

# City of New Orleans Office of Inspector General & Ethics Review Board

Report of Activities for  
Fiscal Year 2008



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Dear Citizens of New Orleans,

2008 was another remarkable year for the Ethics Review Board and the Office of Inspector General in the City of New Orleans.

Both the ERB and OIG were able to accomplish important steps in establishing the normal operations of the offices. The ERB completed its Rules and they were promulgated. Both the ERB and OIG worked together on important legislation to ensure the independence of the operations. With the leadership of City Council and many citizens groups the City Charter was amended to ensure dedicated funding for both offices. The ERB also hired two staff members to assist us, and the OIG, in legal and administrative matters.

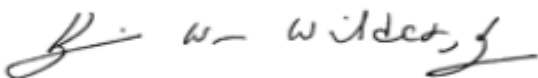
We are deeply indebted to Robert Cerasoli who served as the City's first Inspector General. Bob's experience, energy, and commitment were crucial for the establishment of the ERB and the OIG. His resignation, for personal reasons of health, was a loss for the City. However, the hard works that Bob did, in helping to organize these offices, develop needed legislation, and educate the public were crucial to the long term success of these offices. The City will forever be indebted to Bob for his work here.

We have important work ahead of us in 2009. We have already embarked on a national search for a new Inspector General. We are confident that this search will be accomplished in the first half of this year. In the meantime the OIG continues its operations under the able leadership of Mr. Len Odom the Interim Inspector General. Also, we are working in 2009 to develop an ethics education program for city employees. We will also establish, within the OIG, the Police Monitor function.

I know for me, and for all the members of the Ethics Review Board, it has been an honor to serve the City on this Board. We believe that our work, and the work of the OIG, plays a meaningful role in fostering a positive ethical climate in the City. Such a climate will better serve all citizens in the transparent, efficient delivery of city services.

We have done much but there is still much to do to create a city where transparency, honesty, and the efficient delivery of City services are the expected norms. We are committed to continue this work and we will.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Wm. Wildes".

Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J., Ph.D.  
Chair

## **MESSAGE FROM LEONARD C. ODOM INTERIM INSPECTOR GENERAL**

On behalf of the City of New Orleans, Office of Inspector General (OIG), I am pleased to present the Report of Activities of the Office of Inspector General for the fiscal year (FY) ending December 31, 2008. The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive accounting of matters addressed by the OIG during the past year. Completed versions of all audit and inspection reports noted herein, as well as other information, will be available on our website [www.nolaoig.org](http://www.nolaoig.org) in the near future.

The OIG is established by City Ordinance to provide independent and objective reporting to the Mayor, City Council, New Orleans residents, and other stakeholders. Its mission is to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in government programs and operations through the identification and elimination of fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement.

The New Orleans OIG is functionally comprised of Criminal Investigations, Audit and Review, and Inspections and Evaluations. During FY2009, the Independent Police Monitor will become functional under the OIG.

As we prepare this report, it must be noted that Robert A. Cerasoli, the first Inspector General of the City of New Orleans, departed his position due to personal reasons. He developed a strong foundation from which the OIG will continue to be effective and remain a valuable and viable asset for the citizens and government of New Orleans.

**Core Values.** The OIG established core values of integrity, thoroughness, professionalism, objectivity, accuracy, and timeliness to reflect the high standards required in conducting all duties.

**Criminal Investigations (CI).** During FY 2008, Criminal Investigations was activated. The Initial focus of Criminal Investigations was to identify, recruit and hire extremely well qualified criminal investigative management and criminal investigators. At the end of the fiscal year, the management team was nearing completion. I was fortunate to be selected as the First Assistant Inspector General for Criminal Investigations. The Deputy Inspector General for Criminal Investigations and the Assistant Chief for Criminal Investigations and I have previously held Inspector General positions. The

Investigative staff is experienced, diversified, and reflective of New Orleans. As we go to press CI has added the Chief of Criminal Investigations and five Criminal Investigators. CI will assist the Inspector General in building a solid foundation and competent staff that will ensure quality products of the highest integrity to New Orleans government and citizens by conducting both criminal and administrative investigations to reduce corruption and misconduct. CI is currently led by Hugh Fox, Chief of Criminal Investigations, CI activities is noted later in this report.

**Audit and Review (AR).** During FY 2008, Audit and Review was activated. F. Marvin Doyal was selected as the First Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Review. During FY2008, Audit and Review completed a significant vehicle audit. As the year closed, AR's staffing included the Chief of Audit and Review as well as four auditors. At the close of the year, Audit and Review generated a significant report, which will be discussed more fully later in this report. Audit and Review is currently led by Neely Moody, interim First Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Review. Under his leadership, six audits have been generated and the staff is proceeding very well.

**Inspections and Evaluations (I&E).** During FY 2008, I&E was composed of staff from several OIG professions. This team under the leadership of Janet Werkman, First Assistant for Legal Review, generated a very well written and defined report involving crime cameras. That report will be discussed later in this report. I&E is now a defined entity within the OIG with dedicated staffing.

