

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE**  
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## **PUBLIC LETTER CONCERNING USE OF UPPER PONTALBA APARTMENT**

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) provides an independent and objective assessment of government policies, programs, and operations by conducting audits, evaluations, and investigations. The purpose of this letter is to mitigate waste and promote efficiency concerning a second floor Upper Pontalba apartment. In light of the Mayor's personal use of the apartment, the arrangement gives the appearance of a donation of public property in possible violation of the Louisiana Constitution.

*The OIG recommends that the City relinquish the apartment to the French Market Corporation to rent to the public. This would ensure that the City receives a benefit equivalent to the fair market value from this high demand property. 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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