

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



EMBARGOED UNTIL 4PM

Date: June 6, 2013

JAIL APPEARS ADEQUATELY FUNDED

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General today released a report on its Inspection of Taxpayer/City Funding to the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office for the City Jail.

The inspection found that the City did not include all Jail financial support in its budget allocation, and that OPSO did not provide the City with a functional budget as required by the Local Government Budget Act. It found that the City had no way of knowing how its funds were spent because OPSO comingled funds from operating and some capital revenue sources, and accounted for expenses by categories that aggregated Jail and non-Jail expenses.

The inspection determined that the City provided OPSO with \$36 million in 2011, or \$47.26 per inmate per day, almost double that paid by the state and other parishes for housing their inmates.

A comparison with the Louisville Jail showed that OPSO spent 38% more to support similar numbers of inmates and staff. OPSO expenses on contractual services, supplies, Inmate Food, Legal and Debt Service were several times higher than Louisville's.

The report recommended that the City identify all allocations for the jail in the annual budget, and that the City not appropriate funds for the Jail unless OPSO provides it with a detailed, functional budget that identifies the specific Jail expenditures the revenues support.

Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux said, "The Jail appears to be adequately funded, and neither additional money nor financial audits would fix its problems. The root cause is a dysfunctional structure that gives OPSO a blank check that the City must sign, and ensures that neither the City nor OPSO can be held wholly accountable for conditions in the Jail. The Jail will remain as it is until that structure is changed."

For comment, additional information or to schedule an interview, call Laura Paul, 504 344-4884

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