

Report: 7 city of New Orleans department heads received hundreds of free tickets to 2017 Jazz Fest

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NEW ORLEANS —

Seven department heads within the city of New Orleans received hundreds of free admission tickets to the 2017 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, a new report claims.

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General released its report Wednesday into allegations that the department heads received the free Jazz Fest tickets.

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[According to the report](#), the investigators found that Festival Productions Inc. provided the different department heads between 284 and 424 free admission tickets.

The department heads would have been under then-Mayor Mitch Landrieu's administration. Mayor LaToya Cantrell took office in May.

"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," investigators said in the report.

Investigators said the employees told them they either did not use the tickets or only used the tickets for the purpose of "conducting official city business."

The report also found that the city's Parks and Parkways Department loaned three gazebos to Jazz Fest in 2017 without executing a hold harmless agreement or charging organizers.

Officials said the investigation began after the office received a confidential complaint alleging the company routinely provided free tickets to city employees. Quint Davis, CEO of Festival Productions Inc., confirmed the 2017 tickets went to department heads in Parks and Parkways, the Property Management Department, the Chief Administration Office, the Public Works Department, the New Orleans Police Department, the New Orleans Fire Department and the Finance Department.

[The full report can be viewed online.](#)

[Gilbert Montano, the city's current chief administrative officer, responded to the OIG report](#) in which he outlined steps the city is taking to address the issues. Montano said the city will discontinue the practice of accepting free admission tickets, discontinue the practice of loaning city property to Jazz Fest and establish a credentialing process for city duties.