

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2022



OIG

NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

**EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION



1,832

Number of registered Twitter followers

ADMINISTRATION

The Office Manager is responsible for the following ongoing tasks:

- Reviewing applications for the Criminal Investigator, and Evaluator vacancies
- Organizing and securing OIG personnel files and creating a comprehensive filing system
- Coordinating and maintaining the OIG vehicle service records and travel logs
- Coordinating the OIG records management activities
- Reconciling 2021 Year-end purchases and preparing for the 2021 Budget close-out
- Preparing the 2022 Purchase Orders for the 2022 OIG purchases

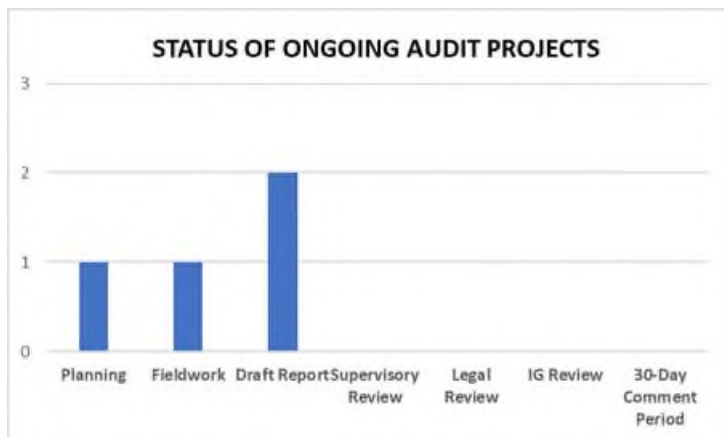
INFORMATION SECURITY

The OIG Information Security Manager is responsible for the following tasks to maintain the OIG's information technology (IT) integrity

- Technical Support
- Hardware and Software Updates
- Communication and Coordination
- Consultation for IT Purchases

AUDIT & REVIEW DIVISION

The Audit and Review Division conducts financial audits, attestations, compliance, and performance audits of City programs and operations. Auditors test for appropriate internal controls and compliance with laws, regulations and other requirements.



The Audit and Review Division has the following projects in process:

- BRASS Procurement System
- Orleans Parish Communications District (OPCD) Expenditures
- Department of Public Works (DPW)/SW&B Coordination
- Safety and Permits City Employee Inspections

Project Phase Descriptions:

Planning - includes background research, data gathering, initial interviews, and/or internal controls assessment.

Fieldwork - includes data and statistical analyses, interviews, testing of procedures, onsite observations, and/or physical inspections.

Draft Report - includes data and statistical reviews, documenting fieldwork results, initial report writing, revisions and internal Quality Assurance Review (QAR) prior to supervisory review.

Supervisory Review - includes the review by both Deputy Inspector General and First Assistant Inspector General to ensure sufficiency and appropriateness of evidence, adequate fieldwork procedures, and proper conclusions, content, presentation and readability.

Legal Review - Report review by in-house General Counsel and/or outside Legal Counsel to ensure appropriate and proper legal citations and/or interpretations.

IG Review - Report review by the Inspector General based on corrections and recommended changes resulting from the Legal Review.

30-Day Comment Period - 30-day deadline for the department to review the draft report and submit management responses for inclusion in the final report.

MEASURING PROGRESS

AUDIT AND REVIEW DIVISION

The following information provides a summary of the Audit Division's project phase and a summary of the audit objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase ¹	Anticipated ² Completion Date
--------------	----------------------------	--

DPW/S&WB Coordination	Draft Report	3/31/2022
-----------------------	--------------	-----------

Summary of Objectives: To determine if the City of New Orleans and S&WB have sufficient policies and procedures relevant to coordinating the \$2 billion Capital Improvement Program and that the internal controls are operating effectively.

BRASS Procurement System	Draft Report	3/31/2022
--------------------------	--------------	-----------

Summary of Objectives: To determine if management's BRASS Procurement System's internal controls are designed properly and implemented and operating effectively.

Orleans Parish Communications District	Planning	Ongoing
--	----------	---------

Summary of Objectives: To determine if management's internal controls are designed properly and implemented and operating effectively to ensure expenses and disbursements were business-related and allowed by law.