**Independent Police Monitor.** The previously reference City Ordinance, established the Independent Police Monitor. To date, positions descriptions for the positions of Police Monitor, Deputy Police Monitor and Director, Community Outreach, have been approved by the Civil Service Commission. A final Ordinance on these positions is expected to be approved by the City Council, during the first quarter of FY2009. We thank our citizens for their patience and hope to have these three positions filled by July 1. In an effort to serve the citizens, Criminal Investigations was tasked with the

additional duty of conducting activities commensurate with the responsibilities of the Police Monitor.

In closing, the OIG is continuing to hire staff which is the best of the best. We expect to be fully staffed by July 2009. Our computer system is nearing completion. Our website [www.nolaoig.org](http://www.nolaoig.org) is expected to be fully operational by April 2009. Citizens will have the ability to submit complaints and concerns via our website. Completed audit reports and inspection reports will be posted on the website. Fully completed investigative efforts will be posted on the web. Citizens will also be able to call our hotline and provide information to the OIG. Posters and news announcements are forthcoming which will provide all details. The hotline will be staffed by a professional member of this office from 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday. The future is bright and this office will move forward. I add that New Orleans employees and citizens play a role in ensuring the effectiveness of our city government. Our roles vary; however, it is incumbent that each of us fully uses our respective role to achieve a common goal of good government that does the most for all of its residents.

