

August 4, 2021

Honorable Jason Williams  
Orleans Parish District Attorney  
619 South White Street  
New Orleans LA 70119

Re: Hard Rock Building Collapse, 1031 Canal Street,  
New Orleans, LA, October 12, 2019



Dear Mr. Williams,

On October 12, 2019, there was a catastrophic collapse of a building under construction at 1031 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA known as the Hard Rock Hotel. During the collapse, three individuals perished and dozens of other individuals were injured. The Office of Inspector General (“OIG”) has investigated allegations of criminal conduct in relation to this project. During our investigation, we have had several communications and meetings with your Office.

Please note that OIG’s jurisdiction is limited to preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse, while promoting efficiency and effectiveness in city programs and operations. Our oversight includes audits, criminal and administrative investigations, inspections and evaluations, and monitoring. As you know, the 1031 Canal Street construction project was a private venture and therefore investigation of private parties is outside of our jurisdiction. As you know when we initially met on March 3, 2021, we advised you of the above and that this office would be preparing reports detailing the actions of City employees only.

These attached reports recommend that your office file felony charges against both Thomas Dwyer (140 Pages) and Eric Treadaway (134 pages) for violating Louisiana Revised States 14:133-Filing or Maintaining False Public Records and 14:134-Malfeasance in Office. Please note that these recommended charges are not prescribed under Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 572 A(2) which permits felony prosecutions within 4 years of the commission of the offense. The conduct detailed in these two reports is similar to the 240 page report provided to you regarding Julie Tweeter.

This report was prepared by experienced investigators with significant expertise in federal, state, and local criminal investigations. If called to testify, they are free from *Giglio* issues. In addition, this report was reviewed by our outside general counsel, a former Assistant United States attorney with extensive experience in federal and state criminal prosecutions. OSHA has prepared a report focusing on construction and safety violations that are within their purview.

Since this is an ongoing criminal investigation, the OIG does not intend to make any public statements regarding the investigation or release this report to the public per La R.S. La R.S 44:3(A)(1) as any release may compromise other investigations, audits or evaluations that are ongoing by our office. If you do not intend to pursue these matters criminally, it is requested to you contact this office with your decision prior to making that decision public so our office can coordinate the administrative portion of these

investigations. La R.S. La R.S 44:3(A)(1), states: Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to require disclosures of records, or the information contained therein, held by the offices of the attorney general, district attorneys, sheriffs, police departments, Department of Public Safety and Corrections, marshals, investigators, public health investigators, correctional agencies, communications districts, intelligence agencies, Council on Peace Officer Standards and Training, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, or publicly owned water districts of the state, which records are:

- (1) Records pertaining to pending criminal litigation or any criminal litigation which can be reasonably anticipated, until such litigation has been finally adjudicated or otherwise settled, except as otherwise provided in Subsection F of this Section.

Thank you for your attention to this report. If you or your staff have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to our offices working together on the prosecution of this matter.

Sincerely,



Edward Michel  
Interim Inspector General  
Office of Inspector General  
City of New Orleans