

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2023



OIG

**NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**EDWARD MICHEL, CIG
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION



1,940

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

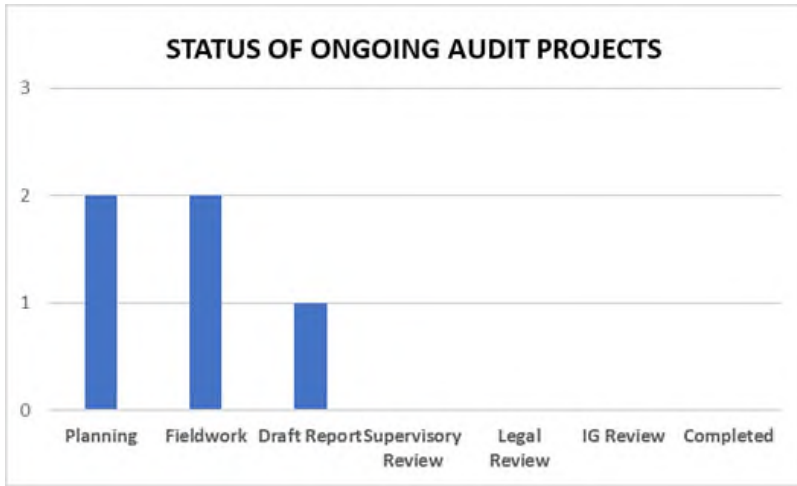
INFORMATION SECURITY

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:

- Wisner Fund
- Orleans Parish Sheriffs Office
- Short Term Rentals
- Safety and Permits Third Party Contractors
- Hurricane Ida Cleanup Procurement

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
--------------	----------------------------	--

Wisner Fund	Draft Report	Ongoing
-------------	--------------	---------

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	Fieldwork	Ongoing
--------------------------------	-----------	---------

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
--------------------	-----------	---------

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.

Safety and Permits Third Party Contractors	Planning	Ongoing
--	----------	---------

Summary of Objectives: TBD

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.

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
--------------	----------------------------	--

Hurricane Ida Cleanup
Procurement

Planning

Ongoing

Summary of Objectives: The OIG will be releasing a letter that reviews and analyzes the City's procurement contracts, processes, and history with vendors for clean up services after Hurricane Ida.

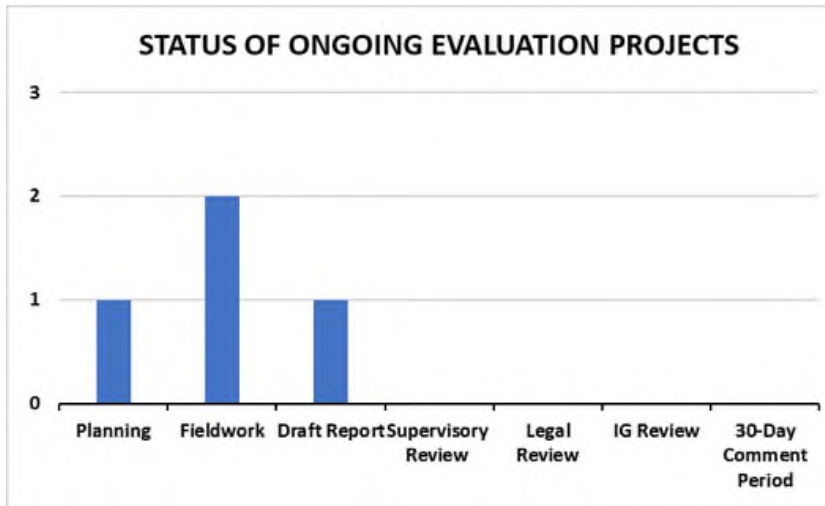
Footnotes:

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.

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

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
--------------	----------------------------	---

City of New Orleans
Employee Time and
Attendance Reporting

Fieldwork

Ongoing

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

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

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

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 (APRIL HIGHLIGHTS)

Issued a subpoena to a local business for documents.

Issued two subpoenas for witnesses to appear at the OIG Office for an interview associated with an ongoing investigation.

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 30. Assessor's Office acknowledged receipt of the letter.

