

A New Path Forward

2021 Annual Report



**NEW ORLEANS OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Edward Michel, CIG
Inspector General

The OIG identified

\$120,432,213

in potential savings to the City
between 2009 and 2021

2021 Reports and Public Letters

Report of Investigation - Homestead
Exemption

City-Wide Risk Assessment Report

Three Reports of Investigation - Safety
and Permits Inspectors

Public Letter - Fourth Circuit Court
Reaffirms OIG Jurisdiction

Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans
Internal Audit Follow-up Report

Report of Investigation - Orleans Parish
Communications District NCIC User Access

Job Order Contracting Policies and
Procedures

Report of Investigation - New Orleans
Aviation Board NAPA Auto Parts

Report of Investigation - Sewerage and
Water Employee Misconduct

Bureau of Purchasing Competitive Bidding
Inspection

2021 Press Releases

Department of Justice Irvin Mayfield and
Ronald Markham Sentenced to
Imprisonment for Defrauding the New
Orleans Public Library Foundation.

Department of Justice Brian Medus
Rearraignment and Conviction

Department of Justice James Mohamad
Charged with Conspiracy and Tax Fraud

Table of Contents

Letter to the Ethics Review Board	3
Message from the Inspector General	4
Our Mission and Vision	5
Our Professional Staff	6
A Noticeable Difference	7
OIG Improvements	8
Purpose and Commitment	9
Audit and Review	10
Our Work Matters	12
Investigations	13
Inspections and Evaluations	16
Administration	17
Community Outreach & Social Media	18
Transparency Matters	19
On the Horizon	21
Continuing the Path Forward	24

Compliance with City Code Sec. 2-1120

This report complies with City Code Sec. 2-1120(9), which directs the Inspector General to “report annually to the ethics review board on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the preceding calendar year.” Copies of the report are to be distributed to the Mayor, City Council, the media, and the public according to the ordinance’s directives.

Letter to the Ethics Review Board

March 31, 2022

Dear Members of the New Orleans Ethics Review Board,

Pursuant to the New Orleans Home Rule Charter and applicable ordinances, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) is privileged to submit its 2021 Annual Report. The Annual Report summarizes the full scope of work and other activities engaged in by the OIG during the previous calendar year.

The Annual Report highlights the professionalism, dedication, and the quality of the reports prepared by the OIG staff. In addition, the Annual Report demonstrates the OIG's achievement in fulfilling our statutory responsibilities including the assessment of risks across various city agencies. Highlights from the Annual Report provide potential economic loss prevented (PELP), potential savings, and questioned costs identified by the OIG's findings and recommendations in 2021. This report represents a significant increase in OIG production which enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of New Orleans City Government.

Thank you for your support and the work you do to ensure the success of the OIG. I also extend our sincere appreciation to the City Agencies, Boards, and Commissions, and other external stakeholders that support our efforts to mitigate fraud, waste, and abuse.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Michel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "M".

Edward Michel, CIG
Inspector General

Message from the Inspector General

On behalf of the dedicated public servants of the New Orleans Office of Inspector General (OIG), I am pleased to present the 2021 OIG Annual Report. The OIG assessed and mitigated risks utilizing specialized teams of Auditors, Evaluators, Investigators and Forensic Information Technology specialists. We have produced 12 reports and identified more than \$3.4 million in potential savings. Our partnership with Federal Law Enforcement and Intelligence agencies prompted the indictment and convictions of individuals who stole more than \$1 million from the New Orleans Public Library Foundation.

During this global health crisis, the OIG redesigned our business practices to ensure the health and safety of our employees while still increasing our number of reports released annually from four to 12. This report reflects the value the OIG team brings to the City of New Orleans as we promote a culture of accountability and transparency.

After serving as the Interim Inspector General since November 1, 2020, I had the honor of being appointed Inspector General on December 15, 2021. I am humbled daily by the dedication of the OIG team as well as the passion of our citizens. 2021 was a year of transition for the OIG due to a challenging environment posed by Covid-19, as well as our re-organization. However, we have embraced these challenges and continued to create opportunities to ensure efficient and effective City operations.

Our ability to collect bulk data is directly linked to our capacity to properly secure and transmit information. Thus, the OIG has enhanced the integrity of our information systems and incorporated a more proactive fraud mitigation stance, expanding the analysis of bulk data to more effectively eliminate fraud, waste and abuse.