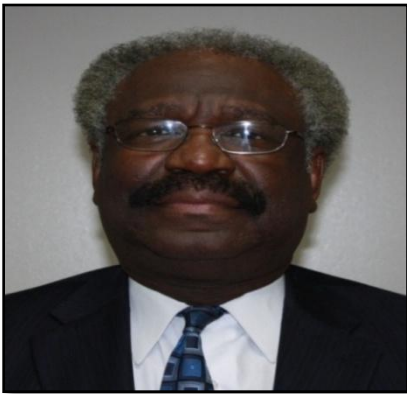


Leonard C. Odom  
Interim Inspector General

March 31, 2009



**Leonard C. Odom**  
**Interim Inspector General**



**First Assistant IG**  
**Audits & Review**

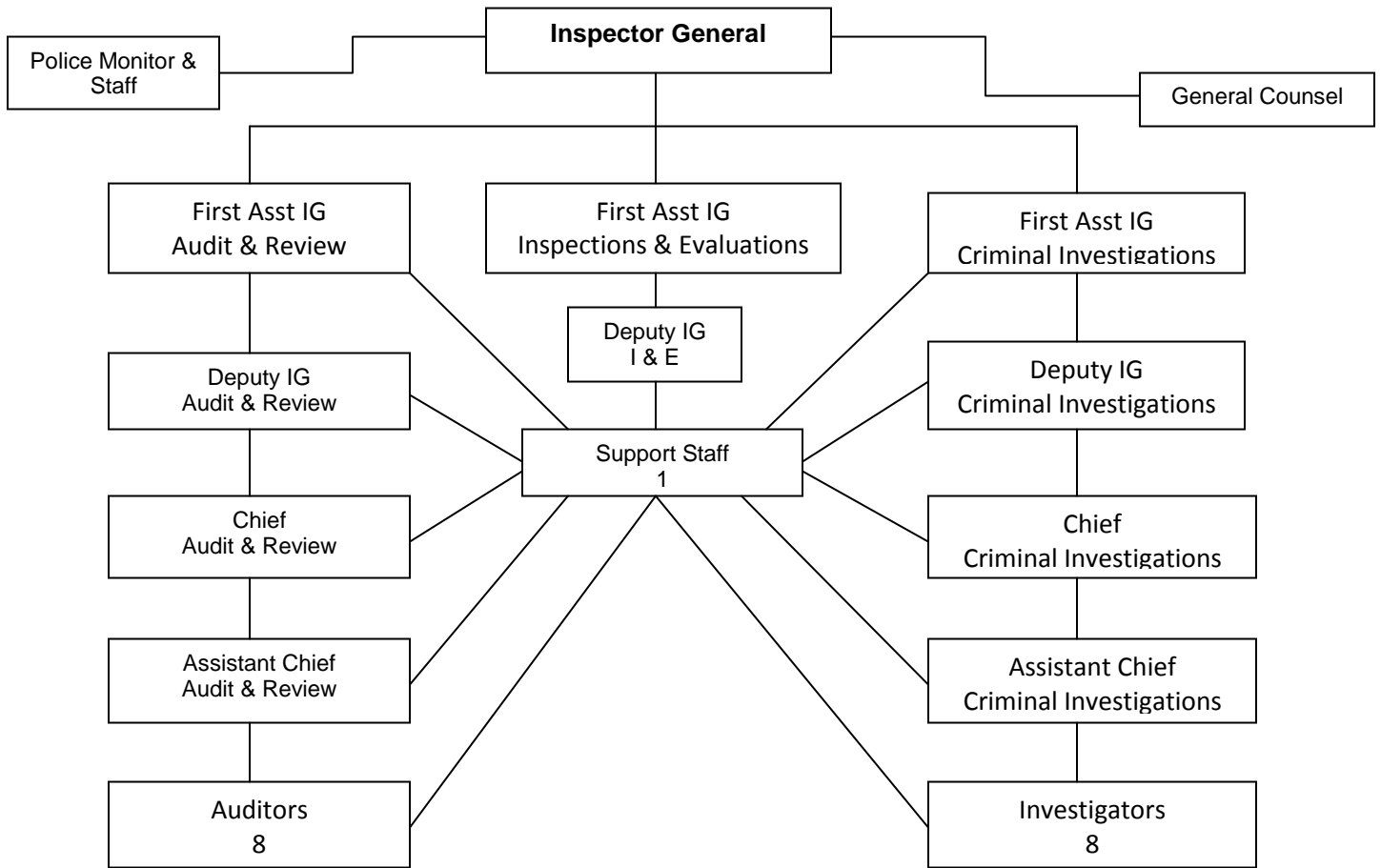


**First Assistant IG**  
**Inspections & Evaluations**



**Hugh Fox**  
**Chief of Criminal Investigations**

# TABLE of ORGANIZATION





## **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

### **ORGANIZATION**

The day-to-day operation of the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is the responsibility of the First Assistant Inspector General for Criminal Investigations (FAIG), who supervises a management team which will consist of the Chief of Criminal Investigations and an Assistant Chief of Criminal Investigations. We expect the Chief of Criminal Investigations position to be filled by February 2009. Together with the Assistant Chief, the Chief of Criminal Investigations will be responsible for a team of Criminal Investigators who are assigned both administrative and criminal investigations concerning City government operations, City government employees, and those doing business with the City of New Orleans. Once our telephone hotline is operational, it will be staffed each workday between the hours of 9:00am & 4:00pm. The hotline will allow citizens to report allegations of wrong-doing.

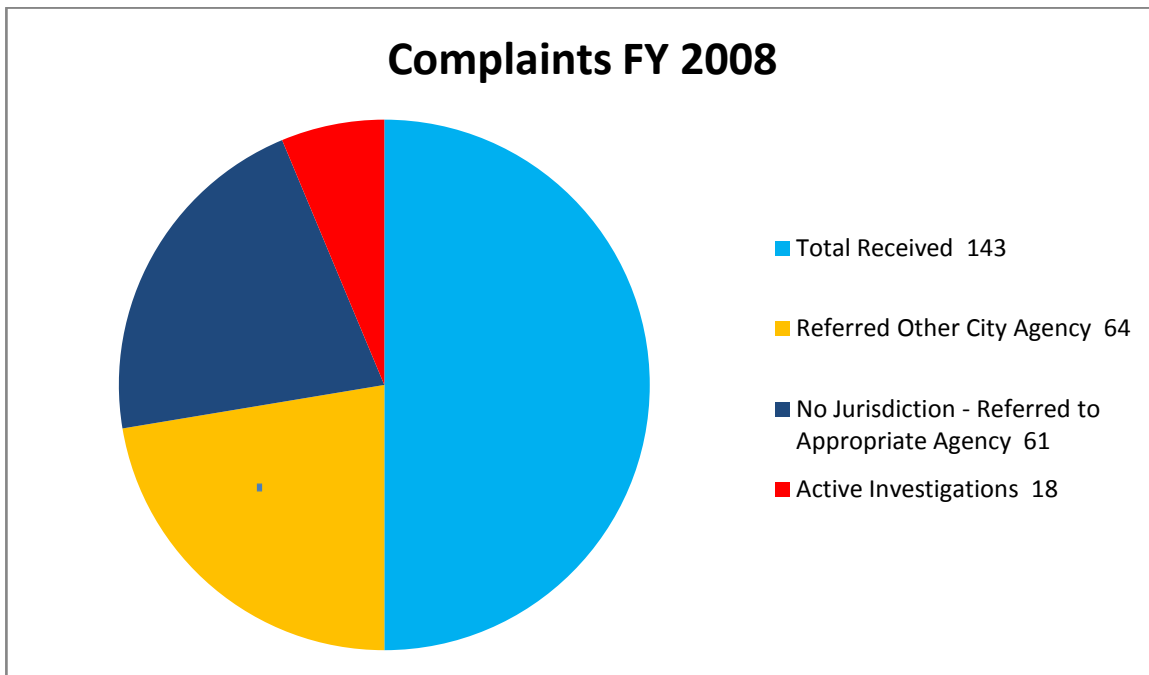
All of our Criminal investigators hold college degrees; some hold graduate degrees; and all of our Criminal Investigators hold certification as either a Certified Fraud Specialist or Certified Fraud Examiner. All of our Criminal Investigators have attended a basic police training course held at either a federal, state, or municipal training facility. They are also required to meet the firearm training and qualification standards mandated by the Louisiana Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.). The CID staff includes former investigators and managers from law enforcement agencies such as the US Internal Revenue Service, US Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Office of Municipal Investigations, and a major county police department. Criminal Investigators hold full law enforcement authority, pursuant to Chapter 44 of Title 33 of Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 comprised of R.S. 33.96H; and section 4-502(2)(A) of the Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The CID is responsible for conducting criminal and administrative investigations into allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse on the part of City government employees and contractors. In addition, the CID conducts investigations of City employee conduct alleged to be violative of the Standards of Conduct. When investigative findings solely indicate non-criminal employee misconduct or mismanagement deficiencies, Reports of Investigations (ROIs) are prepared and forwarded to the responsible agency heads. These administrative investigations typically uncover violations of City law, policy, and/or regulations. They also identify the individuals responsible for the violations and make recommendations for disciplinary action. Equally important to the investigative process, however, is the identification of program weaknesses, contracting irregularities, and other institutional problems that place a City government agency at risk for waste, fraud, and abuse. Therefore, ROIs frequently make concrete recommendations to

correct the identified deficiencies, provide guidance on the applicable laws and regulations, and suggest employee training where appropriate.

