

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



ED QUATREVAUX
INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 14, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Laura Paul
lpaul@nolaog.org
(504) 344-4884

ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED IN CITY PROCUREMENT

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General (OIG) today released its report “Review of the City’s Procurement Documents, 2013-2014.”

OIG evaluators reviewed 128 solicitations representing \$112 million in estimated expenditures and provided feedback to the City’s Procurement Office throughout 2013 to improve the quality of procurement processes and documents and produce better value in City contracting and purchasing. Evaluators monitored procurement documents in 2014 and reviewed selected solicitations to determine whether the City made improvements based on previous OIG comments.

OIG evaluators identified several recurring issues based on the review of the solicitations issued in 2013 and 2014; the summary report included the following observations:

- The second phase of the City’s process for selecting contractors via requests for qualifications (RFQs) was not conducted in accordance with Executive Order MJL 10-05 and the Home Rule Charter, which require selection committees to review and evaluate proposals and make selections in meetings noticed and open to the public.
- Many of the requests for proposals (RFPs) issued by the City did not include sufficient reporting requirements, did not specifically describe how the selected contractor’s work would be evaluated, and did not include penalties/incentives for failing to meet or exceeding performance expectations.
- Some of the professional service solicitations issued by the City did not state clearly how cost proposals would be evaluated and/or did not identify the intended quantity and/or duration of the services being requested.

“The current administration has increased the transparency and fairness of the procurement process,” said Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux. “But additional improvement is needed to ensure the best value for public dollars.”

The OIG's suggestions for future improvements include conducting all selection committee reviews and evaluations in meetings noticed and open to the public, outlining useful performance standards and penalty/incentive mechanisms in procurement documents, and ensuring information related to cost proposals and service expectations are stated clearly in all RFPs.

The OIG will continue to monitor the City's procurement process and solicitations in 2015 and issue public reports when issues are identified.

The report is attached to this news release. Other reports issued by the Office of Inspector General can be viewed and downloaded from the website at <http://www.nolaoig.org>.

###