We have also ensured the Assistant Chief Mechanical Engineer for the New Orleans Safety and Permits Department, who utilized his public office for personal gain, was held accountable for his actions in the form of a federal indictment and conviction. We published reports to assist the Sewerage and Water Board, as well as the Department of Property Management, which will improve their operations as they incorporate our recommendations to ensure efficiency. At the time of the publication of this report, we have released the reports focused on the Firefighters' Pension Fund, 311 Potholes, and planning on the release of the reports on the BRASS Purchasing and Accounts Payable Internal Controls, and the Department of Public Works and Sewerage and Water Board Repair Coordination Audit.

I am pleased to announce the OIG received its Peer Review from the Association of Inspectors Generals (AIG) which determined the OIG complied with professional standards. The OIG is grateful for the continued support of the public as well as the leadership and direction from the Ethics Review Board. We look forward to increasing our public and private stakeholder partnerships in the future. Finally, I want to thank the talented staff of the OIG. Our office is truly fortunate to have such dedicated public servants. As we reflect on a difficult year caused by the pandemic, we look forward to the future with a new commitment and a renewed sense of purpose fostered by public service.

I am honored to serve as your Inspector General. I will humbly but vigorously lead the New Orleans Office of Inspector General in fulfilling its mission to ensure the effective mitigation of fraud, waste and abuse.

Sincerely,



Edward Michel, CIG



Our Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Mission

To improve the programs and operations of the City of New Orleans through independent and objective oversight.

Vision Statement

To be recognized for our contributions to improved City performance.

- We work as a seamless, integrated team delivering valuable reports which benefit the public and support decision-makers in the City of New Orleans.
- We are an integral, and trusted broker to our stakeholders.
- We are catalysts for positive change throughout the City.
- We have a diverse, competent, enthusiastic, and productive workforce and a cadre of effective leaders at every level of the organization.
- We have credible risk assessment processes that drive strategic and operational plans, priorities, and programs.
- We have efficient, effective processes and state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Core Values

Integrity

- We are honest, ethical, and objective.
- We hold ourselves to high standards and are willing to take tough stances.
- We honor our commitments to each other and our stakeholders.

Excellence

- We are forward-looking and seize opportunities to improve City-wide performance.
- We deliver timely, relevant, and high-impact products and services.

Accountability

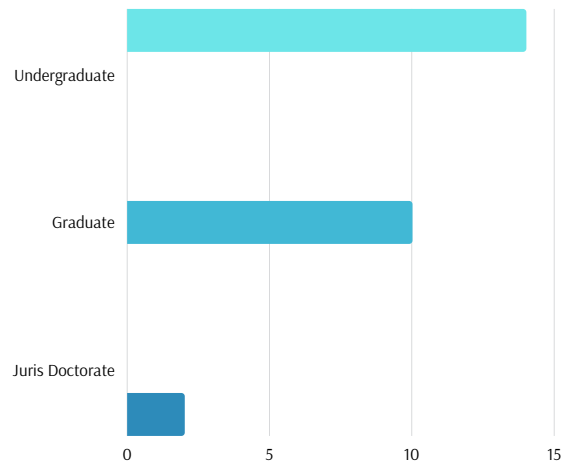
- We operate as independent, transparent, and trusted brokers serving our stakeholders.
- We are passionate about delivering results that drive positive change.
- We are trustworthy and can be counted on to do what we say.



OIG Professional Staff

Education

The OIG staff collectively possess undergraduate, graduate, and juris doctorate degrees, making us a recognized leader in recruiting an educated workforce. These degrees include disciplines in Accounting, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Political Science, and Public Administration.



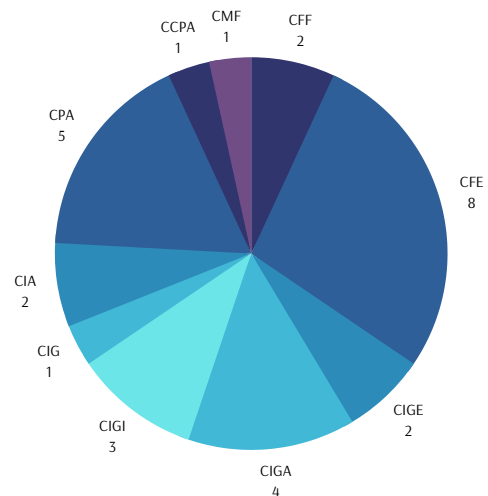
Experience



OIG professional staff has more than 200 years of combined work experience, ranging from federal law enforcement investigations to auditing Fortune 500 companies. Our staff utilizes their collective expertise to ensure we can effectively engage with City leadership to audit, evaluate, and investigate a multitude of City programs and services.