Safety & Permits City Employee Inspections	Fieldwork	Ongoing
--	-----------	---------

Summary of Objectives: To determine if City employees performed on-site inspections at various locations.

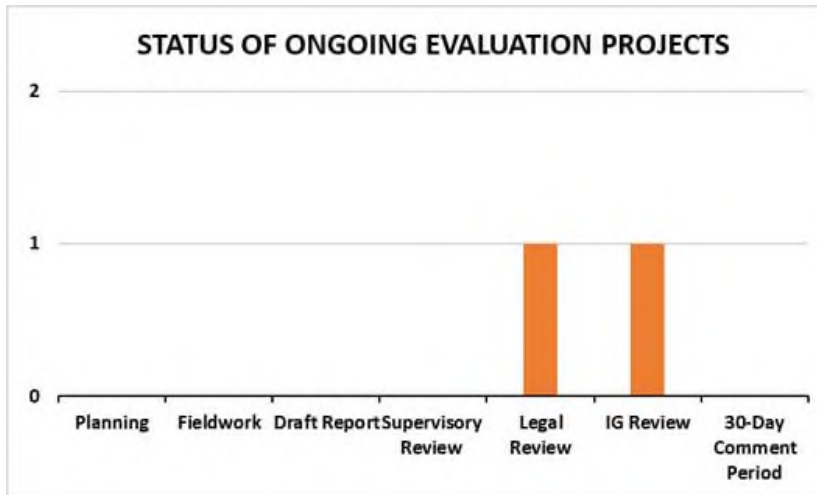
Footnotes:

1 - Project phase determination is based on the objective(s), scope, and methodology for each project. It is not determined by a standard set of hours and/or phase deadline.

2 - The completion date may be re-evaluated if necessary.

INSPECTIONS & EVALUATIONS DIVISION

The Inspections and Evaluations Division works to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of City programs, agencies, and operations. Evaluators conduct independent, objective, empirically based and methodically sound inspections, evaluations, and performance reviews.



The Inspections & Evaluations Division has the following projects in process:

- Firefighters' Pension Fund Governance
- NOLA 311 Potholes

Project Phase Descriptions:

Planning - includes background research, data gathering, initial interviews, and/or internal controls assessment.

Fieldwork - includes data and statistical analyses, interviews, testing of procedures, onsite observations, and/or physical inspections.

Draft Report - includes data and statistical reviews, documenting fieldwork results, initial report writing, revisions and internal Quality Assurance Review (QAR) prior to supervisory review.

Supervisory Review - includes the review by both Deputy Inspector General and First Assistant Inspector General to ensure sufficiency and appropriateness of evidence, adequate fieldwork procedures, and proper conclusions, content, presentation and readability.

Legal Review - Report review by in-house General Counsel and/or outside Legal Counsel to ensure appropriate and proper legal citations and/or interpretations.

IG Review - Report review by the Inspector General based on corrections and recommended changes resulting from the Legal Review.

30-Day Comment Period - 30-day deadline for the department to review the draft report and submit management responses for inclusion in the final report.

MEASURING PROGRESS

INSPECTIONS AND EVALUATIONS DIVISION

The following information provides a summary of the Inspections and Evaluations Division's project phase and a summary of the each project's objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase ¹	Anticipated ² Completion Date
--------------	----------------------------	---

Firefighters' Pension
Fund Governance

Legal Review

3/31/2022

Summary of Objectives: To determine if the Firefighters' Pension Fund investment policies and practices are consistent with authoritative sources and best practices, and adequately consider risks.

NOLA 3-1-1- Potholes

IG Review

3/31/2022

Summary of Objectives: To determine if the City properly and timely triages and resolves complaints received for the reporting of potholes on streets throughout the community.

Footnotes:

1 - Project phase determination is based on the objective(s), scope, and methodology for each project. It is not determined by a standard set of hours and/or phase deadline.

2 - The completion date may be re-evaluated if necessary.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS)

Issued a Request for Documents to the Office of Secondary Employment.

Issued a Request for Documents to the Bureau of Treasury.

Issued a Request for Documents to the Sewerage and Water Board.