Published a letter to Superintendent of Police regarding the New Orleans Police Department 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 an 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.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (APRIL HIGHLIGHTS)

NOPD drafts policy for mayor's bodyguards after IG finds lack of oversight

BY MISSY WILKINSON | Staff writer

Apr 28, 2023



INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (APRIL HIGHLIGHTS)

On April 6, 2023, James Mohammad was sentenced to forty-six (46) months imprisonment. He pled guilty to conspiracy to using an interstate facility with intent to carry on unlawful activity (Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371 and 1952(a)(3)) and filing false tax returns (Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1)). Additionally, he was ordered to pay a \$100,000 fine, \$314,902 in restitution to the IRS, and a mandatory \$200 special assessment fee. Upon release from imprisonment, he will serve a three (3) year term of supervised release.

According to court documents, Mohamad, the former Director of the Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement for the City of Kenner, bribed Brian Medus, the Assistant Chief Mechanical Inspector for the City of New Orleans, Safety and Permits Department with money, in return for the issuance of fraudulent permits for Mohamad's HVAC jobs. Throughout the conspiracy, Mohamad paid Medus and others approximately \$93,000 to further the bribery scheme. Additionally, Mohamad filed false individual tax returns that omitted substantial amounts of income, thus understating the income tax due the IRS.

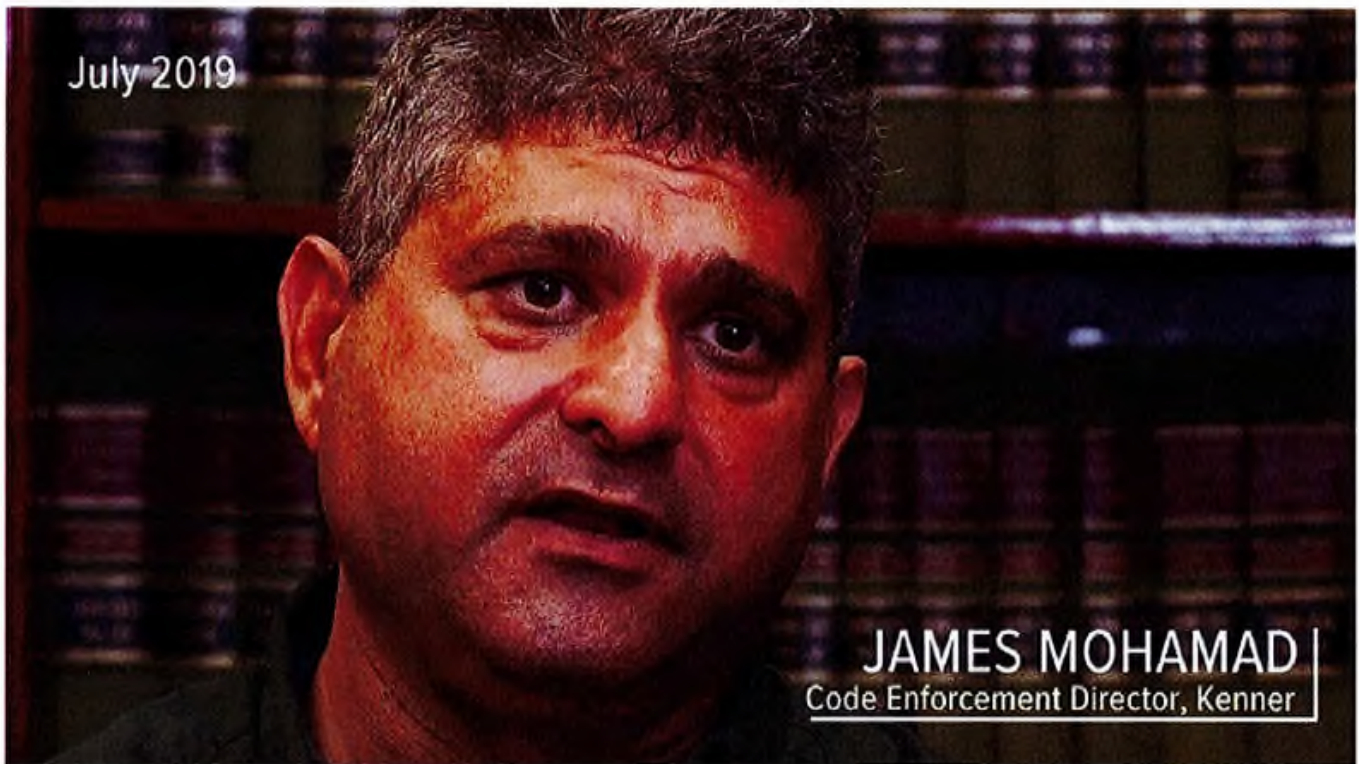
The US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana issued a press release in which it credited the OIG with participating in the investigation along with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigations.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (APRIL HIGHLIGHTS)

