

MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 2023



OIG

**NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION



1,915

Number of registered Twitter followers

ADMINISTRATION

The Office Manager is responsible for the following ongoing tasks:

- Human Resources
 - Coordinating the hiring process
- Finance
 - Managing and refining the OIG budget
- Procurement Process
 - Communicating with OIG vendors
 - Processing requisitions to create purchase orders
 - Overseeing the timely payment of OIG expenditures
- Operations
 - Coordinating with the OIG's landlord and various City departments on administrative matters

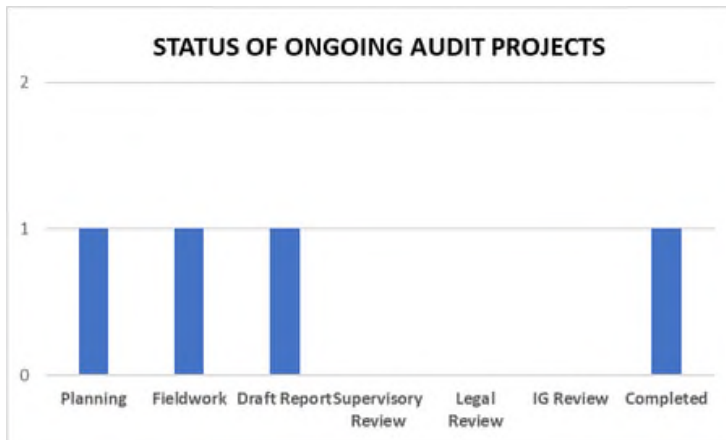
INFORMATION SECURITY

The OIG Information Security Specialist is responsible for the following tasks to maintain the OIG's information technology (IT) integrity

- Technical Support
- Hardware and Software Updates
- Communication and Coordination
- Consultation for IT Purchases

AUDIT & REVIEW DIVISION

The Audit and Review Division conducts financial audits, attestations, compliance, and performance audits of City programs and operations. Auditors test for appropriate internal controls and compliance with laws, regulations and other requirements.



The Audit and Review Division has the following projects in process:

- Orleans Parish Communications District (OPCD) Expenditures
- Wisner Fund
- Orleans Parish Sheriffs Office
- Short Term Rentals

Project Phase Descriptions:

Planning - includes background research, data gathering, initial interviews, and/or internal controls assessment.

Fieldwork - includes data and statistical analyses, interviews, testing of procedures, onsite observations, and/or physical inspections.

Draft Report - includes data and statistical reviews, documenting fieldwork results, initial report writing, revisions and internal Quality Assurance Review (QAR) prior to supervisory review.

Supervisory Review - includes the review by both Deputy Inspector General and First Assistant Inspector General to ensure sufficiency and appropriateness of evidence, adequate fieldwork procedures, and proper conclusions, content, presentation and readability.

Legal Review - Report review by in-house General Counsel and/or outside Legal Counsel to ensure appropriate and proper legal citations and/or interpretations.

IG Review - Report review by the Inspector General based on corrections and recommended changes resulting from the Legal Review.

30-Day Comment Period - 30-day deadline for the department to review the draft report and submit management responses for inclusion in the final report.

MEASURING PROGRESS

AUDIT AND REVIEW DIVISION

The following information provides a summary of the Audit Division's project phase and a summary of the audit objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase ¹	Anticipated ² Completion Date
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Orleans Parish Communications District	Completed	April 6, 2023
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Summary of Objectives: To determine if management's internal controls are designed properly and implemented and operating effectively to ensure expenses and disbursements were business-related and allowed by law.

Wisner Fund	Draft Report	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: The OIG will be releasing a letter explaining why the 2020 Extension of the Wisner Trust was not proper, violating City Code and prior court rulings concerning the Trust.

Orleans Parish Sheriffs Office	Planning	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: The purpose of the audit is to evaluate the operating effectiveness of the Orleans Parish Sheriff Office's controls and expenditures related to payroll and paid details.

Short-Term Rentals	Fieldwork	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: The OIG will be releasing a letter suggesting that the City increase its efforts to levy fines on illegal short-term rentals.

