

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OPCD DID NOT FOLLOW PUBLIC BID LAW AND MADE PURCHASES THAT WERE POTENTIAL CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS.

As detailed in the Orleans Parish Communication District Credit Cards Audit report released today, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted a performance audit of the Orleans Parish Communication District's credit card purchases for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021.

The audit of OPCD credit card purchases resulted in the following findings:

- Credit card purchases were not approved in accordance with OPCD policy for 44% of the credit card transactions tested, totaling \$220,321, during the three-year scope period.
- Receipts were not uploaded to the credit card management system in a timely manner for 33% of the credit card transactions tested, totaling \$204,847, during the three-year scope period.
- OPCD used public funds to purchase \$7,769 in goods and services that appeared to lack a public purpose and may have violated the Louisiana Constitution. When projected to the population, OPCD incurred expenses of \$30,306 which appeared to lack a public purpose during the three-year scope period.
- OPCD did not follow Louisiana Public Bid Law when making purchases related to generator repairs and maintenance, totaling \$83,065.
- OPCD did not provide support to show that purchases were solicited in accordance with OPCD policy, totaling \$530,383, during the three-year scope period.
- OPCD's employees provided written descriptions of their credit card purchases that were consistent with the type of transaction for all credit card charges tested in accordance with policy.

Based on these findings, the OIG made the following recommendations to OPCD:

- OPCD should provide training to employees to ensure compliance with its policies.
- OPCD should amend its credit card policy to establish a time frame for supporting documentation to be uploaded into the credit card management system. This time frame should require documents to be uploaded before the statement due date.
- OPCD should provide training to employees to ensure purchases comply with the Louisiana Constitution's prohibition of the donation of public funds.

- OPCD should provide training to employees to ensure purchases comply with the requirements of Louisiana Public Bid Law, including procedures for emergency events.
- OPCD should provide training to employees to ensure compliance with its purchasing policy and all required support is clearly documented and maintained in the procurement system. OPCD should also ensure that all policy updates comply with relevant laws and best practices.

“Our mission is to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse and also determine whether agencies that receive City funds are being good stewards of the City’s limited resources. OPCD has agreed to implement the recommendations that we have suggested in this report which will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of this critical infrastructure entity.”

Edward Michel, Inspector General

The OIG would also like to thank the Metropolitan Crime Commission (MCC) for their assistance with this audit.

In addition to today’s report, the OIG released a brief with highlights. Go to www.nolaoig.gov to view all OIG reports.

The report, news release and all other OIG work products associated with this report are **EMBARGOED FROM PUBLICATION UNTIL 12:01 A.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023. THE OIG PROVIDES THIS INFORMATION IN ADVANCE FOR EDITORIAL PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.**