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**City Department Heads received free admission tickets to the 2017 Jazz Festival from Festival Productions, Inc.**

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General (OIG) today released a report titled “Report of Investigation: Allegation that Specific City Department Heads and Managers Have Each Received Free Tickets to Jazz Fest.”

OIG investigators found that Festival Productions, Inc. provided seven (7) different Department Heads, within the City of New Orleans, between 284 to 424 free admission tickets to the Jazz Festival in 2017. The majority of the aforementioned Department Heads and their employees stated they were aware that they could not accept free tickets to the Jazz Festival for personal use. They also said they either did not use the tickets at all or only used the tickets for the purpose of conducting official City business. In addition, the Parks and Parkways Department “loaned” three gazebos to the Jazz Festival in 2017 without executing a “Hold Harmless Agreement” nor charging an equipment rental fee.

The OIG made the following recommendations:

- Discontinue the practice of accepting free admission tickets
- Discontinue the practice of loaning City property to the Jazz Festival
- Establish a Credentialing process rather than rely on the “goodwill” of a vendor to provide free admission tickets so that City employees can carry out their official duties.