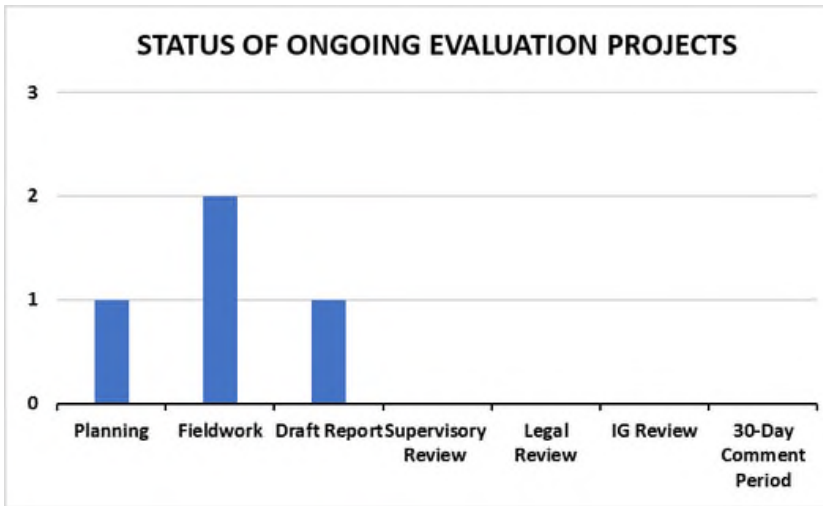
Footnotes:

1 - Project phase determination is based on the objective(s), scope, and methodology for each project. It is not determined by a standard set of hours and/or phase deadline.

2 - The completion date may be re-evaluated if necessary.

INSPECTIONS & EVALUATIONS DIVISION

The Inspections and Evaluations Division works to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of City programs, agencies, and operations. Evaluators conduct independent, objective, empirically based and methodically sound inspections, evaluations, and performance reviews.



The Inspections & Evaluations Division has the following projects in process:

- New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Violent Crime Response Analysis
- City of New Orleans Employee Time and Attendance Reporting
- EMD Fuel Dispensing Follow-Up
- Sewerage and Water Board Water Loss Control

Project Phase Descriptions:

Planning - includes background research, data gathering, initial interviews, and/or internal controls assessment.

Fieldwork - includes data and statistical analyses, interviews, testing of procedures, onsite observations, and/or physical inspections.

Draft Report - includes data and statistical reviews, documenting fieldwork results, initial report writing, revisions and internal Quality Assurance Review (QAR) prior to supervisory review.

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MEASURING PROGRESS

INSPECTIONS AND EVALUATIONS DIVISION

The following information provides a summary of the Inspections and Evaluations Division's project phase and a summary of the each project's objectives.

Project Name	Project Phase ¹	Anticipated ² Completion Date
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City of New Orleans Employee Time and Attendance Reporting	Fieldwork	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: To determine whether the City has policies, procedure, and controls to ensure that Time and Attendance is reported accurately.

NOPD Violent Crime Response Analysis	Draft Report	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: To assess the NOPD's response to violent crimes in the City in relation to best practices and industry standards.

EMD Fuel Dispensing Follow-Up	Fieldwork	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: This follow-up evaluation seeks to determine if the City implemented the corrective actions to which it agreed in June 2016 in response to the OIG's initial evaluation, and whether the deficiencies identified in the original report still exist.

Sewerage & Water Board Water Loss Control	Planning	Ongoing
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Summary of Objectives: To assess Sewerage and Water Board policies and controls for the loss of treated water due to infrastructure failures.

Footnotes:

1 - Project phase determination is based on the objective(s), scope, and methodology for each project. It is not determined by a standard set of hours and/or phase deadline.

2 - The completion date may be re-evaluated if necessary.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (MARCH HIGHLIGHTS)

Issued a Request for Documents to the Information Technology and Innovation Department

Met with Administrator for Louisiana Tax Commission regarding residential properties which continued to receive a homestead exemption and senior freeze reduction despite the listed homeowner reportedly being deceased.

Issued two Requests for Documents to NOPD

Issued a Request for Documents to the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office

Issued a letter and related documents to the Assessor's Office concerning ten (10) residential properties which continued to receive a homestead exemption and senior freeze reduction despite the listed homeowner reportedly being deceased. The total number of residential properties submitted for 2023 is 20. Assessor's Office acknowledged receipt of the letter.