When investigative findings are indicative of criminal conduct, they are presented to either the United States Attorney's Office the Eastern Region of Louisiana (USAO) or the City of New Orleans District Attorney's Office (DA) for prosecutorial opinion and action. When a case is accepted by either entity for prosecutorial consideration, the investigation will proceed under the guidance and direction of the prosecutors, often in conjunction with other law enforcement partners such as the FBI. The investigative findings are also used to determine whether civil action is appropriate in addition to or in lieu of criminal prosecution.



The first year for the Criminal Investigations Division of the Office of Inspector General was a growing process for both the Office and the citizens of the City of New Orleans. One of the major functions the Office of Inspector General will need to initiate is an educational program to inform the City and its citizenry on what types of investigations are handled by the Office of Inspector General and what types of cases are best handled by other appropriate agencies. Many criminal investigations were initiated this year but will not be presented until they have come to completion and there is some type of resolution. The Office of

Inspector General frequently refers administrative matters to other departments and agencies due to jurisdictional issues or because the matters can best be addressed by those agencies. A sampling of cases investigated by the Office of Inspector General are listed below.

**Case 1:** The Office of Inspector General received a complaint concerning possible misconduct in the issuance of brake tags. While conducting an investigation of possible improprieties in the issuance of brake tags, it was determined that the motor vehicle inspection staff of the Safety and Permits Department did not maintain a system of records to document complaints and their resolution. Based upon Office of Inspector General Criminal Investigator recommendation, the Administrator of the Brake Tag Program designated a specific point of contact for the receipt of all complaints, and he implemented a complaint log that provided a reference number for follow-up. The complaints are evaluated by the Administrator as received, and their resolution is reported to the Deputy Director of the Branch for appropriate action.

**Case 2:** During the summer of 2008 a citizen lodged a complaint concerning a building being built too close to the citizen's property line. An Office of Inspector General Investigator contacted the City of New Orleans Office of Safety and Permits to inform them of the situation and to inquire if they have inspected the property. Safety and Permits confirmed that the property was inspected and the inspector stated that the foundation was in compliance with regard to the required setbacks. Subsequent waivers were obtained by the homeowner from the Board of Zoning Adjustments.

**Case 3:** This referral to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development involved a citizen who was denied a grass cutting contract on the grounds that his business was not a "resident owned business." The complainant had bid on the contracts and was able to produce a voter registration card for the area. The complainant alleged that contracts were awarded to various Resident Council's that at the time did not have residents in their representative areas.

**Case 4:** Complainant requested that the New Orleans Office of Inspector General investigate the Housing Authority of New Orleans in response to a US Department of Housing and Urban Development investigation. The Housing Authority of New Orleans receives only Federal funding via the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and it is not managed by the City due to the fact

it is in “receivership.” Therefore, the agency is not within the jurisdiction of the City of New Orleans Office of Inspector General. Further, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development has initiated their own investigation.

**Case 5:** Complainant alleged that the Global Green Competition was orchestrated, was not judged fairly and did not have the input of the community. The complainant also alleged that the Unified New Orleans Plan was actually the Bring New Orleans Back committee, Global Green and Neighborhood Partnership Network. It was discovered that Global Green’s competition was privately funded, therefore, OIG has no jurisdiction. The Unified New Orleans Plan was funded by the City Council, and our investigation determined there did not appear to be illegal and/or inappropriate activity.

**Case 6:** The New Orleans Office of Inspector General received correspondence from the City Attorney in response to the selection of a consulting company to provide planning/consulting services to complete the New Orleans Master Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. In her letter, the City Attorney advised the Office of Inspector General that the City Planning Commission issued a decision to remove a contractor for the project. This was done after receiving an opinion from the Louisiana Board of Ethics. In her letter, the City Attorney opined the conflict was resolved with the removal of the contractor and subsequent actions of the City Planning Commission as a result of the Louisiana Board of Ethics opinion. A review of all relevant information by the Office of Inspector General determined there was no further action required by our office.

**Case 7:** Complainant was concerned as to why the city was selling real estate at a quarter of the true cost and properties are being sold for far too little. The complainant included a list of properties that had been transferred from the City of New Orleans to the developer. Our investigation revealed the developer was listed as one of the entities to which city properties would be sold. There was no indication of wrong-doing.

**Case 8:** The Office of Inspector General received a citizen complaint regarding the Board of Zoning Adjustments. The complainant expressed concerns about the rulings of the Board and felt the Board was not representing the best interests of the City or following its’ ordinances. The complainant was informed that the proper venue to appeal the Board of Zoning Adjustments decision was through the Civil District Court system.

