

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



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CITIZEN INSPECTORS TO VERIFY SANITATION PICKUPS

The City of New Orleans Inspector General today announced that a Citizen Verification Project will inspect the service locations identified by the City's sanitation contractors.

Sanitation contractors were paid for several years on the basis of pre-contract estimates. The number is crucial because the cost of pickup more than doubled from before Katrina and represents 23% of the City deficit identified by the Administration.

About 200 volunteers for this Citizen Verification Project will be provided by Common Good and its supporting organizations under the direction of Dr. Michael Cowan. Volunteers will check about 2000 addresses drawn at random from the contractor lists. They will be trained by the OIG next week and complete their reports by October 24th. The project has been designed to produce 99% confidence in an interval of plus or minus 5 percent of the actual number.

Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux said, "There are three possible outcomes: the contractors are paid about right, or overpaid or underpaid. The important thing is to resolve the issue." He also said, "This kind of project would not be possible without the contribution made by this diverse group of citizen volunteers."

The results will be provided to the Administration and City Council by October 28, 2010.