DPW issued a press release on January 7th, 2022 in which they stated:

Following recommendation from the New Orleans Office of Inspector General, the Parking Division will begin fully enforcing Section 154-874, Restricted Areas of Parking Spaces for Registered Vehicles with Disabilities, and Section 154-1093, Use by Mobility Impaired/Disabilities.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS)

Former City of New Orleans Building Inspector Sentenced

Kevin Richardson was sentenced on January 13, 2022 by United States District Judge Susie Morgan to thirty (30) months in the Bureau of Prisons for violating Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1952(a)(3) and 2, use of an interstate facility with intent to carry on unlawful activity. The US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana issued a press release in which it credited the OIG with participating in the investigation along with the Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General, and the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General.


INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

U.S. Attorneys » Eastern District of Louisiana » News

Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

Eastern District of Louisiana

SHARE 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Former City of New Orleans Building Inspector Sentenced

NEW ORLEANS, LA – The U.S. Attorney's Office announced today that **KEVIN RICHARDSON**, 59, of New Orleans, was sentenced on January 13, 2022 by United States District Judge Susie Morgan to thirty (30) months in the Bureau of Prisons for violating Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1952(a)(3) and 2, use of an interstate facility with intent to carry on unlawful activity.

According to the court documents, **RICHARDSON** was employed as a building inspector for the City of New Orleans and utilized the internet-based City of New Orleans' LAMA system to alter and/or delete city documents and submit material information. He solicited and accepted approximately \$65,000 in bribe payments from individuals seeking favorable inspection reports and certificates of completion for properties that did not comply with the city and state building codes and for properties that had not been inspected. He also paid bribe money to a City of New Orleans permit analyst for the issuance of permits without proper documentation and plan review.

RICHARDSON's sentence will be followed by one (1) year of supervised release. He was also ordered to pay a mandatory \$100 special assessment fee.

This matter was investigated by the City of New Orleans Office of Inspector General, Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General, and the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney Tracey N. Knight is prosecuting the matter.

Topic(s):

Financial Fraud
Public Corruption

Component(s):

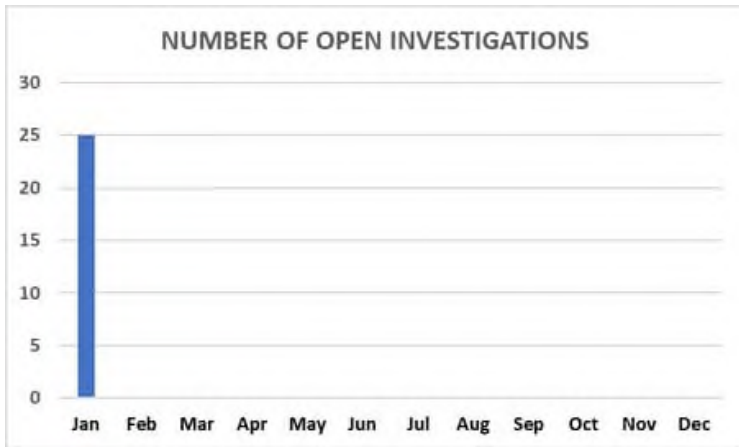
USAO - Louisiana, Eastern

Updated January 18, 2022

MEASURING PROGRESS

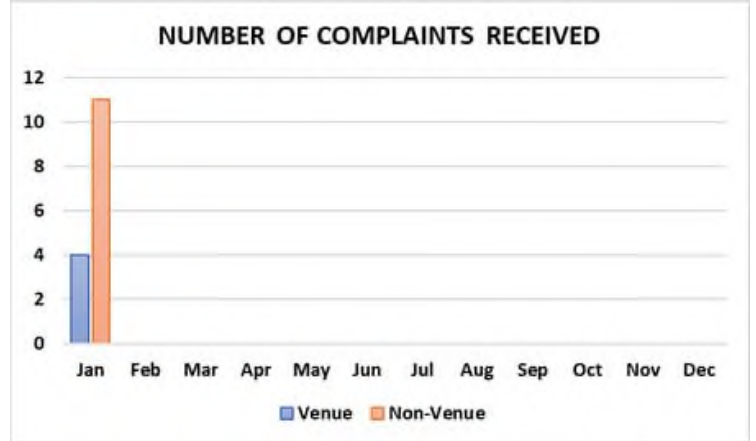
INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division conducts criminal and administrative investigations involving City of New Orleans employees, contractors, and vendors that receive City funds. Investigators also work with local, state, and federal partners to conduct joint investigations. The Investigations Division is also available to provide fraud awareness training to City employees and to engage in other outreach programs with businesses and citizens.