Received a letter from JP Morrell, New Orleans City Council President asking that our office investigate the handling of the New Orleans Police Department's Public Integrity Bureau investigation into Officer Jeffrey Vappie and claims of payroll fraud regarding Officer Vappie. Morrell also complained that the New Orleans City Attorney's Office leaked confidential investigatory materials from the Public Integrity Bureau's (PIB) open investigation into Officer Vappie. He also contends that the City Attorney Office leak compromises PIB's investigation, undermining public trust and confidence.

AUDIT DIVISION

(MARCH HIGHLIGHTS)

On March 16, 2023, the Audit Division issued a public letter signed by Inspector General Edward Michel concerning the use of Upper Pontalba Apartment. The purpose of this letter was 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 recommended that the City relinquish the apartment to the French Market Corporation to rent to the public.

I&E DIVISION

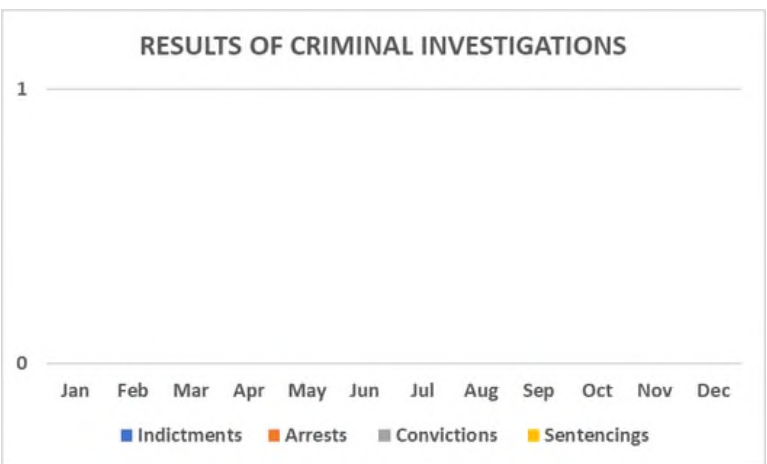
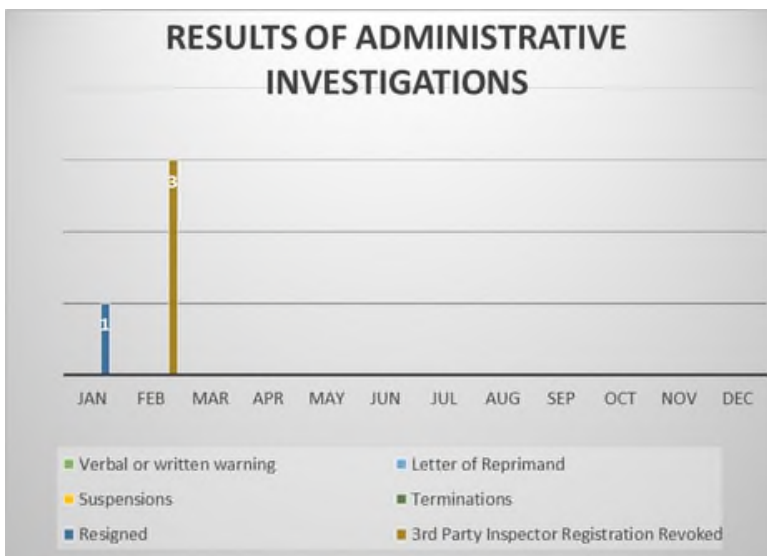
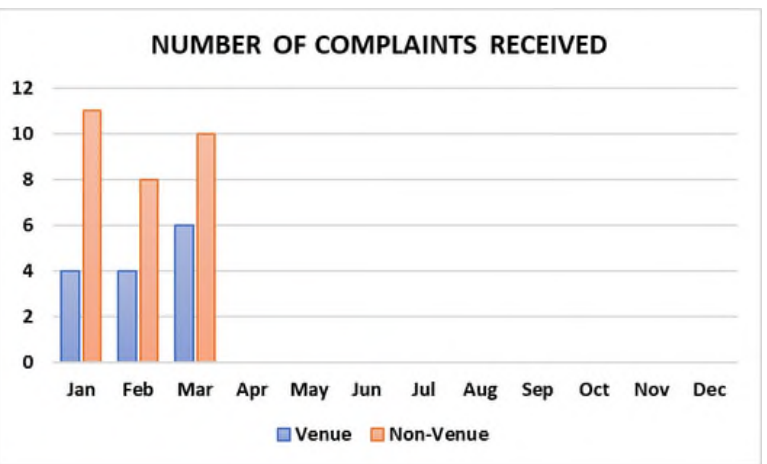
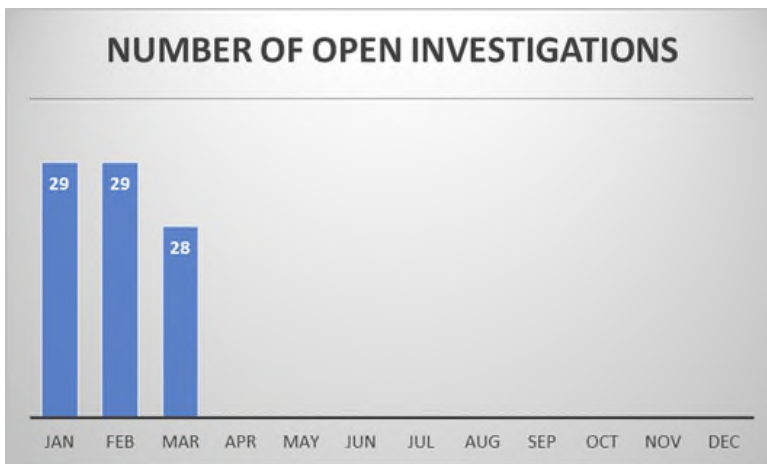
(MARCH HIGHLIGHTS)

