

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
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ED QUATREVAUX
INSPECTOR GENERAL

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Laura Paul
(504) 344-4884

**INVESTIGATION REVEALS NEGLECT OF DUTY, LYING BY AIRPORT GROUND TRANSPORTATION
MANAGER**

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General (OIG) today released a Report of Administrative Investigation titled [“Allegations of Neglect of Duty and Gross Negligence by Larry Bishop, Airport Service Manager, Ground Transportation, New Orleans Aviation Board.”](#) A complaint received by OIG in July 2014 prompted the investigation into Ground Transportation Manager Larry Bishop.

OIG investigators discovered that between the period of September 2011 and September 2014, Bishop allowed taxicab and ground transportation decals to be issued for Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport without required paperwork, including background checks. OIG randomly selected 45 out of 900 decal files for review, and found all 45 files contained expired or incomplete information in the applications.

OIG also found Bishop failed to ensure public safety by ignoring the requirement that short line cabs obtain current Airport Taxi Use decals. OIG determined that, by not enforcing the rules and regulations of the New Orleans Aviation Board, Bishop failed to collect background fees of \$50 per applicant and decal fees of \$200 per applicant for 2012, 2013, and 2014, resulting in a loss of \$325,000 in ground transportation revenue.

Based on information uncovered by OIG investigators, by failing in his duty to collect the appropriate ground transportation revenue, maintain proper records of taxicab files and ensure that drivers were properly licensed and decaled, Bishop is in violation of a CAO policy memorandum for neglect of duty. In addition, Bishop lied multiple times to OIG investigators, in violation of City Code.

“Director of Aviation Iftikhar Ahmad and his entire staff provided exceptional cooperation throughout this administrative investigation,” stated Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Howard Schwartz. Schwartz also encouraged anyone with information to contact OIG. “This investigation was started because of information provided by a concerned citizen.”

“Early in the investigation, the Airport took immediate personnel action to address the situation,” stated Ahmad. “OIG investigations are part and parcel of the ongoing reforms at the Airport.”

The Report of Administrative Investigation is attached to this news release. All OIG reports and public letters can be found on the website <http://www.nolaoig.org>.

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