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PUBLIC LETTER CONCERNING THE NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE PROTECTION TEAM AND DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

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 within the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Executive Protection Team (EPT).

The OIG determined that the EPT does not have policies in place to regulate and guide its operations. In the calendar year 2022, the four member EPT operated at a cost of \$414,796.25, which included the sum paid to a Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office deputy assigned to the EPT. The EPT's lack of policies and procedures contributed to ineffective and inefficient use of both the EPT's and NOPD's limited resources.

In addition, no one is responsible for coordinating the day-to-day operations of the EPT, including officer assignments, conducting site surveys prior to the Mayor's events and speaking engagements, and performing threat assessments. The safety of the Mayor is paramount to all City operations. Consequently, the EPT should have policies and procedures that ensure effective and efficient operations.

The OIG also found that NOPD officers assigned to the EPT are claiming work hours in the Mayor's absence, but NOPD advised that those officers have no other assignments and no records are known to exist concerning their activities. At present, accountability for their performance is clearly lacking.

The public letter also contains a list of recommendations to address these issues which were all accepted by NOPD.

The New Orleans Police Department executive protection team operates at a cost of over \$400,000 per year. NOPD needs policies and procedures in place to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of this critical service including the appropriate mitigation of threats to the Mayor, while also being good stewards of the City's limited resources. Edward Michel, Inspector General

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