Professional Designations

In addition to our compliance with the annual Code of Governmental Ethics training mandated by the Louisiana Board of Ethics Administration, OIG staff completed numerous training sessions and participated in online webinars to earn their requisite hours of Continuing Professional Education credits. These credits are required to maintain our professional designations such as the Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Certified Inspector General Investigator (CIGI), Cellebrite Mobile Forensics (CMF), Cellebrite Certified Physical Analyst (CCPA), and Certified Inspector General (CIG).



A Noticable Difference

2022 Proposed Budget Hearings

The OIG presented our 2022 Budget proposal to the City Council on Thursday, November 11, 2021. During this time, the OIG discussed augmentation of personnel, 2021 projects, successes, and ongoing initiatives.



"I want to thank you all for your work as there has been a noticeable difference since you've come on board, Mr. Michel... and we've been very pleased with the work product..."

*-Kristen Gisleson Palmer
Former City Councilmember, District C*

Inspector General Edward Michel presented the annual OIG budget to the City Council.



"The work of the Inspector General is vital to ensuring open, honest, and responsible use of public funds, and promotes the efficiency of government programs while uncovering fraud, waste, and abuse. Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans were strong advocates for the establishment of the Office of the Inspector General as part of the reforms and revitalization in our city after Hurricane Katrina, and we continue to support its mission and work."

Blair duQuesnay

Chair, Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans



OIG Improvements

1. Budget Refinement - achieved through improved budget management and procurement.
2. IT Infrastructure Upgrades - significantly improved performance, availability, and storage.
3. Personnel Augmentation - hired and expanded workforce.
4. Increased Community Outreach - conducted via social media and in-person presentations.
5. Enhancement of Partnerships - increased collaboration with various local, state, and federal entities.

OIG Partnerships



"Inspectors General with no independence or authority result in the mere appearance of oversight, which is much worse than no oversight at all."

Stephen B. Street Jr.
President, Association of Inspectors General



Purpose and Commitment



*includes Boards, Commissions, and Component Entities

IN 2021

The OIG cost

\$2.9 M



Identified in potential savings†

\$3.4 M



FROM 2009-2021

The OIG cost

\$40.1 M



Identified in potential savings†

\$120.4 M



Revenue generated from OIG recommendations

\$21 M



.....†OIG investigations, audits, and evaluations may uncover significant inefficiencies that, if left unchecked, would cause potential economic loss.

Reports and Public Letters 2009 – 2021

177



12 REPORTS AND PUBLIC LETTERS IN 2021

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Procurement | 3 | Orleans Parish District Attorney |
| 1 | New Orleans Aviation Board | 1 | Assessor's Office |
| 1 | Property Management | 1 | Risk Assessment |
| 2 | Orleans Parish Communications District | | |
| 2 | Sewerage and Water Board | | |

PRIORITIES AND PERSISTENCE

Public safety remained one of the OIG's top priorities. The OIG completed our investigation into allegations that three Safety & Permit employees failed to conduct onsite inspections of cement pours prior to the collapse of the Hard Rock Hotel.

The Orleans Parish Communication District (OPCD) challenged the OIG's jurisdiction to audit City funds. Our persistence paid off. The OIG prevailed in Civil District Court and the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, who affirmed the OIG's jurisdiction over the OPCD.

Audit and Review

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

City-Wide Risk Assessment

In February 2021, the OIG released the City-Wide Risk Assessment Report, which was developed to systematically assess risks within the City. The OIG obtained and reviewed over 1,000 documents. To assess risk, the OIG obtained questionnaires, internal policies, and other documentation related to governance. The OIG also conducted interviews of City employees and reviewed news coverage, external audits, and any other publicly available information.

The OIG reviewed information pertaining to \$2.5 billion in revenues and \$2.4 billion in expenditures.

