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News Release

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More police on patrol near Industrial Canal Lock *NOPD, Corps team up to help neighborhood in the construction area*

NEW ORLEANS – Responding to a neighborhood recommendation, the New Orleans Police Department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have put four more police officers on patrol near the construction area of a new Industrial Canal Lock.

“This agreement is a direct result of priority being placed on police protection by the Community Based Mitigation Committee, which makes recommendations to the Corps’ on helping neighborhoods impacted by the lock construction project,” said Jackie Purrington, a Corps project manager for the lock replacement.

The additional patrols began May 4 in the Lower 9th Ward, on the east side of the Industrial Canal. The officers are assigned to the department’s 5th District.

The mitigation committee was formed to make recommendations to the Corps on how to use \$38 million authorized by Congress to serve the neighborhoods to be impacted over the years by the lock-replacement construction. Plans are to dedicate about \$250,000 a year in support of the police services.

The mitigation committee represents four areas bordering the Industrial Canal, the Lower 9th Ward, Bywater, Holy Cross and St. Claude neighborhoods. The committee began meeting monthly before the lock construction began in 2000.

The mitigation program is part of the \$655 million lock replacement project. A larger, modern lock will provide more efficient transit for barges and small ships between the Mississippi River and the Industrial Canal and eastbound Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

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Lock project page <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/prj/ihnc/index.asp>
Mitigation committee page <http://www.communitymitigation.org/>