

The Times-Picayune

Founded in 1837

GEORGE WILKINS KENDALL
and FRANCIS A. LUMSDEN, *Publishers, 1837-1864*
ALVA MORRIS HOLBROOK, *Publisher, 1864-1867*
ELIZA HOLBROOK NICHOLSON, *Publisher, 1867-1896*
NICHOLSON ESTATE, *Publisher, 1896-1914*
ASHTON PHELPS, *Publisher, 1914-1918*
LEONARD K. NICHOLSON, *Publisher, 1918-1952*
JOHN F. TIMS, *Publisher, 1952-1967*
ASHTON PHELPS SR., *Publisher, 1967-1979*

ASHTON PHELPS JR., *Publisher*

JIM AMOSS, *Editor*

PETER KOVACS, *Managing Editor, News*
DAN SHEA, *Managing Editor, News*
LYNN CUNNINGHAM, *Assistant to the Editor*

TERRI TRONCALE, *Editorial Page Editor*

RAY MASSETT, *V.P., General Manager*
DAVID FRANCIS, *V.P., Business Manager*
KELLY ROSE, *V.P., Advertising*
VERNON COBB, *V.P., Auditing*
PHILIP EHRHARDT, *V.P., Circulation*
NYGEL GIBSON, *V.P., Credit Manager*
ELIZABETH GRUDER, *V.P., Creative Advertiser Svcs.*
P. BETH ADAMS, *V.P., Human Resources*
VALERIE JASPER, *V.P., Information Technology*
RENÉE BIGELOW, *V.P., Marketing Services*
RAY MALY, *V.P., Production*
WAYNE BENJAMIN, *V.P., Purchasing*
PATRICK HINRICHS, *V.P., Transportation*

YOUR OPINIONS

DA, police chief report crime-fighting progress

In early March, we announced a new, landmark district-attorney-Police Department agreement aimed at improving communications, work-flow efficiency and overall productivity between our two cornerstone criminal justice organizations. As we implement this agreement, we believe significant outcomes have been attained.

One obvious goal of this agreement is to eliminate 701 releases of arrested subjects. To help achieve that goal, now the DA's office accepts field drug tests to expedite formal charging.

The NOPD's new Crime Lab is now providing formal lab testing and reports within 24 days.

In addition, an ongoing liaison contact between the Crime Lab and the DA's office has been established for cases pending trial or 701 release dates requiring prioritized testing.

The DA's office is now providing NOPD with a weekly list of cases accepted or refused. Originating NOPD officers are free to contact the screening DA for explanations about case refusals, thus laying the foundation for more cases to be accepted.

Other agreement components are works in progress, and we will continue to report to the public as each milestone is reached.

We are meeting regularly with our top staff to implement each

critical step.

Another component of our agreement, a review of past 701 releases to reinstate formal arrests and charging, will be undertaken in the next 60 days once the full drug testing capacity of the new Crime Lab is reached.

We know this agreement has laid the foundation for significant improvements in our criminal justice system.

We pledge to continue working toward its full implementation.

Eddie Jordan
District Attorney

Warren Riley
Superintendent of Police
New Orleans