Former Kenner code enforcement director sentenced: 46 months for bribery, fraudulent inspections

BY DAVID HAMMER | WWL-TV
Apr 6, 2023



James Mohamad, the former head of code enforcement in the city of Kenner.
WWL-TV

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (APRIL HIGHLIGHTS)

PRESS RELEASE

Former City of Kenner Director of Inspection and Code Enforcement Sentenced to 46 Months Imprisonment

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Share

For Immediate Release

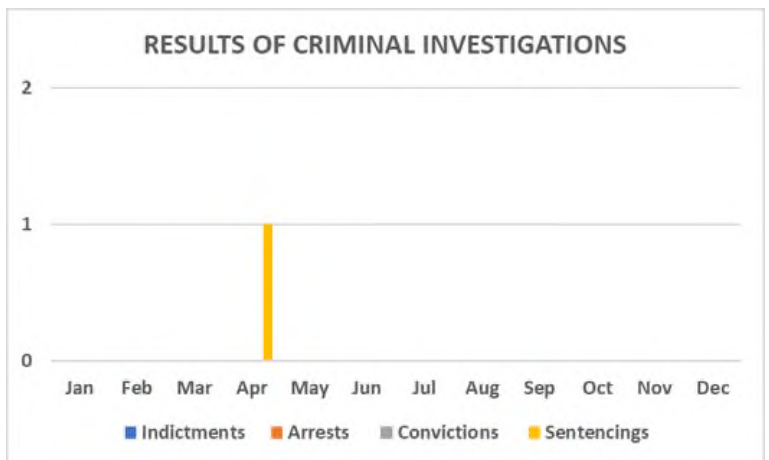
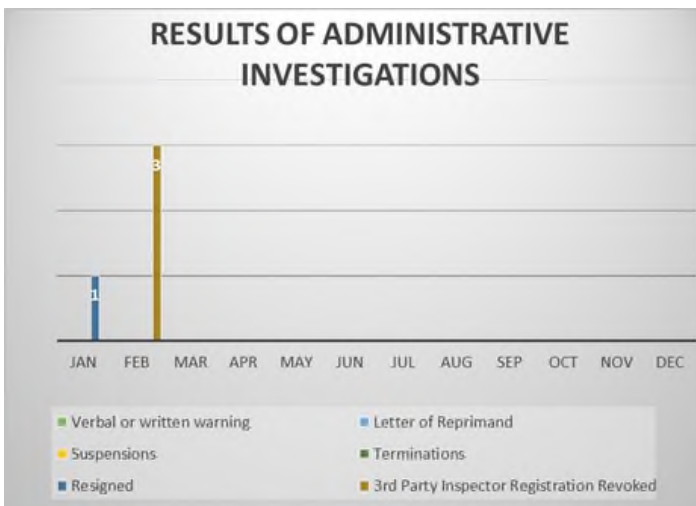
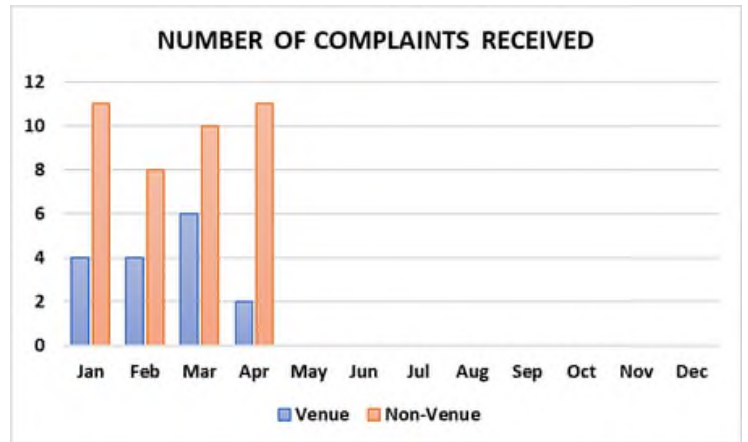
U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Louisiana
shane.jones@usdoj.gov

