

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY INSPECTORS FAILED TO SHOW FOR INSPECTIONS.

As detailed in the Department of Safety and Permits Inspections Audit report released today, the Office of Inspector General conducted a performance of all building, mechanical and electrical permit inspections conducted by City inspectors during the period April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020.

The audit resulted in the following major findings:

- City inspectors did not perform in-person inspections for 20% of the inspections selected for review.
- City inspectors did not spend adequate time conducting inspections, spending ten minutes or less for 40% of the inspections reviewed.
- City inspectors did not upload required documentation into LAMA¹ in violation of S&P policies and procedures.

Based on these findings, the OIG made the following recommendations to the City:

- S&P management should update and enforce S&P policies and procedures in order to ensure that City inspectors are conducting on-site inspections. S&P should also verify on a quarterly basis that GPS is installed and working for all vehicles driven by City inspectors. (The OIG found that GPS data was not available for all S&P vehicles reviewed.)
- S&P should require that City inspectors complete an inspection checklist that details the required steps necessary for each type of inspection. City inspectors should upload the checklist into LAMA to document that a comprehensive inspection was conducted.
- S&P supervisors should perform regular quality checks to ensure City inspectors upload required documentation into LAMA for all inspections.

Improperly performed inspections could lead to catastrophic and deadly situations. It is imperative that City inspectors perform their inspections in accordance with S&P policies and procedures before an inspection is passed to ensure buildings and work comply with applicable Codes and approved Plans.

¹ S&P tracked workflow and stored information related to the building permit process using geographic information system (GIS)-based Land Management software (LAMA).

“The responsibilities of the Department of Safety and Permits include enforcing standards for the construction of commercial and residential buildings within the City. Inspectors must be adequately trained and conduct all inspections in-person in order to properly ensure the safety of the citizens of New Orleans.”

The Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors provided support to the OIG in conducting this audit. In addition to today’s report, the OIG released a brief with highlights. Go to www.nolaog.gov to view all OIG reports.