**Case 9:** The Office received a citizen complaint concerning real estate taxes, which the complainant believed were being assessed inappropriately. The complainant alleged his real estate taxes were \$100,000 higher than his neighbors. The amount was appealed. As a result of the appeal, an appraiser re-assessed the residence and the tax liability was significantly lowered. The complainant was not satisfied with new assessed value and subsequent tax liability. The complainant informed the tax assessor he was still not satisfied. The complainant was informed the proper venue to address his complaint was with the Louisiana Tax Commission which is the regulatory agency.

## AUDIT AND REVIEW DIVISION

### **Organization**

The OIG Office of Audit and Review began the year with one staff member, the First Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Review (AIGAR). During September through November 2008 an additional five staff members were hired. At the closing of the fiscal year the office is comprised of seven professionals headed by an Assistant Inspector General (AIGAR) and a Deputy Inspector General (DIGAR). The AIGAR sets policy and, through the DIGAR, provides leadership and direction for the staff of five forensic auditors.

The Office of Audit and Review is responsible for conducting audits and reviews of City of New Orleans organizations and affiliates, programs, functions and activities. These activities complement other elements of management evaluations and are aimed at providing reliable and constructive findings and recommendations for improved administration of programs and operations. Such activities provide management with an independent appraisal of whether desired results and objectives are achieved efficiently, economically, and in accordance with prescribed laws, ordinances, regulations, policies and procedures. Key elements of our engagements are the independence of the OIG from the management of such programs, and the OIG's responsibility to report the results of such activities to City management and other stakeholders. The functional responsibility of the Audit and Review office also is to prevent and detect fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in organizational programs and operations.

The Office is staffed to perform attestation and performance audits. Attestation audits or engagements concern examining, reviewing, or performing agreed-upon procedures on a subject matter or assertion. Performance audits entail an objective and systematic examination of evidence to provide an independent assessment of a program or entity and typically assess program results and/or the entity protecting or using its resources in the most productive manner. The purpose of performance audits is to improve accountability and to facilitate effective decision making.

In conducting its functions, the Audit and Review office formulated, recommended, and executed audit policy consistent with the overall policy of the Inspector General, and assured that all audits of Departmental organizations, programs, activities, and functions were conducted in accordance with the standards established by the Comptroller General of the United States and the Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General articulated in the Association of Inspectors General "Green Book".

## **Credentials and Qualifications**

All auditors possess a degree from an accredited college or university. Many of our staff also holds advance degrees and certifications, including the following:

- Certified Fraud Examiner
- Certified Inspector General
- Certified Internal Auditor
- Certified Public Accountant
- Masters Degree in Business Administration

## **Professional Associations and Organizations**

The OIG has joined a number of professional organizations to enhance audit performance and broaden the Office staff's perspective through educational and professional associations with the Association of Inspectors General, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Louisiana State Society of CPA's, National Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and the Institute of Internal Auditors.

## **Acquiring, Developing and Retaining Professional Staff**

Human capital is essential to the OIG's success. The Office's AIGAR and DIGAR continually work to identify the best ways to address the staff's education needs and to identify core training programs. Through training and employee development, the Office strives to acquire, develop and retain talented individuals. We also consult with private sector, public sector, academic institutions and other experts to identify and formulate best practices.

Our management and staff are encouraged to participate in settings, either as a speaker or a participant, which provide a flow of information to prospective applicants. Included in those settings are speaking engagements to college classes as well as presentations to meetings of the local chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Our intention is to ensure that every staff member is adequately trained to participate fully and meaningfully in the Office's activities and, in that regard; we are committed to providing 40 hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) to each staff member. During FY 2008, each staff member also completed an in-house training program on Yellow Book Standards.

## **Audit Peer Review**

Under the applicable ordinance which created the OIG, the Office is required to undergo a quality control (peer review) review every 3 years. The first such review is anticipated to commence in FY 2010.

## **Audit Performance Measures to Evaluate Effectiveness**

The Office will continue to develop comprehensive measures to evaluate our performance and productivity. We believe that one of those measures will involve tracking audit recommendations so we can assess the progress of corrective actions. Audit recommendations do not produce the desired outcomes of increased program and operational efficiency unless they are effectively implemented by affected departments. We also intend to identify best business practices thereby giving city managers greater opportunity to share with other city entities the benefit of their respective effort. We will work toward progress improvements in measuring our productivity and performance.

## **Audit Reports and other Activities during FY 2008**

The primary report issued during the current period was an interim report dealing with the management of a portion of the City's administrative vehicle fleet, especially take-home-vehicles. Numerous recommendations were formulated to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of managing the City's vehicles. The remaining portion of the City's fleet as well as associated entities, commissions and Boards will be reviewed during FY 2009. Other activity includes:

- Published the above referenced 53 page Interim report on the City's vehicle fleet.
- Department of Public Works – During the period of our examination of City vehicles, a vehicle assigned to the head of the Public Works department was involved in a three vehicle accident late in the evening of June 14, 2008. OIG continued to monitor Court hearings from that time to the present. The accident was referenced in the aforementioned OIG Report.
- City Coroner's office – OIG received allegations that a Coroner's Office employee was abusing the use of City vehicles. Such allegations were reviewed and prominently referenced in the aforementioned Report issued by OIG.
- Developed and established meaningful working relationships with city as well as federal, state, and local officials.



