

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PUBLIC LETTER CONCERNING TIRES AND RIMS PURCHASED FOR NOPD VEHICLES

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 concerning the City's use of public funds to purchase specialized tires and rims to replace the original equipment manufacturer tires and rims included on new law enforcement vehicles assigned to New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Commanders. The purchase was in possible violation of City procurement policy, as well as Louisiana Public Bid Law because it did not comply with the State contract that was used.

It is the opinion of the OIG that public funds should not have been used to replace the OEM tires and rims included with the Tahoe PPVs. The verbal justifications provided by the City that the tires offered a "smoother ride" and that the chrome rims distinguished the NOPD Commanders' vehicles from regular patrol vehicles were purely cosmetic and a wasteful use of \$42,270. Additionally, the aftermarket tires may not have complied with the mandated police vehicle specifications, which could have increased the risk of tire failure.

Edward Michel, Inspector General

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