The risk assessment provides the OIG with pertinent information to allocate its resources efficiently and effectively, identify potential projects, and create a framework to develop audit and evaluation priorities in future years.



Top 10 Highest Risk Entities	
1	Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office
2	Sewerage and Water Board
3	Orleans Parish Communication District
4	New Orleans East Hospital
5	Information Technology & Innovation
6	Department of Public Works
7	Finance Department
8	Office of Homeland Security
9	Health Department
10	Procurement Department



“The New Orleans Office of Inspector General is once again a dynamic force in exposing and suppressing waste, fraud, and abuse. The Metropolitan Crime Commission commends the dedicated staff of the Inspector General's Office for their professionalism and service to the people of the City of New Orleans.”

Rafael Goyeneche III

President, Metropolitan Crime Commission



Audit and Review

Sewerage and Water Board Internal Audit Follow-Up

The OIG Audit and Review Division performed a follow-up audit in August 2021 of the Sewerage and Water Board's (S&WB) Internal Audit Department's initial performance audit issued in August 2019.

While the follow-up audit noted some improvements, the S&WB did not establish a functioning Internal Audit Department. The S&WB Internal Audit Department did not:

- Develop an annual risk assessment or an annual audit plan.
- Communicate its performance relative to any audit plan to the S&WB's Audit Committee.
- Develop or implement an internal or external quality assurance and improvement program.
- Prepare or include any planning documents as part of the audit file.
- Prepare workpapers that included sufficient supporting documentation and/or information to support the engagement's results and conclusions.
- Communicate resource requirements to the Audit Committee.

As reported by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the average fraud detected by a functional internal audit department is \$1.1 million. The S&WB is searching for a Chief Audit Executive to develop the internal audit department which could identify millions in fraud, waste, and abuse.



Sewerage and Water Board entrance on St. Joseph St.

Our Work Matters

2021 Investigations

Administrative Actions

3 Terminations
3 Suspensions
17 Written Warnings

23

Criminal Actions

2 Indictments 1 Arrest
1 Conviction
2 Sentencings

6

Complaints Investigated

5 Criminal
11 Administrative
4 Ethical

20

Investigations Completed

1 Administrative
1 Criminal
1 Ethical

3

Total 52



The OIG is currently conducting joint investigations with the Louisiana State Licensing Board for contractors (LSLBC).

“Over the past few years, the LSLBC has worked together with the New Orleans Office of Inspector General in a joint effort to protect the public from unlawful and fraudulent acts of those who engage in contracting. Thanks to this partnership with the OIG, the construction industry’s integrity is further protected, and the public’s trust is preserved.”

Michael McDuff
Executive Director, LSLBC



REPORT FRAUD TO THE OIG

Hotline: 504-681-3247 • Fax: 504-681-3230 • Website: www.nolaoig.gov

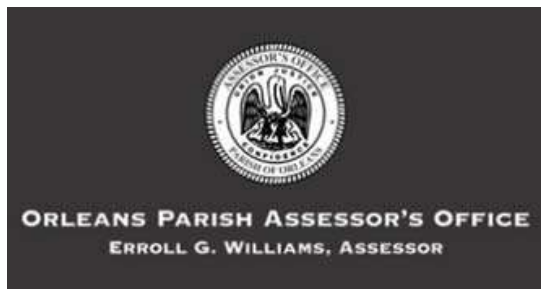
Investigations

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.

Homestead Exemption for the Deceased?

In 2021, the OIG submitted documentation to the Orleans Parish Assessor's Office concerning 18 residential properties which continued to receive a homestead exemption and senior freeze reduction despite the listed homeowner reportedly being deceased.

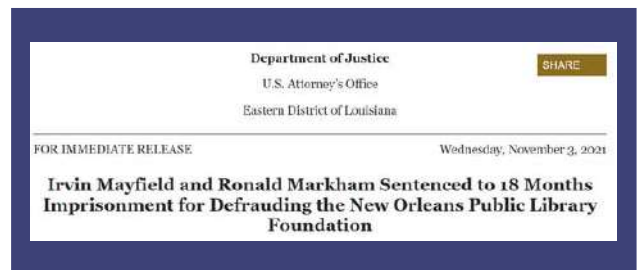
The OIG also notified the Orleans Parish Assessor about two (2) Orleans Parish property owners who were claiming multiple homestead exemptions.