- Developed an understanding of the city's programs, functions, structure, and attendant policies and procedures which allowed for the establishment of an overall methodology for creating and issuing the IG's FY 2009 Audit Plan.
- Developed a solid foundation for preparing and publishing a dynamic, instructive, and comprehensive Audit Operating Manual.

## Inspections & Evaluation

### **Inspections and Evaluations (I & E) Division**

Conducts inspections and evaluations of government operations and programs for the purposes of providing information for decision-making and of making recommendations to improve program, policies, or procedures. The I & E Division produces management studies or reports that provide a source of factual and analytical information, and can be used to monitor compliance and measure performance.

### Inspections and Evaluations Division – 2008 Activities

The I & E Division completed its first project and produced a report that was pending at the close of 2008.

#### ***Installation of Crime Surveillance Cameras 2003-2008***

The I & E Division conducted a review of a project undertaken by the City of New Orleans to deploy a City-wide system of neighborhood surveillance cameras to assist the police in their battle against crime. The review concluded that the Mayor's Office of Technology, which was charged with implementing the surveillance camera system, did not conduct an orderly planning process, comply with prudent procurement practices, or exercise effective contract oversight at any stage of the project. The project's initial cost estimate was \$2.6 million, but the City failed to control expenditures and allowed costs to mount to more than \$6.6 million, exceeding the amount appropriated for the project. The City also failed to specify adequate standards for the system and did not hold contractors accountable for the system's performance. The surveillance camera system completed in 2008 is unreliable and will be expensive to maintain. The report concludes with a set of recommendations to the City to guard against performance failures and cost overruns in future projects.



**ETHICS REVIEW BOARD  
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS  
2008  
ANNUAL REPORT**

## **Mission Statement**

The Ethics Review Board seeks to uphold and enforce high ethical standards and promote the public's confidence in the City of New Orleans by establishing additional recommendations for the Code of Ethics, issuing advisory opinions, promulgating rules regarding the interpretation and enforcement of the Code of Ethics, referring cases for investigation on referral or complaint, and imposing fines.

## **Functions and Authority**

The Ethics Review Board is authorized by the Code of Ordinances for City of New Orleans to administer and enforce the provisions of the Code of Ethics of the City. The Code of Ethics was established to remind each public official and employee that individually and collectively, public officials and employees must adhere to high ethical standards not simply to avoid sanctions or criticism. It applies to all officials of the government of the city, whether elected or appointed; all employees, whether classified or unclassified; and all members and/or employees of all boards, agencies, commissions, advisory committees, public trusts, and public benefit corporations of the city. Any person may file a complaint concerning violations of the Code of Ethics with the ERB.

The ERB is empowered to represent the public interest in the administration of any law within its jurisdiction; offer and enter into consent opinions regarding violations of the provisions of any law within its jurisdictions; refer to fact-finding complaints, advisory opinions, media reports, oral reports, referrals, or any other source; prescribe rules of order, evidence, and procedure to govern its meetings, hearings, and investigations; take such steps as may be necessary to maintain proper order and decorum during the course of its hearings and other proceedings, consistent with the resolution of matters coming before it for consideration; and include on the agenda for Board consideration any matter that is of interest to any Board member and that is within the Board's jurisdiction.

## **Ethics Review Board Meetings**

The Ethics Review Board holds monthly open meetings. The meeting location is rotated monthly between Loyola University of New Orleans, Xavier University of New Orleans, and Southern University of New Orleans. Meetings are typically held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10:30 AM. Announcements concerning the ERB meeting location and agenda may be found on the announcement board within City Hall as well as on the [www.cityofno.com](http://www.cityofno.com) website.

## **Members of the Ethics Review Board**

The board consists of seven volunteer members who serve staggered terms of seven years each. Six members were appointed by the mayor from lists of three nominees each submitted by the presidents or chancellors of Dillard University, Loyola University, Southern University in New Orleans (SUNO), Tulane University, University of New Orleans (UNO), and Xavier University. The seventh member was appointed by the mayor. Each appointment was subject to the approval by a majority of the members of the city council.

### **Rev. Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J., Ph.D., Chair**

President, Loyola University

Reverend Kevin Wildes, S.J., is the current President of Loyola University New Orleans. Rev. Wildes entered the Society of Jesus in 1976 after graduating from Joseph's University in Philadelphia. He holds advanced degrees in theology and philosophy, receiving his PhD from Rice University in 1993.

Prior to joining Loyola University, Rev. Wildes was a member of the Department of Philosophy and a Senior Research Scholar in the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University where he also held a secondary appointment in the Department of Medicine at the Georgetown University School of Medicine.

