

# **MONTHLY REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 2023**



# **OIG**

**NEW ORLEANS  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EDWARD MICHEL, CIG  
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

# ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

---



# 1,905

Number of registered Twitter followers

## ADMINISTRATION

The Office Manager is responsible for the following ongoing tasks:

- 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

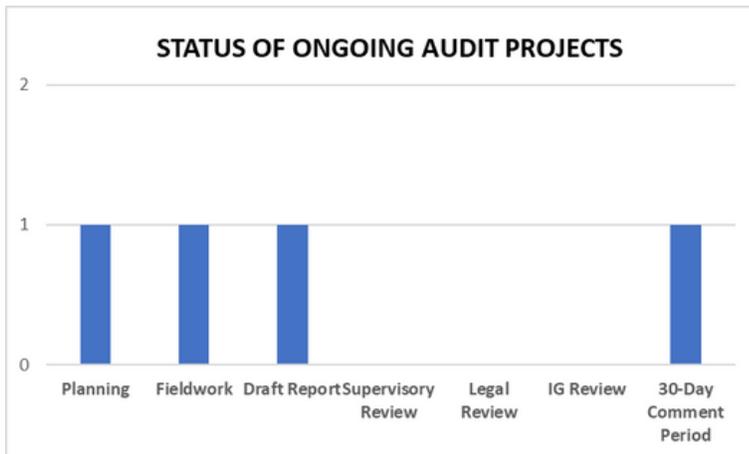
## INFORMATION SECURITY

The OIG Information Security Specialist is responsible for the following tasks to maintain the OIG's information technology (IT) integrity

- Technical Support
- Hardware and Software Updates
- Communication and Coordination
- Consultation for IT Purchases

# AUDIT & REVIEW DIVISION

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



The Audit and Review Division has the following projects in process:

- Orleans Parish Communications District (OPCD) Expenditures
- Wisner Fund
- Orleans Parish Sheriffs Office
- Short Term Rentals

## **Project Phase Descriptions:**

**Planning** - includes background research, data gathering, initial interviews, and/or internal controls assessment.

**Fieldwork** - includes data and statistical analyses, interviews, testing of procedures, onsite observations, and/or physical inspections.

**Draft Report** - includes data and statistical reviews, documenting fieldwork results, initial report writing, revisions and internal Quality Assurance Review (QAR) prior to supervisory review.

**Supervisory Review** - includes the review by both Deputy Inspector General and First Assistant Inspector General to ensure sufficiency and appropriateness of evidence, adequate fieldwork procedures, and proper conclusions, content, presentation and readability.

**Legal Review** - Report review by in-house General Counsel and/or outside Legal Counsel to ensure appropriate and proper legal citations and/or interpretations.

**IG Review** - Report review by the Inspector General based on corrections and recommended changes resulting from the Legal Review.

**30-Day Comment Period** - 30-day deadline for the department to review the draft report and submit management responses for inclusion in the final report.

# MEASURING PROGRESS

## AUDIT AND REVIEW DIVISION

The following information provides a summary of the Audit Division's project phase and a summary of the audit objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase <sup>1</sup>	Anticipated <sup>2</sup> Completion Date
--------------	----------------------------	--

Orleans Parish Communications District	30 Day Comment Period	March 2023
--	-----------------------	------------

**Summary of Objectives:** To determine if management's internal controls are designed properly and implemented and operating effectively to ensure expenses and disbursements were business-related and allowed by law.

Wisner Fund	Draft Report	Ongoing
-------------	--------------	---------

**Summary of Objectives:** The OIG will be releasing a letter explaining why the 2020 Extension of the Wisner Trust was not proper, violating City Code and prior court rulings concerning the Trust.

Orleans Parish Sheriffs Office	Planning	Ongoing
--------------------------------	----------	---------

**Summary of Objectives:** The purpose of the audit is to evaluate the operating effectiveness of the Orleans Parish Sheriff Office's controls and expenditures related to payroll and paid details.

