

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



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**SLOPPY RECORD KEEPING, LAX SUPERVISION, VAGUE RESPONSE RULES FOUND IN ELECTRONIC
MONITORING PROGRAM**

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General (OIG) today released the second of two reports on the City's Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) operated by the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO) as an alternative to detention for pretrial defendants. Part two, "Implementation and Supervision," evaluated OPSO's EMP Operations, its supervision of defendants participating in the program, and measures to evaluate effectiveness.

Among the findings of evaluators from a review of 359 files for all 281 active program participants from April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012:

- EMP defendant records frequently lacked one or more documents, including court orders and violations reports, and 79 percent of Electronic Monitoring Agreements contained errors and omissions, including incorrect or omitted restrictions.
- Monitoring deputies programmed geographic prohibitions for only two of 37 defendants with "stay away" orders to prevent access to victims, places of business, and co-defendants.
- OPSO protocols for responding to alerts were not detailed enough to provide adequate instruction for monitoring deputies.
- More than half of alerts for defendants leaving their judge-ordered restricted geographic area remained active for longer than thirty minutes, and evaluators could not determine what, if any, action monitoring deputies took in response.

OIG's recommendations included rapid detention of defendants who violate curfew or house arrest orders, the tagging of all alerts and documentation of actions taken in response, and the development of meaningful performance measures for judges and the City to evaluate EMP.

"OPSO's operation was almost a total failure," stated Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux. "Citizens thought electronic monitoring was being conducted, but it really just wasted the people's money."

Part one of the report, "Budget and Billing," released in April, found the City overpaid OPSO for the program. OPSO revealed during City Council budget hearings November 13 that it will discontinue operation of the EMP as of January 2, 2015. Some City officials have expressed an interest in continuing the use of electronic monitoring, and Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux cautions that: "The recommendations in this report should be incorporated into any future program to ensure its effectiveness and the public's safety."

The new evaluation is attached to this news release. Other reports issued by the OIG can be viewed at nolaoig.org.

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