Caught Stealing from the Library!

In November 2021, New Orleans native and trumpeter Irvin Mayfield and his business partner, Ronald Markham, were sentenced to 18 months in prison, approximately one year after pleading guilty to defrauding the New Orleans Public Library Foundation.

In addition, they were ordered to pay \$1.123 million in restitution to the Library Foundation. Mayfield was also ordered to provide 500 hours of free trumpet and music lessons to children once he is released from prison.



"The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana remains committed to the mission of the U.S. Department of Justice to enforce the law, defend the interests of the United States, ensure public safety against threats both foreign and domestic, to prevent and control crime, seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior, and ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans." As stated by United States Attorney Duane A. Evans. "Only through sustained collaboration with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, can our office continue to hold criminals accountable for their actions in our District."

United States Attorney's Office



Investigations

Inspector General Recommends Felony Charges

In late July 2021, and early August 2021, the OIG issued three Reports of Investigation (ROI) to District Attorney Jason Williams concerning former City Building Inspectors who failed to conduct onsite inspections prior to the collapse of the under construction Hard Rock Hotel located at 1031 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA.



Inspector General recommends charges against two more Hard Rock Hotel inspectors

By Lee Zurik and Cody Lillish

Published: Aug. 4, 2021 at 5:59 PM CDT



NEW ORLEANS (WVUE) - The New Orleans Office of Inspector General has recommended charges be filed against two additional city inspectors who likely did not physically inspect the Hard Rock Hotel construction site before its collapse. The multi-story construction site collapsed in October 2019, killing three workers on the site.

Newsworthy Investigations

Orleans Parish Communication District

The OIG issued a ROI concerning Orleans Parish Communication District Operations Manager Wendy Ervin, who was given access to the Louisiana Law Enforcement Telecommunications System and the National Crime Information Center despite being a convicted felon.

Sewerage and Water Board

Two S&WB employees were suspended for numerous instances of performing residential gas line work for monetary compensation as private licensees while on duty.

One S&WB Special Agent was suspended without pay for allegedly engaging in fraudulent activity.

Safety and Permits

One City Inspector resigned while under investigation in lieu of suspension.



Zurik: Sewerage and Water Board Special Agent suspended without pay amid investigation over detail work



By Lee Zurik and Cody Lillish

Published: Dec. 10, 2021 at 4:55 PM CST



NEW ORLEANS (WVUE) - A senior special agent for the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board has been suspended without pay after separate investigations by the Office of Inspector General and FOX 8 News questioned the employee's use of the police detail program.

Investigations

Collaborating With External Partners

The OIG has been on the front lines, as well as collaborating with external partners in combating fraud, waste, and abuse. In August 2021, Brian Medus, Chief Mechanical Inspector for the City of New Orleans Safety and Permits Department, pled guilty to violating Title 18, United State Code, Section 371 and 1952(a)(3), conspiracy to use an interstate facility with intent to carry on unlawful activity. This investigation was conducted with the FBI, US. Attorney's Office, and the Metropolitan Crime Commission.

James Mohamad was charged in a 5-count superseding indictment by a federal Grand Jury with conspiracy to use an interstate facility with intent to carry on unlawful activity (Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371 and 1952(a)(3)) and filing false tax returns (Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1)). The US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana issued a press release which credited the OIG with participation in the investigation along with the FBI and the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations.

According to the superseding indictment, Mohamad, the Director of the Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement for the City of Kenner, paid bribe money to Brian Medus, the Assistant Chief Mechanical Inspector for the City of New Orleans, Safety and Permits Department, in return for the issuance of fraudulent permits for Mohamad's HVAC jobs.



Investigative Results	2009 - 2021
Criminal Actions (Arrests, Indictments, Convictions, and Sentencings)	179
Administrative Actions (Written Warnings, Suspensions, Resignations, and Terminations)	123
PELP (Potential Economic Loss Prevented)	\$44,825,821
Recoveries from Homestead Exemption Revocations	\$61,137

Inspections and Evaluations

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 methodologically sound inspections, evaluations, and performance reviews.

Department of Property Management

The OIG's report revealed that when the Department of Property Management (DPM) issued Job Order Contracts, it did not fully comply with the requirements of CAO Policy Memorandum No. 113(R). This was due in part to contradictory guidance from the Bureau of Purchasing and the Law Department, as well as policy provisions which were not applicable to this unique procurement mechanism.