Currently, Rev. Wildes serves as associate editor to and on the editorial board of a number of ethics and medicine journals and book series, and he is a founding editor of the *Journal of Christian Bioethics*. Rev. Wildes is the editor or co-editor of four books and authored *Moral Acquaintances: Methodology in Bioethics* published by the University of Notre Dame in 2000. Rev. Wildes is a member of the boards of Loyola University Chicago and St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. He is active in the New Orleans community as a member of the New Orleans Business Council and serving on the national Board of Directors of Friends of New Orleans.

### **Rev. Cornelius Tilton, D.D., Vice Chair**

Pastor, Irish Channel Christian Fellowship

Reverend Cornelius Tilton has 26 years of ministry leadership experience as a preacher, pastor and trainer in the para-church ministries in the greater New Orleans area. He is currently a pastor at the Irish Channel Christian Fellowship and the General President of the Christian Bible College of Louisiana. Rev. Tilton is also currently chairman of the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans Administrative Committee and a trustee of the Louisiana Baptist Foundation. He has over 25 years of professional experience in business and academic administration, teaching, training, strategic planning, and human resources management in secular and religious institutions. Rev. Tilton has served as a business and computer consultant, hospital Community Relations Manager and Real Estate Broker.

For over 23 years, Rev. Tilton has been an active member of the local civic community serving on such boards as the Board for Audubon Montessori Charter School, the

Committee for a Better New Orleans Housing Task Force and the New Orleans Emergency Food and Shelter Board, just to name a few. He has chaired the boards of the New Orleans Mission, New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity and the Greater New Orleans Federation of Churches.

### **Elizabeth S. Nalty, Secretary**

Community Activist

Ms. Elizabeth Nalty is an extremely active member of the New Orleans community. She is a member of many local boards such as the Board of Ogden Museum of Southern Art University of New Orleans, Board for the Hermann-Grima/Gallier Historic Houses, and the Board for the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Louisiana. Much of Ms. Nalty's time is devoted to the field of education as a member of the Board of Directors for Louise S. McGehee School, Board and Executive Committee of the Pennington Biomedical Research Foundation, the Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives Advisory Committee, and a member of Louisiana State University's Health Science Department of Psychiatry Advisory Board. She is a member of the board of Director's of Tulane University, New Orleans and a member of the Tulane University Hospital board and the Tulane Health Science Center board. Ms. Nalty also serves her community as the President of the Edward G. Schlieder Education Foundation Board, Vice Regent Emerita for the State of Louisiana Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, and a member of the Executive Committee for the Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans.

### **Winston D. Brown**

Dean of Admissions, Xavier University

Mr. Winston D. Brown has served at Xavier University for over 30 years in several capacities. Prior to his current position as dean, he was an instructor of mathematics and director of freshman studies. He holds degrees from Alabama State University and the University of Notre Dame. He is a member of the National Association of College Admission Counseling, the American Association of College Registrars and Admission Officers, the Catholic College Admission Association and the College Board. Brown has presented at several professional conferences and received a certificate from the Harvard Institute on College Admission. As an active member of the civic community, Winston Brown served as a member and chairman of the New Orleans City Planning Commission. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and is a member and past president of the New Orleans chapter of the 100 Black Men of America.

### **Leah Chase**

Dooky Chase Restaurant

Mrs. Leah Chase, otherwise referred to as the "Queen of the Creole Cuisine," has been in the restaurant industry since the 1940s. Her restaurant, Dooky Chase Restaurant, is a New Orleans landmark and has served many prominent politicians, musicians, and businesspeople including President Obama during his presidential campaign. After marrying musician Edgar "Dooky" Chase II in 1945, she began working at Dooky Chase Restaurant which was owned by her husband's parents. In addition to being a world-famous chef, Mrs. Chase is also a cookbook author. Chase has received many awards both for her culinary genius and her community service including: the New Orleans

Times Picayune 1997 Loving Cup Award and the Torch of Liberty Award. An active member of the New Orleans community, she serves on many local organizational boards including the Arts Council of New Orleans, the New Orleans Museum of Art, and the Urban League.

**Beverly C. Favre, Ph.D.**

Southern University New Orleans

Dr. Beverly Favre is the Dean of the School of Social Work at Southern University of New Orleans (SUNO). Her background in this position draws from her experience as a social work practitioner, consultant, administrator and educator in New Orleans, California, Texas and Kentucky. Additionally, she has acted as a visiting professor at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, the University of New Orleans, Dillard University and University of Innsbruck in Innsbruck, Austria. Dr. Favre has been a gerontology consultant in New Orleans and Washington D.C. where she presented Aging research to the House & Senate committees on Aging and the Black Caucus. She managed the Women's Office for the Office of the Mayor and the Student Service Program at the University of Kentucky's Medical School.

**Kathryn Venturatos Lorio**

Professor of Law, Loyola University

Mrs. Kathryn Lorio is a Leon Sarpy Professor of Law at Loyola University in New Orleans. A twice recipient of the "Best Professor Award" and a recipient of the 2002 "Distinguished Professor Award" given by Louisiana Bar Foundation, Lorio began teaching at Loyola as an assistant professor in 1976 after working as an attorney for Deutsch, Kerrigan and Stiles. Mrs. Lorio has authored many articles, contributed chapters to numerous books, and co-authored law textbooks including *Louisiana Successions and Donations* and *West Civil Law Treatise on Successions and Donations*. Her teaching and scholarly interests are in the areas of family law, civil law of successions and donations and the legal treatment of alternative reproductive techniques. She is active in law reform on the national level as a member of the American Law Institute as a member of the Consultative Group on Family Dissolution and Donative Transfers. In Louisiana, Lorio is a member of the Council of the Louisiana State Law Institute and a member of the Louisiana State Law Institute Successions and Donations Committee and the Marriage – Persons Committee.