Venue: Matters that the OIG has the jurisdiction to investigate

Non-Venue: Matters outside of the OIG's jurisdiction



2022 BUDGET

Funding:	\$3,581,754	
Expenditures:	Encumbered Amount	Actual Amount
Personnel	\$2,774,788	\$107,721
Operating	\$277,089	\$1,443
Total Expenditures	\$3,051,877	\$109,164
Fund Balance	\$529,877	

2021 BUDGET

Funding:	\$3,484,529
Expenditures:	Amount
Personnel	\$2,002,923
Operating	\$1,037,494
Total Expenditures	\$3,040,416
Fund Balance	\$444,113

The OIG Fund Balance is reported as of January 4, 2022. However, the final 2021 budget close-out will occur in by late February, and the final 2021 Fund Balance will be reported separately in the March 2022 monthly report.

Note: in 2021 there were several personnel vacancies including that of a General Counsel and a permanent Inspector General.

OIG IN THE NEWS



City of New Orleans
Mayor LaToya Cantrell

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 7, 2022

For Media Inquiries Only
communications@nola.gov
(504) 658-4945

City Announces Changes for Vehicles with Mobility-Impaired Parking Credentials

NEW ORLEANS — The City of New Orleans Department of Public Works' Parking and Towing Divisions today announced that changes to parking enforcement for vehicles with mobility impaired parking credentials will begin Monday, Jan. 24, 2022.

Following recommendation from the New Orleans Office of Inspector General, the Parking Division will begin fully enforcing Section 154-874 *Restricted Areas of Parking Spaces for Registered Vehicles with Disabilities*, and Section 154-1093 *Use by Mobility Impaired/Disabilities*, specifically that motor vehicles bearing special parking credentials for mobility impaired persons or persons with disabilities may be parked for a period of up to three hours without payment, regardless of meter fares otherwise applicable to the parking space.

Motor vehicles parked at these metered locations will now be required to provide proof of payment to a meter after three hours by displaying a receipt from the pay station/meter on the dashboard of the vehicle, or by using the Park Mobile Payment App. Failure to supply this information will result in a parking citation.

Standard parking enforcement protocol includes regulating parking meters, ticket writing, towing and vehicle booting. Parking Enforcement can be requested 24/7 by calling (504) 658-8100.

Motor vehicles bearing special parking credentials for mobility impaired persons or persons with disabilities may currently park for a period of up to three hours without payment, regardless of meter fares otherwise applicable to the parking space, as long as the vehicle meets all other parking requirements. Residents are reminded to reference the [Parking 101](#) guide from the City's Parking Division to avoid citations and ensure that their vehicle is parked safely. For more information regarding Mobility Impaired Hang Tags and Plates, please visit the [Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles](#).

For any questions regarding these changes or any parking enforcement questions in general, please call the City of New Orleans Department of Public Works' Parking Division at (504) 658-8100.

OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



New Orleans OIG
@NOLA0IG



Great meeting today with Stella Cziment, the Interim Independent Police Monitor as we discussed ongoing initiatives.

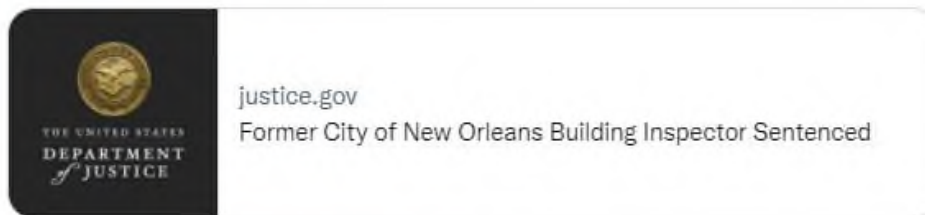


7:08 PM · Jan 6, 2022 · Twitter Web App

OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



New Orleans OIG
@NOLAOIG



11:36 AM · Jan 20, 2022 · Twitter Web App



New Orleans OIG
@NOLAOIG



The New Orleans OIG December 2021 report can be located here:

nolaoig.gov/images/reports...

11:35 AM · Jan 7, 2022 · Twitter Web App