPD Operations Manual Chapter 41.23 establishes procedures for missing-person cases, including AMBER and Silver Alerts; and

WHEREAS, current NOPD policy, as written, limits the availability of Silver Alerts to cases involving only individuals 60 years of age or older with a diagnosed mental impairment; and

WHEREAS, these limitations on the use of public notification technology exclude vulnerable populations from the benefits of public assistance in the search effort; and

WHEREAS, rapid, wide dissemination of accurate information mobilizes the community and improves safe recoveries; and

WHEREAS, a complementary local alert can close these gaps and speed public notification for vulnerable individuals; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That

1. **Policy Direction.** The Council recognizes the importance of a localized missing person alert and urges continued support, expansion, and coordination so no child or at-risk adult is excluded solely because AMBER or Silver Alert criteria are not met.
2. **Implementation.** NOPD, in collaboration with NOHSEP and OPCD, is hereby requested, authorized, and directed—consistent with applicable legal requirements—to establish policies and update Chapter 41.23 of the NOPD Operations Manual to permit 24/7 time-sensitive alerts—through the City’s NOLA Ready system or a comparable platform—for missing children, seniors, and vulnerable adults, including those not covered by the existing AMBER or Silver Alert programs. The proposed updates should, to the extent deemed by the Law Department to constitute a regulation affecting the public, shall be transmitted to the Clerk of Council for approval pursuant to City Code Sec. 2-1000.
3. **Policy Elements.** The foregoing policy should contain, at a minimum, the following elements:
 - a. Definitions for “missing child,” “missing senior,” and “missing vulnerable adult” (including children and adults with cognitive, developmental, mental, emotional, physical, or age-related impairments whose disappearance poses a credible safety or health threat).
 - b. Activation criteria. Subject to review and approval by NOPD, the foregoing alert should be issued in circumstances in which: (1) the subject is a missing child, senior, or vulnerable adult, as defined in the policy; (2) the missing individual’s

whereabouts are unknown, and the disappearance occurred in Orleans Parish or the individual is believed to be located in Orleans Parish; (3) circumstances exist creating a credible threat to the missing individual's safety or health; (4) sufficient information is available for dissemination to the public that could assist in locating the missing individual; and (5) the situation does not meet AMBER Alert or Silver Alert criteria.

- c. Provisions ensuring consistency and non-interference with existing Amber Alert and Silver Alert programs.
- d. Minimum alert content. These may include, as available: a photo; identifying details such as name, age, sex, height, weight, eye color, hair color, and distinguishing marks such as tattoos or birthmarks; aliases or nicknames; vehicle or person(s) of interest; last know location/date/time; date/time the individual was reported missing; circumstances of disappearance; medical or safety considerations; NOPD contact information; clear instructions for providing tips; and any other information relevant to the circumstances of disappearance. An official website link may be incorporated into the alert as a supplemental resource for more comprehensive information and ongoing updates.
- e. Cancellation criteria once the person is located or continued alerts would not aid the investigation.
- f. Provisions addressing prompt coordination with state and federal databases and alert systems.
- g. Provisions addressing interagency coordination.
- h. Annual training requirements for NOPD, NOHSEP, and OPCD, as needed.

i. Data and other privacy safeguards.

4. **Annual Report.** NOPD, with NOHSEP and OPCD, shall submit an annual report to the Clerk of Council on or before March 1 summarizing activations, time-to-activation, recovery outcomes, demographic and geographic data, community engagement, trainings, an equity evaluation of activations and outcomes, and recommendations for improvement.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That the NOPD shall, upon adoption of the program, publish online public-facing guidance, in addition to language contained in the NOPD Operations Manual, explaining the program, requirements for activation, and how the community can leverage the safety alert system and/or provide information when alerts are issued.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That the Clerk of Council provide a copy of this motion to NOPD Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick, Director of the New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Collin Arnold, and OPCD Executive Director Karl Fasold.

THE FOREGOING MOTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.