Short-Term Rentals	Fieldwork	Ongoing
--------------------	-----------	---------

**Summary of Objectives:** The OIG will be releasing a letter suggesting that the City increase its efforts to levy fines on illegal short-term rentals.

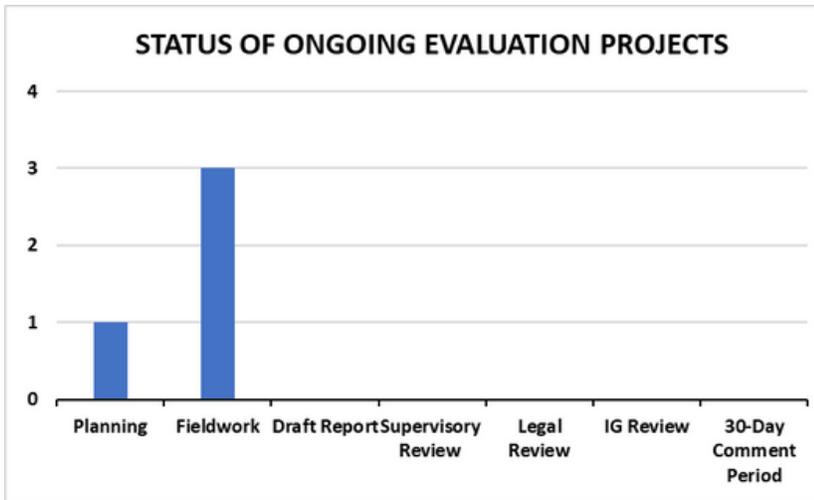
**Footnotes:**

**1** - Project phase determination is based on the objective(s), scope, and methodology for each project. It is not determined by a standard set of hours and/or phase deadline.

**2** - The completion date may be re-evaluated if necessary.

# INSPECTIONS & EVALUATIONS DIVISION

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 methodically sound inspections, evaluations, and performance reviews.



The Inspections & Evaluations Division has the following projects in process:

- New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Violent Crime Response Analysis
- City of New Orleans Employee Time and Attendance Reporting
- EMD Fuel Dispensing Follow-Up
- Sewerage and Water Board Water Loss Control

## **Project Phase Descriptions:**

**Planning** - includes background research, data gathering, initial interviews, and/or internal controls assessment.

**Fieldwork** - includes data and statistical analyses, interviews, testing of procedures, onsite observations, and/or physical inspections.

**Draft Report** - includes data and statistical reviews, documenting fieldwork results, initial report writing, revisions and internal Quality Assurance Review (QAR) prior to supervisory review.

**Supervisory Review** - includes the review by both Deputy Inspector General and First Assistant Inspector General to ensure sufficiency and appropriateness of evidence, adequate fieldwork procedures, and proper conclusions, content, presentation and readability.

**Legal Review** - Report review by in-house General Counsel and/or outside Legal Counsel to ensure appropriate and proper legal citations and/or interpretations.

**IG Review** - Report review by the Inspector General based on corrections and recommended changes resulting from the Legal Review.

**30-Day Comment Period** - 30-day deadline for the department to review the draft report and submit management responses for inclusion in the final report.

# MEASURING PROGRESS

## INSPECTIONS AND EVALUATIONS DIVISION

The following information provides a summary of the Inspections and Evaluations Division's project phase and a summary of the each project's objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase <sup>1</sup>	Anticipated <sup>2</sup> Completion Date
--------------	----------------------------	---

City of New Orleans  
Employee Time and  
Attendance Reporting

Fieldwork

Ongoing

**Summary of Objectives:** To determine whether the City has policies, procedure, and controls to ensure that Time and Attendance is reported accurately.

NOPD Violent Crime  
Response Analysis

Fieldwork

Ongoing

**Summary of Objectives:** To assess the NOPD's response to violent crimes in the City in relation to best practices and industry standards.

EMD Fuel Dispensing  
Follow-Up

Fieldwork

Ongoing

**Summary of Objectives:** This follow-up evaluation seeks to determine if the City implemented the corrective actions to which it agreed in June 2016 in response to the OIG's initial evaluation, and whether the deficiencies identified in the original report still exist.