Between January 2017 and July 2020, the City spent \$393,480 in license fees to manage the Job Order Contracts Program. Because of the OIG's report, the City discontinued the program in 2021. These costs will no longer be incurred and will result in savings to the the City for years to come.

Bureau of Purchasing

The Competitive Bidding inspection report found that a high percentage of the City's competitive procurements received limited responses. The report acknowledged that the Bureau of Purchasing made several efforts to improve competition in the procurement process. These efforts included surveys sent to vendors who did not submit responses, as well as requesting information related to their reasoning for non-response.

However, the City did not have a way to analyze this information and other procurement data. Because a variety of factors may impact vendor responsiveness, the OIG recommended the City develop a process for analyzing procurement data, implementing improvements based on the trends identified in this data, and monitoring the effectiveness of its efforts to improve competition.

"Effective competitive procurement practices are critical to efficiency in city government. These recommendations are intended to help the Bureau of Purchasing ensure public funds are utilized in an efficient and effective manner."

- Inspector General Edward Michel



"FBI New Orleans stands with our local, state, and federal partners to work diligently and relentlessly to ensure the safety and security of our neighborhoods and communities. In August 2021, FBI New Orleans' collaborative work with City of New Orleans Office of Inspector General, Metropolitan Crime Commission, and U.S. Attorney's Office resulted in the guilty plea of former New Orleans City Inspector Brian Medus who conspired in a bribery scheme involving falsification of inspection permits and records. The FBI is committed to aggressively pursuing those who violate the public trust and holding them accountable for their actions. We thank our partners for their joint commitment to disrupt public corruption in Louisiana."

Douglas A. Williams, Jr.

FBI New Orleans Special Agent in Charge



Administration

The OIG Administration includes Executive Management, the Office Manager, and the IT Security Specialist. These individuals facilitate the daily administrative operations of the OIG, which include procurement, human resources, information technology, and legal matters.

IT Infrastructure Upgrades

The OIG Information Security Specialist is responsible for the OIG's information technology (IT) resiliency in the following areas:

- Reliability - Network Switches
- Efficiency - New Computers
- Accountability - New Next Generation Firewalls
- Security - Combination of network switches and firewalls

The OIG's IT infrastructure upgrades prove to be a significant enhancement when it comes to IT performance, availability, and storage for our IT Division.



Budget and Personnel



The OIG's Executive Management team and Office Manager completed a variety of ongoing tasks. Management is consistently engaged in the following:

- Human Resources
 - Coordinating the hiring process
- Finance
 - Managing and refining the OIG budget
- Procurement Process
 - Communicating with OIG vendors
 - Processing requisitions to create purchase orders
 - Overseeing the timely payment of OIG expenditures
- Operations
 - Coordinating with the OIG's landlord and various City departments on administrative matters

Community Outreach & Social Media

Throughout 2021, the OIG embarked on a campaign to mitigate fraud, waste, and abuse through awareness and education. To that end, the Inspector General participated in several community forums and actively engaged in the social media arena to discuss the new direction of the office.



The New Orleans OIG received the Excellence in Law Enforcement Award from the Metropolitan Crime Commission at the Annual Awards Ceremony.



"An educated public is an informed public."
- Inspector General Edward Michel



New Orleans OIG @NOLAIG - Oct 5
It was an honor to present 'Homestead Exemption Fraud' to the New Orleans City Council today.

Report fraud, waste and abuse at nolaig.gov.



3 5 12



New Orleans OIG @NOLAIG

It was a pleasure to attend the Metropolitan Crime Commission Executive Board Meeting and discuss OIG initiatives for Jefferson and Orleans Parish.



"The halls of power are all too often littered with the corrupt. It has been said that power corrupts. However, it has also been my experience that positions of power, by their nature, attract the inherently corruptible. The only tools available to the otherwise helpless citizen to combat this inevitability are the Vote and the Office of the Inspector General!"