### **History of the Ethics Review Board**

In 1996, citizens of New Orleans voted to amend the Home Rule Charter to mandate the Council to establish by ordinance an Ethics Review Board. Under that ordinance the ERB is empowered to issue advisory opinions, promulgate rules regarding interpretation and enforcement of the Code of Ethics, retain counsel and impose fines. Other relevant Charter provisions can be found in Article IX, Chapter 1 ("Board and Commissions in General"), as well as other provisions of the Home Rule Charter as it may relate to the context of the work of the ERB.



The selection of board members occurred in December 2006 at which time the members met to begin their initial task of educating themselves on their new role. Under Article XIII, Sec. 2-1120 (3) of the Code of Ordinances for the City of New Orleans, the newly formed ERB was required to begin a national search for the city's first inspector general. The inspector general search began in March 2007 and a final selection was made in June 2007. In the subsequent months, the inspector general and the ERB worked to secure an adequate joint budget appropriation for the Office of Inspector General and the Ethics Review Board in the amount of \$3.4 million. Additionally, in 2007 the ERB drafted Rules for the Ethics Review Board governing the transactions of its business.

### **Summary of Work Performed**

The Ethics Review Board's objectives for 2008 were to assist the Office of Inspector General in becoming fully functional, hiring staff, passing new legislation to further the independence and autonomy of the ERB and OIG, and adopting rules and regulations governing the transaction of the ERB's business.

- In January the Ethics Review Board assisted the inspector general in securing office space for the Office of Inspector General and the ERB staff
- Rules for the Ethics Review Board were edited and adopted by the ERB on April 29, 2008
- The Board hired its first two employees in June of 2008. These employees were assigned to assist the Office of Inspector General with legal and administrative responsibilities as the inspector general continued to seek a full complement of a highly qualified staff
- On October 4, 2008, the citizens of New Orleans voted to amend the Home Rule Charter to permanently establish the Office of Inspector General and to establish a shared funding appropriation for the Ethics Review Board and the Office of Inspector General
- The City Council approved the Rules for the Ethics Review Board on November 6, 2008
- Rules for the Ethics Review Board became law on November 16, 2008
- Nearly half of the ERB members and the Executive Director attended the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws in December

## **Filing Complaints**

Any person may file a complaint concerning violations of the City's Code of Ethics with the Ethics Review Board.

Any public employee who reports information which the employee reasonably believes is a violation of any ordinance, statute, policy, order, rule, regulation or other ethical mandate is protected by the New Orleans Municipal Code Division 3. Code of Ethics, Subdivision 3. Generally, Section 2-772 (a) Freedom from reprisal and disclosure of improper acts, which states such employees "shall be free from discipline or reprisal for reporting such acts of alleged impropriety. An employee with authority to hire and fire, supervisor, agency head, or elected official may not subject to reprisal any public employee because of such employee's efforts to disclose such acts of alleged impropriety."

The Board may consider any matter that it has reason to believe may be a violation of any law within its jurisdiction, including but not limited to, a notice or report sent to the Board by the Inspector General. The Board may close the file, refer the matter to investigation, or take such other action as it deems appropriate.

## **Council on Governmental Ethics Laws**

The Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) was created in 1978 by a group of executives from newly-formed governmental ethics entities for the purpose of sharing information. COGEL conferences include a series of panel discussions, lectures, and workshops on topics of current concern to ethics administrators.

COGEL's mission is to enhance the professional development of its members in the areas of government ethics, elections, campaign finance, lobbying, and freedom of information and to promote government integrity throughout the world.

In 2008, the Ethics Review Board joined hundreds of other ethics agencies and commissions as a member of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws. Three ERB members and the newly hired Executive Director attended the December COGEL conference to network with other ethics entities and learn recognized best practices in the area of governmental ethics. During the December ERB meeting, COGEL conference attendees shared with the entire board the information gathered from lectures, panel discussions, workshops, and meetings with members and employees of ethics commissions. To further the Ethics Review Board's development, 2008 COGEL conference attendees suggested the board continue involvement with the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws and its members as it is an excellent venue for discussion and exchange of best practices.

## **Future Work**

In 2009 the Ethics Review Board will continue to work in cooperation with the Office of Inspector General. Board members and staff will network with other ethics entities to discover and implement best practices to further benefit the citizens of the City of New Orleans. The board will hire additional staff including legal counsel. A high priority for the board is to create and execute an ethics educational training program for the employees of the City of New Orleans. An ethics educational program will assist in preventing ethical violations within the government and will encourage employees to inform the board when violations occur. Of highest priority is the board's national search to appoint an inspector general.



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