

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



ED QUATREVAUX
INSPECTOR GENERAL

October 13, 2016

Mr. Allen C. Miller, J.D., Chair and
Members of the City of New Orleans Ethics Review Board
525 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans LA 70130

Dear Mr. Miller and Members of the Board,

I am greatly honored and deeply humbled to serve the citizens of New Orleans as Inspector General. It is a privilege to lead the Office charged with safeguarding the City against fraud and abuse; my sincere aim is that New Orleans be the best city it can be for all of its citizens. Toward that end, I am hereby seeking reappointment to another term.

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General is regarded as a national leader among inspectors general. Our success is evidenced by the number of reports issued; significant cost savings and policy changes resulting from our efforts; the exemplary quality of our work products, as confirmed by three Quality Assurance Reviews and two Peer Reviews; and the beneficial changes to city government that result directly from our work.

Two city entities dramatically illustrate the *material* improvements achieved with OIG oversight: the airport and the NOPD. The airport underwent nothing short of a transformation. An investigation of airport ground transportation management ended serious security breaches that threatened public safety. Airport officials reported more than \$25 million in cost savings as a result of OIG contract audits. In addition, a second OIG investigation resulted in a yearly reduction of more than \$1 million to a landscaping contract.

According to the Aviation Director, the OIG's efforts combined with increased confidence in the airport's business practices resulted in a reduction of the interest rates charged on the airport's bonds in 2015. Lower costs to the airlines attracted more airline carriers and expanded the number of destinations. The impact of these efforts will be felt for decades with the construction of a new airport that will serve as the gateway to New Orleans for millions of visitors.

As IG I made public safety a central focus of the Office, and improving the NOPD a top priority. To date the OIG has produced 25 reports and public letters on the NOPD, which have resulted in marked progress. For example, the Office's work was responsible for a 184 percent increase in the number of rapes reported to the FBI, and the report prompted organizational changes to the Special Victims Section that led to a dramatic improvement in NOPD's reporting and investigation

of rapes. The NOPD also implemented many of the recommendations made in the OIG's NOPD staffing and deployment review intended to improve NOPD's ability to respond to calls for service: the NOPD transferred 94 officers from administrative duties to patrol, changes designed to reduce the number of false burglar alarms freed up officers' time for more emergent calls, and NOPD started moving officers formerly in positions not requiring law enforcement training to patrol and replacing them with civilian employees.

These examples demonstrate the extent to which this Office's work responds to the needs of its citizens and increases the accountability and effectiveness of local government.

My vision is a New Orleans in which all citizens trust the Office of Inspector General to ensure the integrity of local government and provide credible and reliable information about government performance. But only effective, firmly established internal governmental controls combined with tenacious independent oversight can prevent the abuse of public funds seen as an inescapable part of the "old" New Orleans political culture. City government has improved greatly, but old practices still prevail in some entities. There will also be inevitable challenges as a new administration becomes accustomed to rigorous government oversight. There is much more work to be done, and I believe that work can be accomplished most effectively by an experienced, incumbent IG.

I took the position of Inspector General eager to face the challenge of transforming a fledgling agency into a highly productive and respected institution. I believe that an additional term will allow me to lead the OIG in institutionalizing government oversight in New Orleans and ensure that local government is efficient, effective, and free from waste and abuse. It is for these reasons that I seek reappointment by the Ethics Review Board.

Sincerely,



Ed Quatrevaux, IG
City of New Orleans