On February 28, 2023, the Inspections and Evaluations Division issued a public letter signed by Inspector General Edward Michel concerning uncollected payments owed to Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO). The OIG recommended a delay in any rate increase until the SWBNO makes every effort to collect monies validly owed for prior services rendered to its customers. The SWBNO should also utilize the tools currently at its disposal, and those in development, to increase bill accuracy prior to pursuing a rate increase.

MEASURING PROGRESS

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division conducts criminal and administrative investigations involving City of New Orleans employees, contractors, and vendors that receive City funds. Investigators also work with local, state, and federal partners to conduct joint investigations. The Investigations Division is also available to provide fraud awareness training to City employees and to engage in other outreach programs with businesses and citizens.



Venue: Matters that the OIG has the jurisdiction to investigate

Non-Venue: Matters outside of the OIG's jurisdiction

2023 BUDGET

TOTAL APPROPRIATION FOR 2023: \$4,020,437

Expenditures	Spent YTD	Projected Expenditures FY 2023
Personnel	\$ 594,067	\$ 3,209,430*
Operating	\$ 136,248	\$ 723,937
Total	\$ 730,315	\$ 3,933,367
Remaining Balance	\$3,290,122	\$ 87,070

*The OIG is actively hiring to fill the following vacant positions: Public Relations Specialist, Information Technology II Specialist, Criminal Investigator IV, Forensic Auditor II, Forensic Auditor III, Inspector & Evaluator III, and two additional interns.

As of 4/1/2023

OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Mar 16



OIG recommends that the City relinquish the apartment to the French Market Corporation to rent to the public.

nolaig.gov/media/use-of-u...



OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



New Orleans OIG @NOLAoIG - Feb 28

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The Office of Inspector General sent a letter to S&WB Executive Director Ghassan Korban regarding Delinquent Accounts and Collection Efforts.

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OIG NEW ORLEANS OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
NEW ORLEANS

FOR EMBARGOED RELEASE: 2/28/2023

MEDIA CONTACT: communications@nolaog.gov

S&WB Delinquent Accounts

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General released a Public Letter to S&WB

The Office of Inspector General sent a letter to S&WB Executive Director Ghassan Korban regarding Delinquent Accounts and Collection Efforts. Please review the attached communication, [transmittal letter](#). The S&WB letter is attached here for your review. [Click here to read the entire public letter.](#)

OIG reports and letters are published on its website nolaog.gov

Edward Michel, Inspector General