NEW ORLEANS, LA – The U.S. Attorney's Office announced today that United States District Court Judge Lance M. Africk sentenced **JAMES MOHAMAD**, 54, of Kenner, to forty-six (46) months imprisonment. **MOHAMAD** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to using an interstate facility with intent to carry on unlawful activity (Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371 and 1952(a)(3)) and filing false tax returns (Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1)). Additionally, **MOHAMAD** was ordered to pay a \$100,000 fine, \$314,902 in restitution to the IRS, and a mandatory \$200 special assessment fee. Upon release from imprisonment, he will serve a three (3) year term of supervised release.

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 2023 Appropriation \$ 4,020,437

Expenditures	Spent YTD	Projected Expenditures FY 2023
Personnel	\$ 782,593	\$ 3,209,430*
Operating	\$ 185,231	\$ 743,368
Total	\$ 967,824	\$ 3,952,798
Remaining Balance	\$3,052,613	\$ 67,639

As of 5/1/2023

*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.

OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Apr 6

The New Orleans OIG is proud to partner with our federal and local partners to mitigate fraud, and corruption.

Former City of Kenner Director of Inspection and Code Enforcement Sentenced to 46 Months Imprisonment



[justice.gov](https://www.justice.gov)

Former City of Kenner Director of Inspection and Code Enforcement Sentenced to 46 Months Imprison...



1



94



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Apr 6

The New Orleans OIG conducted an audit of the Orleans Parish Communications District:

nolaig.gov/media/orleans-...



Orleans Parish Communication District Credit Cards Audit

April 6, 2023

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the City of New Orleans (City) conducted a performance audit of the Orleans Parish Communication District (OPCD). The objective of the audit was to determine if OPCD credit card expenditures were business-related and allowed by law and if OPCD credit card purchases were compliant with relevant OPCD policy, laws, and other best practices.



4



1



755



OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 New Orleans OIG Retweeted



Cassie Schirm @Cassiewdsu · Apr 7 

Yesterday I sat down with [@JPMorrell](#) on why he created the ordinance that would require anyone using the Pontalba to pay rent and he said frankly “there is a constitution prohibition on gratuitous donations. Having free housing is a gratuitous donation. You just can’t do it.”



 3

 5

 673



[Show this thread](#)

 New Orleans OIG Retweeted



Cassie Schirm @Cassiewdsu · Apr 7 

I asked [@JPMorrell](#) why anyone should care whether the mayor is using the Pontalba or not? He says it’s a “slippery slope” and other city leader could start wanting to get free things. “Also you wouldn’t excuse anyone coming out of City Hall with \$40,000 in their back pocket.”

OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



New Orleans OIG @NOLAOIG · Apr 19

...

Thanks to the MCC for inviting the OIG to present the 2022 Annual Report concerning our mitigation of fraud, waste, abuse and public corruption.



↻ 2

♥ 3

📊 1,284



OIG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



New Orleans OIG @NOLAIG - Apr 27

The OIG released a Public Letter today regarding the NOPD Executive Protection Team:

files.constantcontact.com/1b8199d3201/c3...

FOR EMBARGOED RELEASE: 4/26/2023
MEDIA CONTACT: communications@nolaig.gov

NOPD Executive Protection Team

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General released a Public Letter regarding the NOPD Executive Protection Team

The Office of Inspector General sent a letter to Interim Superintendent of Police Michelle Woodfork regarding the NOPD Executive Protection Team. Please review the attached [press release](#). The letter is attached here for your review. [Click here to read the entire public letter and the included NOPD Response.](#)

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



↻ 7

♥ 8

📊 1,041