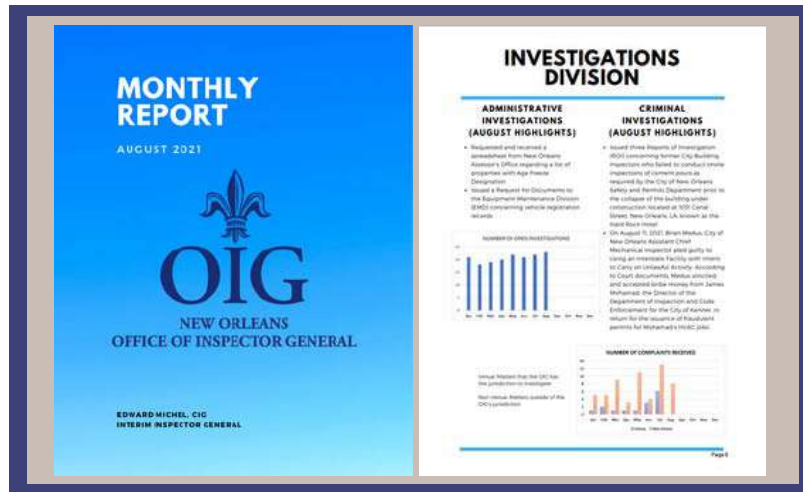
Peter Waring
Rotary Club of New Orleans



Transparency Matters

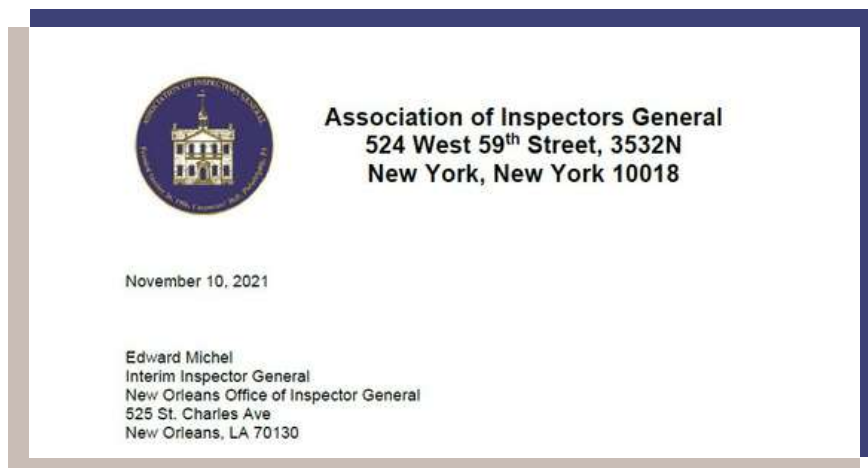
The Redesigned Monthly Report

The OIG projected a fresh perspective in August 2021 with the revised and improved monthly report to the Ethics Review Board (ERB). It features detailed information and charts that provide visual representations of the work performed by the OIG staff and demonstrates how the OIG utilizes its limited resources in an efficient and effective manner.



Peer Review

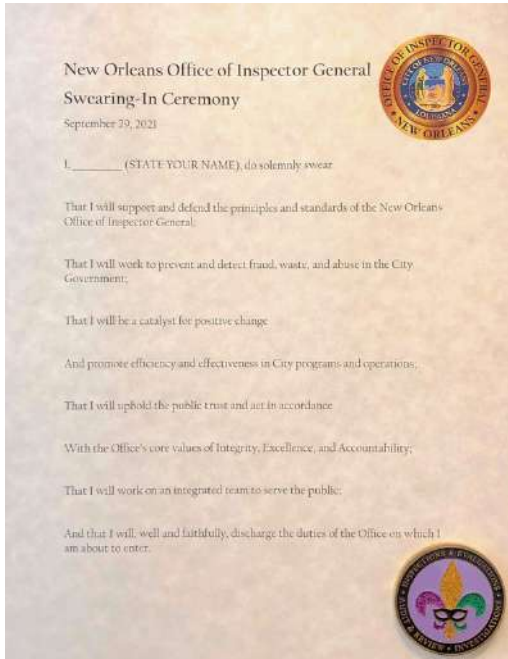
In October 2021, several Association of Inspectors General (AIG) members conducted the OIG's triannual Peer Review. The purpose was to assess and ensure the OIG complied with the AIG Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General and/or the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) Government Auditing Standards. The Peer Review Team found the OIG complied with the AIG Principles and Standards and the GAO Government Auditing Standards.



