

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



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IG Releases Report on NOPD Arrests for Minor Infractions

The New Orleans Inspector General today released the results of an assessment of the impact of policies the City enacted in 2008 to reduce the number of arrests for low-level, non-violent offenses. The OIG's assessment found that in 2009, despite the policy changes, the City continued to arrest and jail too many individuals for minor infractions. The OIG found that the City's arrest rate was more than three times the national average and about half of all arrests resulted from municipal code infractions, traffic violations, or out-of-parish warrants for minor offenses such as unpaid traffic fines. Arrests for minor offenses cost the City more than \$3 million in payments to Orleans Parish Prison in 2009, and thousands of hours of NOPD time.

Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux said, "The City is undertaking important reforms to improve the criminal justice system. This assessment shows that it will take a sustained effort to bring longstanding NOPD practices in line with new policies. The OIG will continue to monitor and report on NOPD practices to ensure that policy reforms bring about the changes that citizens want."

The full report can be viewed and downloaded from the OIG website at <http://www.nolaoig.org>.

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