

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **FORWARD TOGETHER NEW ORLEANS RETURNS MONIES TO THE CITY**

On April 27, 2022, the New Orleans City Council adopted Resolution No. R-22-203 requesting that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigate monies being awarded to nongovernmental agencies through one-year Cooperative Endeavor Agreements, including public monies diverted to Forward Together New Orleans (FTNO). On that same date, the City Council also adopted Resolution No. R-22-202 freezing the disbursement of proceeds from the Wisner Trust, the source of funds to FTNO, among other organizations, without Council approval pending resolution of the issues being litigated in the *City Council of City of New Orleans vs. Edward Wisner Donation, et al* lawsuit.

On September 2, 2022, the OIG subpoenaed records regarding the aforementioned FTNO financial transactions.

On October 20, 2022, a hearing was held in Orleans Parish Civil District Court in a lawsuit filed by the Board of FTNO against its former executive director Shaun Randolph. During the hearing, Allen Miller, attorney for FTNO, advised the Court that FTNO intended to return all City funds in its possession once a final judgment is issued.

After a final judgment was rendered in the FTNO lawsuit, the OIG requested verification from the City that funds received from the City and held by FTNO had been returned to the City. On February 9, 2023, the City responded to this request and confirmed that a cashier's check dated January 27, 2023, in the amount \$1,063,410.40 was received from FTNO.

### *OIG QUOTE*

*The mission of the Office of Inspector General is to identify and mitigate fraud, waste and abuse. In times of limited resources and increasing threats, the City must ensure proper Stewardship of its limited resources. The OIG is an independent agency and will continue to facilitate the efficient and effective utilization of the City's limited resources as we identify and mitigate risks facing the City.*

*-Edward Michel, Inspector General*

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