Sewerage & Water Board  
Water Loss Control

Planning

Ongoing

**Summary of Objectives:** To assess Sewerage and Water Board policies and controls for the loss of treated water due to infrastructure failures.

### **Footnotes:**

**1** - Project phase determination is based on the objective(s), scope, and methodology for each project. It is not determined by a standard set of hours and/or phase deadline.

**2** - The completion date may be re-evaluated if necessary.

# INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

---

## ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS)

One City employee resigned in lieu of suspension for having outside employment without written approval and for refusing to admit that he had outside employment when asked.

Issued three Requests for Documents to NOPD.

Issued a Request for Documents to the Chief Administrative Office.

Issued a Request for Document to the Personnel Director.

Issued a letter and related documents to the Assessor's Office concerning ten (10) residential properties which continued to receive a homestead exemption and senior freeze reduction despite the listed homeowner reportedly being deceased. The total number of residential properties submitted for 2023 is 20. Assessor's Office acknowledged receipt of the letter.

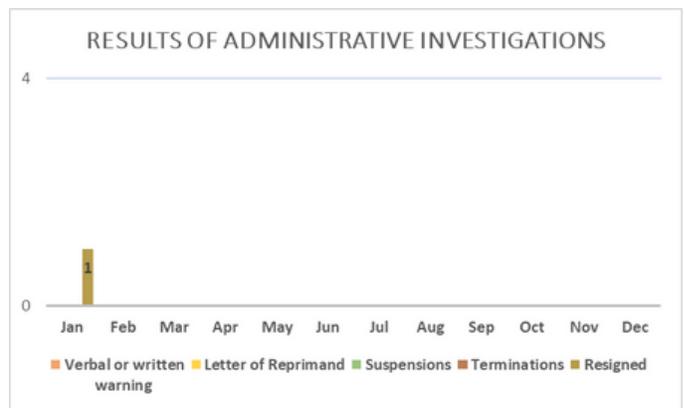
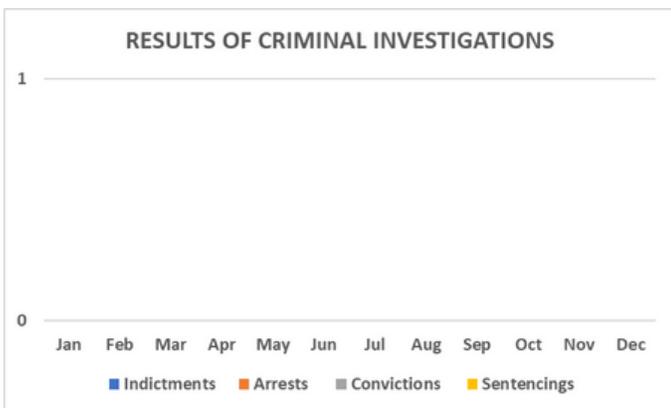
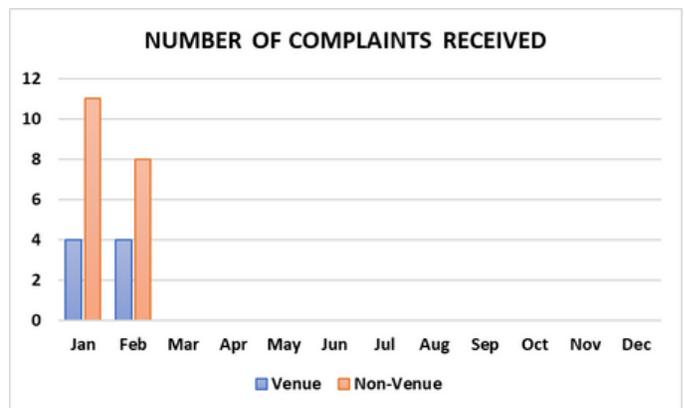
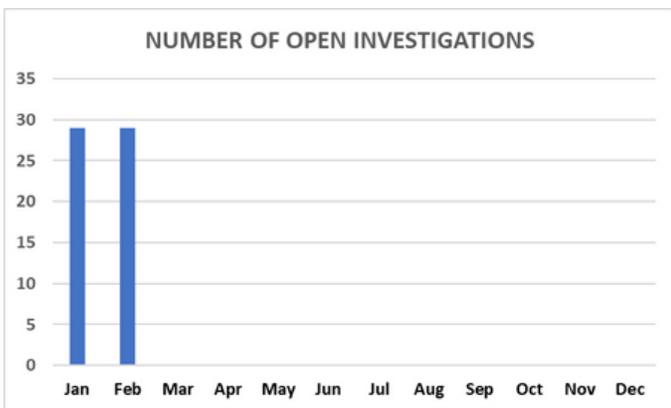
Issued a letter to the Assessor's Office concerning a homeowner receiving a homestead exemption who does not occupy the residence.