Transparency Matters

Oath of Office Ceremony

On September 29, 2021, the OIG staff reaffirmed their commitment to the OIG and participated in a swearing-in ceremony. Several ERB members were in attendance to witness the event. This event memorialized the OIG's renewed commitment to preventing fraud, waste, and abuse within the City of New Orleans.



On the Horizon

2022 Annual Work Plan

In accordance with Section 2-1120(17), the Inspector General shall present to the ERB an annual work plan no later than September 1st of each year. The purpose of the 2022 Work Plan is to communicate the OIG's priorities and objectives to the public, the Mayor, the City Council, the ERB, and all interested parties.

The OIG conducts a planning process that identifies goals, priorities, and strategies which align with our mission and vision while effectively using available resources.



PROJECTS UNDERWAY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

- BRASS Purchasing & Accounts Payable Internal Controls
- Department of Public Works and Sewerage and Water Board Repair Coordination Audit
- New Orleans Firefighters' Pension Fund Governance and Investment Policies Evaluation*
- NOLA 3-1-1 Pothole Repair Inspection*
- Orleans Parish Communication District Credit Card Expenditures Audit
- Safety and Permits City Employee Inspections Audit

*These projects were released in March 2022.



On the Horizon

2022 Annual Work Plan

Anticipated Projects*

- City of New Orleans Property Transfers to the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority
- Department of Code Enforcement Traffic Cameras - Follow-up
- Edward Wisner Donation
- Homestead Exemption Fraud
- New Orleans Police Department Violent Crime Response Analysis
- Orleans Parish Communication District Procurement Practices
- Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office Operational Processes and Procedures
- Public Corruption
 - Conduct fraud awareness trainings for City employees and contractors
 - Conduct investigations and refer evidence to appropriate authorities

*The OIG may review or modify the anticipated projects as circumstances warrant.



Edward Wisner Donation - Properties



On the Horizon

OIG Prevails Over OPCD in the LA 4th Circuit

The Orleans Parish Communication District (OPCD) is the Public Safety Answering Point for all 9-1-1 emergency communications and all 3-1-1 non-emergency communications within Orleans Parish.

During 2020, the OIG became aware of OPCD's external auditors reporting of numerous internal control deficiencies relating to purchasing, disbursements, and cash management. During the initial request for information, OPCD provided limited information and challenged the OIG's jurisdictional authority.

To resolve the jurisdiction issue, the OIG retained outside legal representation. As noted in the OIG press release, both the Civil District Court and the Fourth Circuit Court affirms the OIG's jurisdictional authority.

Our review of the OPCD operations is currently underway.


Appeals court rules New Orleans 911 must provide financial records to inspector general


The communications district had argued that 911 was not part of the city government and not answerable to the inspector general.

Share   

WDSU 

Updated: 8:01 AM CDT Aug 7, 2021

Infinite Scroll Enabled 

 Greg LaRose



 NEW ORLEANS OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

EDWARD MICHEL
INTERIM INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEDIA CONTACT: ANA REYNA

August 6, 2021
Phone Number: 504-681-3200

**Fourth Circuit Court reaffirms Office of Inspector General
jurisdiction**

Citizens Academy



Our Citizens Academy program is an engaging four-week program that gives business, religious, civic, and community leaders an inside look at the OIG.

The mission of the OIG Citizens Academy is to foster a greater understanding of the role and mission of the OIG in the community through discussion and education. Upon completion, attendees will have a greater understanding of how the OIG assesses and mitigates fraud, waste, abuse and public corruption, as well as the proper protocols for reporting fraudulent behavior. Candidates can request to attend by visiting our website at: www.nola.oig.gov

Continuing the Path Forward

NOW HIRING

The OIG currently has openings for a General Counsel, Criminal Investigators, Forensic Auditors, Inspectors and Evaluators, and Interns.

We are looking for people who are dedicated and passionate to continue the OIG's mission and vision.

The OIG serves the citizens of New Orleans and provides independent and objective reporting to the Ethics Review Board, Mayor, City Council, New Orleans residents, and other interested parties.

Visit our website for more information: www.nolaoig.gov



COURAGE
FAIRNESS
OBJECTIVITY
INTEGRITY
PROFESSIONALISM
FORTHRIGHTNESS
ACCOUNTABILITY
RESPECT
TRUST
HONESTY
COMPETENCE
INDEPENDENCE
CONFIDENTIALITY



Edward Michel, CIG
Inspector General

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