On February 3, 2023, the OIG Issued a Request for Documents to the City asking for verification that monies held by Forward Together New Orleans (FTNO) had been returned to the city. On February 9, 2023, the City responded to this request and acknowledged receiving a cashier's check dated January 27th, 2023 from FTNO in the amount of \$1,063,410.40. The OIG subsequently issued a news release concerning the recovery of these funds.

# MEASURING PROGRESS

## INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

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. The Investigations Division is also available to provide fraud awareness training to City employees and to engage in other outreach programs with businesses and citizens.



Venue: Matters that the OIG has the jurisdiction to investigate

Non-Venue: Matters outside of the OIG's jurisdiction

# 2023 BUDGET

---

**TOTAL APPROPRIATION FOR 2023: \$4,020,437**

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Spent YTD</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 376,911</b>
<b>Operating</b>	<b>\$ 92,640</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 469,551</b>
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$ 3,550,886</b>

As of 3/01/2023

# OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 **New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG** · Feb 28 ...

The Office of Inspector General sent a letter to S&WB Executive Director Ghassan Korban regarding Delinquent Accounts and Collection Efforts.

[files.constantcontact.com/1b8199d3201/ac...](https://files.constantcontact.com/1b8199d3201/ac...)



**OIG** NEW ORLEANS OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL



FOR EMBARGOED RELEASE: 2/28/2023

MEDIA CONTACT: [communications@nolaig.gov](mailto:communications@nolaig.gov)

## S&WB Delinquent Accounts

**The New Orleans Office of Inspector General released a Public Letter to S&WB**

The Office of Inspector General sent a letter to S&WB Executive Director Ghassan Korban regarding Delinquent Accounts and Collection Efforts. Please review the attached communication, [transmittal letter](#). The S&WB letter is attached here for your review. [Click here to read the entire public letter.](#)

OIG reports and letters are published on its website [nolaig.gov](http://nolaig.gov)

**Edward Michel, Inspector General**



 1 3 202

# OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA

---



## Letter to Director of Safety & Permits – Third-Party Inspectors

December 21, 2022

The City of New Orleans Office of Inspector General (OIG) believes that the following Third-Party Inspectors, registered with Safety and Permits, are currently in violation of Section 110.10(1) of the Building Code because they appear to have current and active commercial and residential contractor's licenses issued by the State as described below:

- Randy Farrell Sr, Commercial License Certificate number (CL.) 61365; Residential License Certificate number (RL.) 885794 doing business as (dba) Global Technical Solutions
- Christopher Marino Jr., CL. 10337; RL. 81638, dba Roman Builders Inc.
- Hoang Trong Do, CL. 75203; RL. 888862 (Pending) dba AMM Contractor LLC

# OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



**New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Feb 14** ...

## FORWARD TOGETHER NEW ORLEANS RETURNS MONIES TO THE CITY



**NEW ORLEANS OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EDWARD MICHEL  
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
MEDIA CONTACT: Elizabeth Foreman

February 14, 2023  
Phone Number: 504-681-3200

### 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*

For information on OIG initiatives and work products to include OIG Monthly and Annual Reports, please visit the newly re-designed OIG website at [www.nolaig.gov](http://www.nolaig.gov).

🗨↻ 7❤ 7📊 1,605📤